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## Chronicles of Ginger Farm

*Written Specially for the Acton Free Press by*
**Gwendoline F. Clarke**

It will be quite a surprise to me if my column this week is even intelligible, what with one thing and another. First thing we know I won't have time to work . . . not if we have many weeks like last week, with everything happening, one right after the other, with no let-up between. Canadian Club, W.I. District Annual; Church-sponsored show; two weeks washing, one day house-cleaning, shopping and getting my hair done—and then our niece's wedding in Toronto on Saturday, followed by company over the week-end in fact one of our visitors is still here. Yes, that's the way it went and in the middle of it all—Partner turned the cows out to pasture for the first time this spring and in less than three hours one of the cows was bloated as big as an elephant. We had to send for the "vet" and then sit up until 1.30 a.m. to give the prescribed medicine to the cow. Only it wasn't done as easily as I can tell it. With every dose it was a hard won fight as the cow was a hard one to "drench". Once she twisted around and got Partner pinned up in the manger. Was I thankful that some months ago we had had all the cows dehorned!

At the Canadian Club Ethel Chapman gave a splendid talk on "The Appreciation of Poetry". I had heard it before but it wasn't any hardship to hear it again. Miss Chapman is one of the best speakers and the easiest to listen to, that I know.

The District Annual was held in one of our new township halls and it was a splendid building for such an occasion. The chairs were comfortable and that means a lot—the hall airy and the acoustics perfect. The programme was interesting and did not appear to drag. The visiting officers were excellent speakers. As for the lunch . . . it was wonderful. I think the chefs at the Royal York should visit some of our country and small-town banquets and find out how to put up a good meal!

The show we went to was "I'd Climb the Highest Mountain". I'm glad we didn't think we were too tired or too busy to go. It was a grand, heart-warming picture. The humour was excellent, while the story throughout was an epic of courage and great faith and so very human.

Friday I was doing all the jobs I hadn't done during the week and also making preparations for getting away the next day. Saturday morning saw me on the train heading for Toronto, as Daughter's house was one of our gathering places.

Bab's wedding was in the Chapel at Sunnybrook Hospital and the reception at Partner's brother's home in the Moore Park district. It was a small wedding but very pretty. Babs wore a dress of white net over egg-shell satin. It was most attractive and everyone was thrilled when they learnt she had made it herself. Not every girl would have the courage to tackle a job like that. I was proud of her. Joy, the bride's sister, was matron of honour, and wore blue figured net over blue satin. The men of the party all wore grey suits. It can't be much fun being a man, when it comes to special occasions. The Minister was the Protestant padre at Sunnybrook and I don't think I ever met anyone with a more kindly expression. There were about forty guests and, at the back of the Chapel, quite a number of white-clad nurses were seated in the back pews. And from the solarium many nurses waved their farewells. There was an air of quiet dignity in the chapel and the service was beautiful in its simplicity.

And the reception . . . mingling of guests, fun and laughter, more to eat than was good for us; fruit punch (minus the "kick") that sometimes accompanies it; confetti, farewells, car jacked up off its hind wheels, but no noisy horn-blowing, thank goodness. Finally the bride and groom were away . . . on the first lap of what we all hope, will be a long and happy married life.

After the last of the guests were gone the "father of the bride" took eight of us out to dinner at a rather unusual hotel or restaurant—I don't know which it was. Its main feature was in the nature of a "smorgersbord"—but I'm not sure if that is the way to spell it, and I have no way of finding out. Anyway they charge a flat rate—so much a plate—you help yourself to any number of the various dishes provided, and go back for more if you want it. The food was excellent.

Around midnight four of us arrived back at the farm—and we are now on the way to recovery!

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The world's oldest town, Cadiz, Spain, has maintained its identity and name for about 3,000 years.

Hello Homemakers! Many jobs pop up so suddenly during the month of May that we homemakers require extra help. These helpers need to know how to be of assistance without "upsetting the apple cart."

Let us review items from our housekeeping notebook that are a guide for those that require some tuition.

1. Fry fresh fish in a small amount of salad oil for 12 minutes, no longer.
2. An easy sauce for fish is made with one cup plain white sauce. Beat two egg yolks and add the sauce then stir in 2 tbsps. butter, and 1 tbsp. lemon juice. Beat for 1 minute and serve.
3. If the boys plan to take the frying pan to the river bank for frying the trout be sure to rub the outside with soap. The black soot can then be washed off.
4. For an economical pudding using maple syrup beat 3 eggs and add ½ cup maple syrup, 2 cups milk, ¼ tsp. salt, 2 tbsps. chopped nuts and 1 cup soft crumbs. Pour into greased custard cups and oven poach at moderate temperature for 30 minutes.
5. Deep-dish rhubarb pudding is stylish this month. Serve the dessert with cream into which you have sprinkled a little nutmeg or cinnamon.
6. With a cheese souffle for a supper dish serve a platter of vegetables: riced potatoes, buttered asparagus, corn niblets; and also a dish of tomato aspic flavoured with fresh mint.
7. Keep icebox cookie dough in waxed paper in the refrigerator. When you want cookies, just slice off as needed and bake fresh cookies.
8. Keep baking powder dry or it will lose its leavening. Then too always shake the box occasionally and use a dry measuring spoon for level measurements.
9. Crisp any wilted asparagus by placing the stems in cold water for awhile.
10. Rolls and muffins even though bone-dry can be freshened by sprinkling thoroughly with water and sealing in a piece of aluminum foil, then heated in a warm oven for 20 minutes.

HOUSEKEEPING FACTS

11. Sorting clothes for washing is a good opportunity to remove pins which might tear clothes, turn pockets inside out, turn down cuffs on slacks, get rid of sand, grass and grit and give each garment a look-over for stains before placing in soapy water.
12. Soaking clothes overnight in water which has cooled down and in suds that have died down has a doubtful cleaning value. The old-fashioned long-soaking tends to give clothes a grayish cast. Tests indicate that 15 minutes soaking in warm suds is best.
13. Never wash woollens in hot water; use lukewarm suds with 3 or 4 inches of suds. Do not soak and do not operate washing machine longer than 3 to 5 minutes. Rinse 3 times and press out the water each time.
14. Soften the water for rinsing all clothes. If you use a borax measure 1 teaspoonful per gallon of water.
15. Never leave wet colored clothes in a basket. If it begins to rain before clothes are dry, hang them on hangers covered with foil or wooden hangers.
16. When damp clothes have to be kept before ironing prevent mildew by storing in the electric refrigerator or hang to dry and redampen next day.
17. Let skirt hems dry before ironing. Then iron from hem to waist, never across the width of garment. This is important when the skirt is made of any material which has a tendency to stretch or distort.
18. Most rayon fabrics should be pressed while slightly damp, although spun rayons usually look best if ironed when almost dry.
19. Use the electric steam iron on rayon and wool blended fabrics.
20. Always hang slacks or any type of trousers by the legs after washing. The wet weight will take almost all the wrinkles out.
21. When ironing skirt or blouse collars press from each corner towards the back of the collar to eliminate those undesirable wrinkles which persist in crinkling the front edges.

THE QUESTION BOX

*Mrs. R. K. asks:* What kind of cleanser can I use on plastic dishes?

*Answer:* Cleansing chemicals destroy the finish of plastic. Use soap and water only.

*Miss H. C. asks:* How do you take care of a wooden salad bowl and the spoon and fork?

*Answer:* Wipe out with a waxed paper after each use, then with a damp cloth. Never immerse in water or soak. Keep away from heat and do not keep in refrigerator for more than an hour at any time. If roughened smooth with sandpaper, never varnish or paint them.

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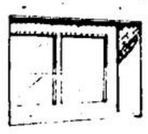

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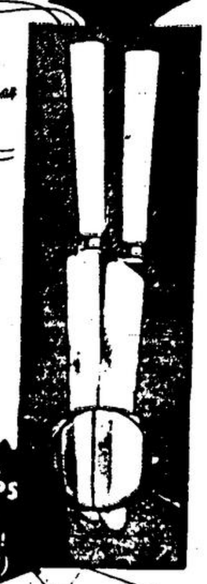

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