



PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

HOLIDAY HOSPITALITY AT HOME

Bright Ideas for Christmas Parties — Refreshments and Decorations

If you've made up your mind that Christmas is too much trouble, then by all means just sit back and let other people go to all the bother. . . and have all the fun. Nobody will care if you don't do anything about Christmas—nobody but yourself. But most of us wouldn't miss the old dear gaiety of Christmas and so we mean to flutter and bustle and bake and make garlands and go to a lot of other utterly unnecessary work. And we'll want lots of parties and company and excitement and relations.

Christmas entertaining will have a shimmering elegance about it, maybe as a reaction from the gloomy outlook of the world at large. It will be a gold and silver Christmas with all the old bright mixed colors for accent. There will be spun glass and cellophane and all the glitter we can muster.

Yet for all of that, it will be a year for garlands and boughs of evergreens, maybe because in this time of uncertainty we cling to the charm of its real and simple beauty.

Party ideas which have appealed most to us this season include:

CHRISTMAS EVE BUFFET — For the helping hands who've volunteered for the trimming of the tree or for the whole family if you have your presents on Christmas eve. White glass cloth because it shimmers so (or else white rayon theatrical satin); a centerpiece of a white sleigh and eight tiny white reindeer, bearing a miniature Santa and his pack; clear crystal plates and goblets; a menu of beef and kidney pie in a casserole, a truly royal green salad, plum pudding brought in ablaze, coffee topped with whipped cream.

CHRISTMAS BRIDGE LUNCHEON — Each table should have a plain white cover, either cloth or paper, then it should have broad red satin ribbon tied across both ways with a big red



Quaint angels and birds printed in white on a green linen cloth make a festive Christmas table for serving punch and cakes. This cloth was designed by Marguerite Mergentine who took the motifs from old Pennsylvania Dutch birth and marriage certificates.

bow right in the centre of the table, thus each table will look like a Christmas present wrapped festively in-glass wrappings. Set the tables with plain white or with clear glass plates.

CHRISTMAS TEA — Make a tea breakfast served on a blue and white checked gingham tablecloth with a centerpiece of blue glass Christmas tree balls in a low white bowl.

CHRISTMAS SHERRY AND CAKE — for the droppers-in. Keep a tray

Time Has Come to Talk of Many Things The Writer Thinks

Including Liars, War Losses, Parking, Shows, Etc.

Writing in his column in The Toronto Telegram, Thos. Richard Henry has the following:

Tom Orrow
And as our Uncle Ned says, the war hasn't meant much to any of us yet but poor old Tom Orrow will have to pay the price.
The total net direct public debt of Canada is \$5,827,411,000.

Liars
Fritz Kuhn, Bundesfuehrer, has been called a "pathological" liar. This puts him in a slightly different class from Hitler the hysterical liar, and Goebbels the cold and cunning liar.

Chee!
A captain with silver in his hair was walking sedately down Bay street.

Two blondes deployed, passed on either side and closed in front of him. "Chee!" said one to the other in a voice that might or might not have carried just the slightest edge of disappointment and evaporated interest. "Chee! What's grandpa doing in the army?"

On the Sea
"War Losses to Shipping Very Small" — newspaper heading.

Thank Heaven they are not large. Incidentally, the navy has carried the load so far in this war.

We sometimes think the sailors don't get half enough credit for just being on the job—even when they don't get a shot at the enemy.

Just incidentally in the first three months of the old war the British navy lost 8,142 officers and men.

The Massey Touch
Among those things Raymond Massey has announced is that U.S. is 99% with the Allies in hopes.

Possibly it is the role he plays that makes him qualified to speak for the Republic.

Up to the moment we haven't noticed Raymond divulging what should be done to improve the status of York Township bonds or what should be done with the Malton airport.

But leave him alone, he probably will get around to it.

Military Hospital
There is no organization that talks more efficiency and permits more waste than an army—any army.

This was true in the last war and will undoubtedly be true in this one.

When it comes to requisitioning and that, necessity plays very little part in the army plan.

This military hospital set up at considerable expense in the old Grace Hospital has us wondering.

Goodness knows there will be plenty of need for hospitalization behind the front, but we are talking about the military hospital here.

We borrow a quotation from an officer:

"The strangest part of this hospital, from the public's viewpoint" suggested one officer. "is the question in their minds as to why it has been established. They visit a military hospital as one who takes care of casualties in the field, and it is difficult to understand why men, who are enlisted recently as being perfectly fit, should require hospital attention.

The fact is, these boys are liable to take sick in the same proportion as members of the civilian population and have to be taken care of and that is our job here, at the moment."

Soldiers in training in Canada would all have been part of the Canadian civil population if the world had not plunged into war.

We presume that they would have been ill in about the same proportion in or out of the army, as the officer says.

If there were no war there would have been no military hospital.

So what!

Maybe the public is right.

British aviators machine-gunned a German seaplane base yesterday.

This was a little more effective than the aviators just thumbing their noses at the seaplane base—but not much.

holiday night.

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Parking
At last there is a new invention which is really useful.

Few people can park a car without either ripping their tires to pieces against the curb, or leaving the car so far from the curb that its fenders are a prey to every passing truck.

A steel spring has been invented to protrude six inches from the right hand running board which flashes a light when the car is that distance from the curb.

If the device becomes popular it will probably cost the tire companies about a million dollars.

Our Parkdale scout reports: "After years of negligence or patience, or something, the Toronto Police Department has been enforcing the by-law which states a vehicle shall not park on any city street except facing on the right side."

Discrimination
This must have been a good joke because it was printed in both a Montreal and a Toronto magazine:

"The following billing was carried in front of a local movie house—

THE JOY OF LIVING

WITH CAROLE LOMBARD"

Now we think it would have been much more natural to have put it:

THE JOY OF LIVING

WITH IRENE DUNNE

Don't misunderstand us.

It is not that we prefer Irene Dunne to Carole Lombard.

We wouldn't know them apart or be able to distinguish either one from Greta Garbo.

It is just that we happen to remember that it was Irene who was featured in "The Joy of Living" and not Carole.

A Great Show
One of the greatest shows in Toronto is to go to a big store and see the children being greeted by Santa Claus.

Tiny thrilled but frightened figures confide their hopes to the venerable-looking old gentleman. They glance shyly at his grey beard and then cast half-frightened glances back to somebody in the crowd for reassurance.

Some are frankly scared—some show a thrilled ecstasy—some hesitate—and some are eagerly expectant.

And after you watch the children for a while, take a look at the expressions of the adults looking on.

There are gentle smiles on some rather hard faces.

And parents beam.

It's quite a show.

SOME MORE "HOWLERS"

A reader of The Advance sends in the following clipping from the "collection of howlers" he thinks this paper keeps—

An epistle is the wife of an apostle.

What is the Soviet? The Soviet is what the middle classes call their napkin.

Louis XVI was gelatined.

If the Premier dies, who officiates? The undertaker.

The liver is an infernal organ.

Doctors say that fatal diseases are the worst.

A passive verb is one in which the subject is the sufferer, such as, "He married her."

RUSSO-GERMAN ALLIANCE THREAT TO WHOLE WORLD

(New York Herald-Tribune)

What this nation can or should do, is for the future to decide. The American people were never so free of war excitement or more firmly resolved to maintain peace as long as they safely can. But they must accept the truth. The forces of evil which the Russo-German alliance has unleashed in the world, form a threat not only to democratic Europe but to the whole civilized world. However remote this country may hope to remain from actual hostilities, it owes an instant duty to the decent opinion of the world to express its horror and detestation of this latest totalitarian crime against an unoffending and helpless people.

DOWN ON THE FARM

(Strathroy Age-Dispatch)

A two-year-old colt belong to M. C. Morgan, R.R. 2, Kerwood, tumbled into a well on the farm recently, and was rescued uninjured, with the help

of neighbors after considerable difficulty. When discovered the colt was in a sitting position, with the water up to its shoulders. Dried off and blanket-ed the youngster appeared little the worse for its cold plunge.

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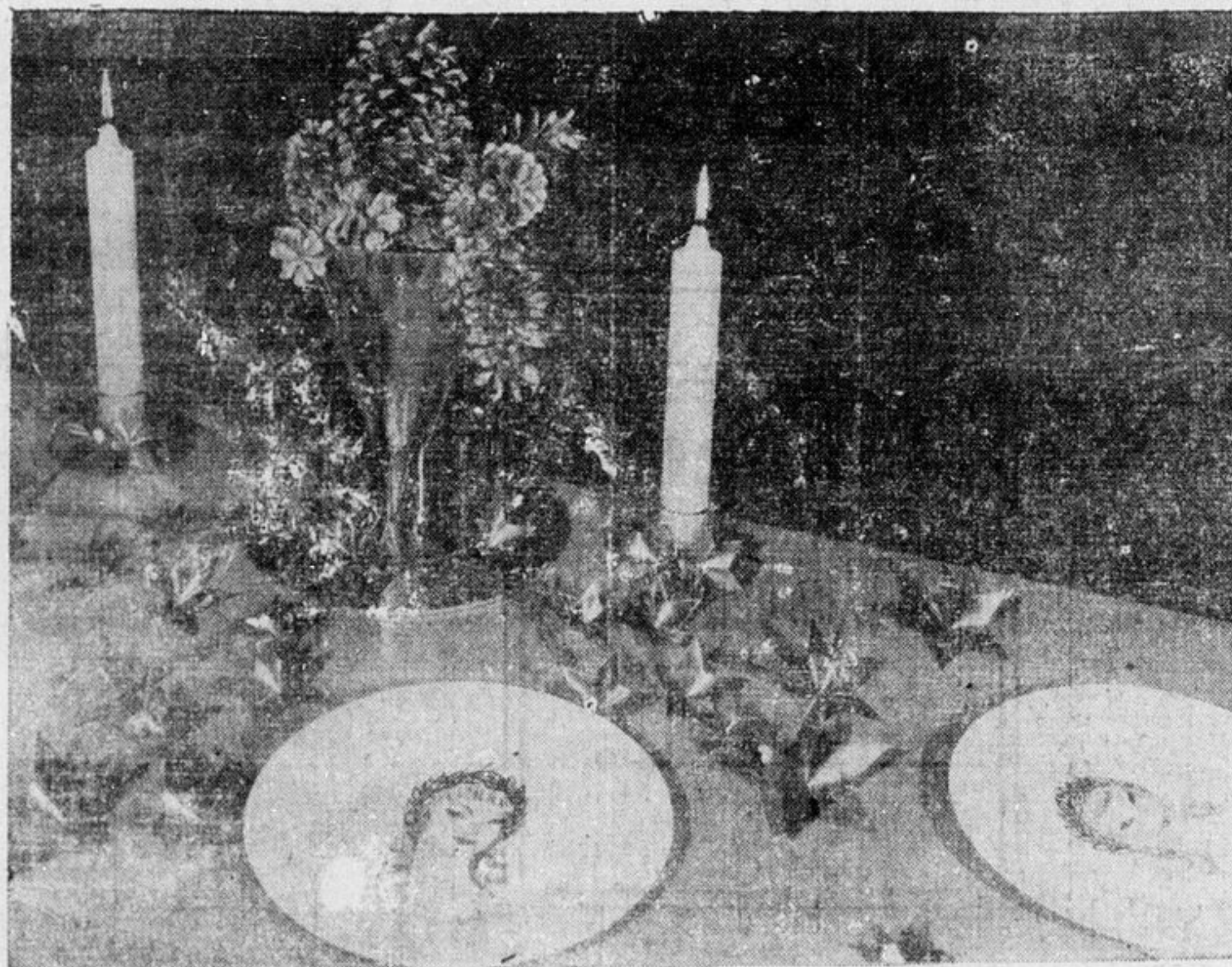
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This Christmas table set by Clem Hall is decorated with gold stars and gilded pine cones.

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cloth of bright green cotton, pinked around the edges, then have red cotton napkins also with pinked edges. Use white china tea cups and either a white china or a silver tea pot. Serve thin slices of bread and butter, scented tea and a fruit cake iced in foamy white boiled frosting and decorated with a garland made of candied fruits.

HOLIDAY EGG NOGS — A sumptuous idea for an ambitious open house. Get out the four yard damask tablecloth and spread it on the table very straight and smooth. Then cut out gold paper stars of different sizes. Attach these to the tablecloth with library paste (the stars can be peeled off and the paste washed out and no harm done). Set the table with a crystal punch bowl, white plates with gold bandings and brass candlesticks. With the egg nogs, serve small sandwiches and thin slices of fruit cake.

CHRISTMAS DINNER — Cover the table with emerald green metallic paper. Then use white lace doilies under each plate. For the centerpiece, have a low arrangement of pine cones, acorns, burs and huckleberry leaves all painted white. But for all this scintillating modern looking table — the same old tried and true Canadian menu is still first in the hearts of our countrymen.

CHRISTMAS MORNING BREAKFAST — After the stockings have been explored and the packages opened, the family might sit down to a waffle

ready with glasses polished and little china plates ready for cake. A pile of napkins in green percale cut in holly leaf and Christmas tree shapes will add to the festive note of welcome—so will cookies cut in the shapes of stars and reindeer and trees and angels.

CHRISTMAS IN THE KITCHEN — If you have a big kitchen, hang garlands of green from the ceiling and spread the big work table with a green and white checked gingham cloth; make a centerpiece of evergreens and pine cones in a wooden bowl or basket. Set the table with pewter plates and mugs. What a place for a baked bean supper or a Mexican chili party one



A card table set for tea beneath the Christmas tree is a simple popular way to entertain the younger generation.

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