

# SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

## Have A Good Christmas

Don't you dare feel hurt because you didn't get a Christmas card from us this year. It wasn't the extra tuppence for stamps, the only visible sign of the Just Society. It was a straight lack of time.

In December my wife was up to her ears in essays with a pre-Christmas deadline. Kim was up to hers in practicing for her performer's degree in piano. And I've been snowed under the usual assortment of anti-hero activities that every day every week make me less afraid of going to hell. It's right here on earth.

Like an idiot I offered to type my wife's essays for her, after she'd written them. Did you ever try to type with three fingers and someone breathing holy down your neck? There was nothing sexy about that breathing. She just wanted to make sure I didn't alter a word, a comma, or a quotation mark in that deathless prose.

She thinks she knows more about punctuation than I do. Hilarious! And I told her so.

About every 20 minutes I'd snarl "All right type the damn thing yourself!" and stamp off. And she'd snap, "How anybody who writes a column can type as badly as that is beyond me." And so it went. It took at least three times as long as it should have.

This was right in the midst of that annual debacle of pre-Christmas exams, an event that makes the honest teacher feel like handling in his resignation, because after marking the kids' papers he knows that he has taught nothing whatever in the fall term. Except, maybe, some bad grammar.

After this ordeal, it's pleasant to look forward to holidays: Time to relax, read, contemplate, gird up one's loins and say, "The hell with it. It's the kids who are stupid, not me." Only this can one face the long bitter winter term.

Not this time. There I was, typing wife's essays, marking exam papers, trying to cheer up Kim for her flunk in French. Enough, one might say, on top of the regular chores. "Oh, well!" cry the Fates. "That bird is still too cocky. Let's really sock it to him."

And they did. My car, for which I pay the bank \$50 a month in perpetuity, was the target. Right in the middle of that cold snap and those blizzards, it began to act like a hanging mule. It wouldn't go at all, except when I didn't need it. And when it did it not only limped, but coughed.

Did you ever try to get a tow truck, at midnight, in a blizzard? Have you gone out three mornings in a row, after having your battery charged fully, turned on the key, and got "Rargh, rargh, rargh rargh, sput, rargh rargh cough rargh, rar ra . . . ?"

Three licensed mechanics and at least ten amateurs, told me it was: the automatic choke, the ignition, the points, the plugs, the carburetor, the alternator, the tachometer, or whatever. They meant as much to me as the past perfect subjunctive participle means to them.

I thought longingly of my grandfather's transportation: "Giddap, Nell; we ain't home yet."

I replaced everything they told me, except that rotten little plastic thing you scrape the windows with. And it still runs like a horse with the heaves.

**Christmas Greetings**



**TO ONE AND ALL**  
Georgetown Welder  
26 Guelph St. — 877-2951  
GUY RODGERS

So I'm not dreaming of a white Christmas or a Yule log or wassail or lolly guests. The only guests around our place this holiday season will be a bunch of foreigners.

My wife will be entertaining a 19th-century German philosopher, Herr Hegel, who is duller than a dish of mashed peas. My daughter will be consorting with a bundle of 'Bohemians' called Beethoven, Bach, Granados and Dohnani.

I'll be the one with the apron on, doing the dishes, or vacuuming. (Or I might even be the one on the bus, headed for the airport and Acapulco, with the joint account.)

However, "no reason to be grievin' in the holiday season," as Kim might put it in one of her songs. Hugh will be home, and we'll have some jolly chats about his future as a walker, which he is now.

You have a good one, anyway, with all my heart. Or what's left.

### RASPBERRY - PEACH COMPOTE

- 2 pkg. frozen raspberries, thawed
- 8 peach halves, drained
- 3 egg whites
- 6 tablespoons sugar

Beat egg whites until stiff but not dry. Gradually beat in sugar until smooth and glossy.

Place peaches, cut side up, in shallow baking dish, top each with a spoonful of meringue. Bake at 450 degrees for 5 minutes. Place raspberries in serving dish; remove peaches carefully from dish and float on raspberries.

### NORVAL

#### Christmas Theme for Union Mission Meeting

Union Presbyterian Church WMS Christmas meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Lee Campbell on Wednesday evening, December 4th with the Home Helpers as guests. Mrs. Clarence Anderson presided and Mrs. Hugh Leslie gave the devotional, with Mrs. Harvey Puckering leading in prayer.

The roll call was answered with a Christmas verse and a White Gift for Peel Manor.

Mrs. Lee Campbell gave the Christmas message followed by the reports of the various conveners. The treasurer's report indicated that givings were up considerably this year.

Mrs. Erle Leslie, Life Member secretary, presented Mrs. Leslie Iam, with a life membership with Mrs. Leslie Young reading the address.

Mrs. R. Duncanson reported that there is need for old flannellette sheets to be made into diapers for the Scott Mission in Toronto and several sheets were donated. Mrs. Duncanson closed the meeting with a prayer poem after which lunch was enjoyed with Mrs. Wilfrid Leslie, Mrs. Art McKano, Mrs. Herb Dolson and Mrs. Harvey Puckering assisting the hostess.

Dr. Forbes, Draper St., has been a patient in Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital for about four weeks. He is to be transferred to a Toronto hospital for further treatment on a slipped disc and for a brace for his back. We wish him a speedy recovery.

— Mrs. Ed McLean

### SMILE

Wife: I was a fool when I married you.  
Husband: That's true, but I loved you so much at the time that I didn't notice it.

**BEST OF GOOD WISHES**  
*for the Holidays*



Here's a wish for you: good cheer in abundance in this most festive holiday season.

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from the members of the

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