

# SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

Well, Mac, how did you get through the New Year's Eve ordeal? What's that? Your eyes are still bleeding? And Mabel, how about you? Is it true that you hung a big wet wig on Mac's boss at the stroke of twelve, burning a cigarette sole in the lapel of his new suit in the process?

Well, that's how it goes in this country, on New Year's Eve. The Latin countries have their carnivals. The Germans have their beer-drinking festivals. The Indians their religious orgies. The Africans their tribal dances and rites. These festivities go on for days, sometimes as long as a week.

Everybody involved in these affairs looks forward to the occasion as a chance to release pent-up battery. They start slowly, gather momentum build up to a climax, then tatter back to the usual or whatever exhausted, cleaned, purified.

But the poor old Canadians have just one night a year in which to kick up their heels, unleash those wild, surging desires so characteristic of the race, and throw inhibitions out the nearest window, whether it's open or not. That's why we're so poorly the rest of the long, hard winter.

I'm a quiet, steady sort myself, but I've been to enough New Year's Eve parties to shake my head in sympathy. We Canadians build up a tremendous head of steam during a year because, being such a nice, quiet, conservative, unemotional folk, we plug all our normal outlets for 364 days of the year. On the last day, we open all the valves at once. The result is a cross between an oil well coming in and an ammunition dump going up.

In the resultant WHOOSH! marriages are irrevocably wrecked, careers ruined, young men turned into doddering skeletons, lovely young women into decrepit hags.

New Year's Day is spent in surveying the ruins with jaundiced, not to mention bloodshot eyes. An interesting color scheme, that. Yellow and red.

It's not until the next day that the marriages are pasted together again, the careers resumed, the young man put back on the path of destiny, and the dolls restored to a semblance of radiant beauty.

One thing I find rather peculiar. Canadians either get strong

as they get older, or they have more inhibitions to unload. Go to a teen age party on New Year's Eve. The kids dance decorously, act with manners, and generally behave as sophisticated adults should.

Vivify party of young adults. In their late teens, early twenties. They may have a few drinks, but not many, and it's a pretty quiet, moody affair. They're all going steady, you see, and trying to make an impression on somebody.

Then take a party among the young marrieds, with children. These characters are all exhausted, up to their eye balls in debt, frustrated, and slightly disillusioned about life. Watch out for fireworks at this one, especially at midnight, when the Auld Lang Syne nonsense ends, and the kissing starts. Somebody will get a thick ear to a split lip. I've had both in my day.

But Canadians hit their New Year's Eve peak, I think, in the middle forties and fifties. For one thing, their kids are past the childhood stage, and are probably not at home to keep an eye on the old-timers. For another, all the men are at the dangerous age. For another, all the women feel that their husbands are neglecting them. This is the identical formula for which the scientists who split the atom looked for, forty years. It was right under their noses.

Again, the crisis we turning point is right at midnight, when everybody has this insane desire to kiss somebody else. I don't know where this custom originated, and I'm against it. Not only is it unsanitary, but my wife elbowed me right on the nose one New Year's Eve just because a couple of acetylene ladies beat her to me, when the gong sounded.

This midnight moment is the time for all the poor dogs who are married to frigid wives to dash around hanging great, romantic buses on the best-looking dames at the party. It is the time for the little woman with a touch of gypsy in her soul, broad of chest, a husband who thinks a kiss is a waste of time, to swoon for fourteen glorious seconds in the arms of the local undertaker or hardware man.

I'll tell you more about this again. But right now, I have to do a little explaining to the Old Battleaxe.

## SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR UNITED CO-OPS

"United Co-operatives of Ontario has enjoyed another successful year," reported Ray Loughheed, Barrie farmer and president of U.C.O., to delegates to the annual meeting in Toronto in December. "Sales volume of \$75,770,840 is the highest in U.C.O. history. Net earnings of \$600,150 assure the financial stability of your whole sale and its ability to maintain the rapid pace of Canadian business. Total assets increased by nearly \$1 million."

The Board of Directors declared a total patronage return of \$498,620 to member co-operatives across Ontario. These returns per co-operative are based on the amount of business done by the local co-operative with U.C.O. This additional income for the local co-operative finds its way back to the member, depending on several factors. Firstly, the local co-operative must have made a net earning in its yearly operations and declared a patronage return to its members; secondly, patronage returns to members may be paid on a deferred basis or in the form of shares.

Twenty-five per cent of the patronage returns will be made in cash, and 75 per cent as deferred patronage. At the same time, \$230,250 in common share capital originating in earnings eight-years ago is being redeemed in cash by U.C.O.

General Manager Leonard Norman expressed the volume of business in a different manner. He pointed out that 75 million dollars in terms of goods would fill 24,000 rail cars that would reach 200 miles the distance between Toronto and Brockville or North Bay or Chatham.

Mr. Norman reviewed the importance of earnings, planned pricing, credit personnel,

management and director development to co-operatives in a comprehensive report. He also noted the role that U.C.O. is playing in the marketing of farm products. He said that U.C.O. is handling an increasing volume of livestock \$28,000,204 total volume in 1961—an increase of over 2 million from 1960. It exported over a million bushels of wheat, including the sale of nearly a half million bushels of wheat to Egypt. More recently, U.C.O. has been exporting soybeans to Great Britain.

## Cousins Birthdays are On New Year's Eve

Two cousins whose birthdays are on New Year's Eve, were honoured at a birthday party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wagstaffe. The two young people are Caroline Norton and Danny Wagstaffe. The evening was spent in playing games and dancing. A lovely supper was served by Danny's mother.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Wagstaffe and family spent New Year's Day with her brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Semanyk in Hamilton.

Mrs. Con Farr of Septuveda, California, sent Christmas greetings by telephone Christmas morning to her grandmother, Mrs. P. Wagstaffe.

Mrs. Francis Bauer, nurse-in-training at Guilph General Hospital, spent a day with Carol Barth.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hunter and family spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. K. Hunter in town.

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