

Champion Family Page

Joyce Beaton

The story of the eight pregnant bridge players

I'm sure everyone has their most embarrassing dining-out story. I'm sure every woman who has been pregnant has her most embarrassing moment to relate. Mine happened both at the same time.

It happened many years ago when I belonged to a bridge club. We were two tables with two girls as spares. Each time we played we'd put a quarter into the kitty for our annual night out at a classy restaurant.

The year was 1959. The place to go in those days was The Gaslight, a high-class joint in Toronto, where singers and musicians from The Toronto Conservatory of Music would entertain in formal splendor.

Population explosion

Eight of the 10 of us were pregnant. Very, very pregnant by the time the end of the bridge season rolled around. Off we waddled to The Gaslight.

As fate would have it we were seated at one long table at the head of the room... right next to where the operatic singer stood and in full view of the other patrons.

Most unpopular

As women in that condition are wont to do, we filed out regularly throughout the evening to the powder room. What with that and a lot of shifting in our chairs to get a comfortable position, plus our insatiable urge to talk and laugh a lot (as housewives do when let out of the cage for a few hours), we were not too popular with the waiters or the clientele.

The humor of the situation evaded everyone but ourselves, and the more we thought about it the more we giggled. Finally, in desperation, one of the not-sober guests stood up and in a loud voice announced "It would be greatly appreciated if the so-called ladies at the front table would shut up so the rest of us can enjoy the music."

Of course this sent us into further peals of laughter. We alternated between being mortified at making such a public spectacle to not giving a damn.

No chances

Leone was in charge of the purse strings. The waiter presented the cheque to her on a large silver platter. Into her purse she reached and lo and behold, came up with 20 church envelopes full of quarters!

"Good heavens," we exclaimed, "don't you have that money in bills?" Obviously she didn't. Someone offered to pay the bill with a personal cheque but the waiter would have none of it. I guess he thought by our performance during the evening we were a poor risk.

Clang, clang!

"Okay," said Leone, "if that's how you want it, that's how you'll get it," and she poured the quarters, one envelope after the other, onto the silver tray.

It sounded and looked like a pirate's cache of gold doubloons!

Of course the humor of the scene was lost on the waiter, management, patrons and entertainers alike. The pregnant party left as doubled over as they could get while laughing.

The next year we went to a spaghetti joint called Joe's.

NOW IT'S MY TURN, a collection of Joyce Beaton's weekly columns will be available soon.



LARGE CROWDS flocked towards this table holding all sorts of jewellery. The Holy Rosary bazaar held on the weekend was declared a success.

About the town

with Dolores Melanson
Phone 878-3138



A Christmas bazaar was held at Halton Centennial Manor on Wednesday, Nov. 19 for Manor residents and their families and friends.

The bazaar was put on by the Manor Auxiliary. Crafts were made and sold by the residents. Items were sold from an "odds and ends" table and the proceeds from that table will go to the "Comfort Fund".

Auxiliary members served tea and fruit breads to all visitors.

Judy Lopes, 8 Lorne Scots Dr., celebrated her birthday on Sunday, Nov. 23 with a pajama party at her home. Helping her celebrate her day were Elizabeth Wilson and Jackie Sievers.

Milton Community Nursery School has a new supervisor, Miss Marsha McCann.

Marsha graduated from Sheridan College on the Dean's Honor Roll with Distinction, Nov. 22. About 80 people of all ages attended the get-together and special gift was Gary Dawkins, candidate in the September election.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Giles from Rexdale and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gray from Brampton have moved in on Edison Ct. in Dorset Park. We welcome them to Milton.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Norrington and daughter Elizabeth were invited to the presentation of the world championship trophies at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. Mr. Norrington won the reserve championship in rye seed and the presentations took place at the Danbark Club.

Congratulations and best wishes go to Ian and Nancy McNally, 617 Churchill Ave., who celebrate their wedding anniversary on Monday, Dec. 1.

Milton Senior Citizens Club held their monthly meeting at Knox Church Hall on Wednesday evening, Nov. 19.

Entertainment for the evening was to have been the Scarborough Barbershoppers, but due to weather conditions the group was unable to make the trip. One member of the quartet Orville Laking did manage to get to Milton that evening and he showed slides of his trip to Russia last June.

Orville is the son of Bob Laking, who is a member of the Milton Senior Citizens Orchestra.

Lora-Lee Melanson, 17 Martin St., celebrated her seventh birthday on Monday Nov. 17, with a party at her home. Eleven of her friends helped Lora-Lee to celebrate her day.

Milton Branch of the Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservative Association held a dinner and dance at the U.A.W. Hall on Saturday evening, Nov. 22. About 80 people of all ages attended the get-together and special gift was Gary Dawkins, candidate in the September election.

Happy birthday wishes go to Olga Ceneda, 126 Town Line, who celebrates her birthday on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

Cancer Society donations in Ontario this year totalled almost \$6,000,000.



BAKED GOODS are favorite at the Holy Rosary Catholic Women's League bazaar, held Saturday afternoon.

Two congregations walk with cross to support outreach

On Sunday, Nov. 23 the joint congregations of St. John's Anglican Church in Stewarttown and St. Stephen's in Hornby participated in an eight-mile parish walkathon in support of the Anglican Appeal '75. To the pealing of the church bells, 40 individuals between the ages of five and 80 embarked from St. John's at 9:15 a.m., carrying a cross at the head of the procession. Two hours later they arrived at St. Stephen's Hornby.

The church bells welcomed the participants who on arrival entered the church to take part in the morning service. Earlier in the day the rector Rev. Duncan MacLean had walked from Hornby to Stewarttown to conduct the morning service at 9:30 a.m.

Enthusiasm among church family and participants ran high and is proof of the dedication of these people to the Christian way of life.

A social half hour was enjoyed and lunch provided for the walkers. Approximately \$500 was realized to be used for church outreach, particularly for support of the Anglican Church in the Canadian North.

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The Fearless Chef
by Helen Godwin

Well, Christmas isn't Christmas without shortbread. At least that's what my kids keep telling me. Here are two quite different recipes that I hope you will try. My friend Pat Grifa gave me the idea in telling me how she always makes "Candy Cane Shortbread" for her nieces and nephews at Christmas time. If you want to be a big hit this year with the youngsters, try this.

CANDY CANE SHORTBREADS
You divide the dough in half, then divide one of the halves in two again. Color one piece red and the other green with food coloring. Take a rounded teaspoon of white dough and roll in the palm of your hands into a two and one half inch strip. Then do the same with a colored piece and twist the two together. Shape into a candy cane and bake. Roll in granulated sugar while still warm.

Use your imagination and try making other shapes as well, such as initials or a wreath, etc. I think the white sugar recipe would be better for these, color-wise.

OLD FASHIONED SHORTBREADS
1 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 1/2 to 3 cups of flour
1/4 tsp. salt

Cream sugar and butter well. This is very important for good shortbread. Add flour a little at a time. Grease two 8 x 8 pans lightly and press half of the dough into each pan. Prick well with a fork and bake at 300 for 15-20 min. Cut into squares while still warm.

This recipe can be rolled and cut into shapes or rolled into inch and a half fingers and rolled in finely chopped walnuts to make little logs. If you decide to roll it, then you should chill the dough for at least three hours.

"MELT IN YOUR MOUTH" SHORTBREADS
1/2 cup cornstarch
1/2 cup icing sugar
1 cup butter
1 1/2 cups of flour

Cream well, the cornstarch, icing sugar and the butter. Add the flour a little at a time. Chill for two hours. Drop by teaspoonsful on a lightly greased cookie sheet and press with a fork dipped in icing sugar. Decorate with a small piece of cherry and bake at 300 degrees for 10-15 min.

This dough rolls very nicely for cutting into fancy shapes. If you roll it, remember not to roll it too thin or they will get too brown. 1/8 inch is about right.

ORNAMENTAL ICING
This is nice to decorate shortbread with as it is quite hard and you can pile one on top of the other in a cookie jar without messing them up. It is good for decorating a fruit cake too, and holds its shape when forced through a cake decorator.

2 egg whites
1 cup icing sugar
1/8 tsp. cream of tartar
1/8 tsp. almond flavoring or vanilla

Put egg whites and flavoring (and food coloring if desired) and beat with an electric beater at low speed until foamy. Gradually add icing sugar and cream of tartar. Beat well, about 10 min.

WORK SAVER
When doing your Christmas baking, spread an old sheet on the floor to catch all the flour and spills. When you are through baking all you have to do is shake out the sheet and have a cup of tea, instead of mopping up the floor.
If you have any work or money saving ideas, please share them with us.

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