



THE HOME MAKER'S PAGE

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Successful Parenthood

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Parents Urged To Watch "Gang" Spirit In Child

Many is the time we all have to say "No" to a child's request, and then meet up with the reply: "Oh, but Mother, all the gang is doing that." It gets to be pretty difficult sometimes to stand up firmly in the face of what "the gang" is doing and to stick to what we consider right for our boys and girls.

Almost, from nursery school age we find, youngsters tend to form little groups. Psychologists tell us that these groups—or "gangs," as the teen-age generation calls them—are a part of our children's social life. It is simply human nature to seek companionship, and the gang provides it during the growing-up years. But there are good gangs, and bad ones. Depending on the attitude of the group as a whole, its members may develop along unfriendly and indifferent lines, or grow into wholesome, well-balanced boys and girls who are a real asset to the community.

All parents discover sooner or later that the gang spirit makes certain things "smart." It may be smart to wear brown corduroy pants, or to drink cokes at a certain drug store, or to make fun of the teacher, or to tantalize children of other races and creeds—or any of a dozen things, depending on the mood of the moment and the make-up of the gang.

As parents we should keep our eyes and ears open. When our children begin to gravitate toward certain groups, we ought to find out who the other boys and girls are, then what they do in their spare time, where they "hang out." A gang becomes worthwhile or not depending on whether it is under healthy influence. We can provide that quietly and subtly, from the background.

One way to do this is to encourage useful activity, and to help provide the means for carrying it out. Children are great collectors—so let's set our boys and girls to work on projects like the Red Cross campaign, the food collection campaigns for Europe, and other community drives. Most children develop hobbies at an early age. Let's help them—whether they want to build their own hideout in the backyard, or form their own jazz band, or just learn how to bake cakes.

In the process, our youngsters will learn how to live and work with others. Almost every neighborhood contains youngsters of different backgrounds and creeds. Doing things together creates a kind of kinship that is proof against stupid prejudices now, and probably forever. It is the first big step toward real understanding and comradeship among our future citizens. Without their ever realizing that we are doing it, we can help give the a good start in this direction.

"Food For Fun and Fitness"



In Spring Appetites Turn To Lamb

By Martha Logan

There must be something in spring air that incites an appetite for lamb. Perhaps it's the bunches of watercress and fresh mint tucked in with the vegetable displays, or the tender, red rhubarb, or the first bunches of new vegetables which make such fine companion foods for lamb. Then too, come April, the meat dealer's case has such an interesting array of lamb cuts. There's the regal leg of lamb for company meals; chops, riblets, and patties for wosomes and foursomes; and the meaty shanks for those clever cooks who know what pleases the menfolk.

The best buy of all is rib chops, for during April, May and June when the lighter lamb is coming to market, you'll find them at their best price. Of course, you'll want to broil rib chops, and to set them off properly broil some sugared orange slices with them for a garnish. Another broiler dish is lamb patties wrapped in bacon; rhubarb makes a wonderful addition. If you're one who avoids broiling because of the clean-up afterwards, here's a tip! When broiling just 2 or 4 chops, use a small rack in a pie pan. Place this in the broiler rack and you'll have just a pie pan instead of the large broiler pan to wash at clean-up time.

In the dealer's case you'll find loin chops, shoulder and perhaps sirloin chops, which can quite properly be broiled or pan broiled and the juices and fat saved for making unusual and tasty sauces to serve with the addition of tangy current jelly as in the following recipe.

Lamb Shoulder Chops With Current Sauce
(Yield: 4 servings)
4 lamb shoulder chops, 1/2-inch thick (5 ounces each)
Thoroughly brown chops on both sides.



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2 tablespoons flour 1 cup water
1/2 teaspoon salt 1/2 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons currant jelly

If more than 2 tablespoons fat remain in frying pan, drain off excess fat. Add flour and combine well with fat. Add salt, pepper, and water and stir until gravy is smooth and well cooked. Add currant jelly and stir until jelly is melted and well combined with sauce. Serve with the lamb.

Lamb shanks for braising will also catch the eye of the clever shopper. Besides being one of the more thrifty cuts, lamb shanks with potatoes, carrots and celery make the family think they have something pretty special, which in reality they have.

Braised Lamb Shanks

(Yield: 4 servings)
4 lamb shanks
2 teaspoons salt
1/2 cup shortening
2 cups water
1 cup diced carrots
1 cup diced potatoes
1/2 cup diced celery
1/2 cup diced onion

Season shanks. Brown in hot shortening in a heavy frying pan. Cover and cook slowly or bake in a moderate oven (350 F.) 1 1/2 hours. Add diced vegetables during last 30 minutes. Add more water if necessary. Cook until tender.

MY NEIGHBOUR

She waves her hand and smiles her cheery smile. Her kindly gesture helps us on the way. Perchance a cutting from her favourite plant— These are the things that brighten some dull day.

These are the things — the everlasting things. They, wondrous things that ne'er will lose their power To cast their seed across the dustiest path (to bloom within the recess of any heart) Forever like some rare and dainty flower.

Klara M. Whitehouse.

FLOWERS MAKE RAFT

Water hyacinths grow so thick in the Clarence River in Australia that in flood times they form huge rafts, at times 400 feet across, which float down river carrying rabbits and other small animals.

EASY DOES IT

The next time you make that easy, quick-to-fix casserole of potato chips, mushroom soup and tuna fish, add interest to it by folding in 1/2 cup of ripe olive wedges. They add delicious flavour as well as heartiness to the dish.

If you're looking for a new and lucious salad, prepare stuyed dried apricots by putting cooked, dried apricot halves together with seasoned cream cheese to form whole apricots. Arrange clusters of the three in lemon flavoured gelatin and chill.

When Seedless Raisins are to be used for making bread, muffins, cookies or rolls, soak them for a few minutes in hot water, then drain and add them to the dough. The baked product will seem more moist and fruity.

A delightful sauce to serve over salmon croquettes or puffs is a medium cream sauce to which olives, sliced have been added.

A quick meal-in-one soup results when a can of condensed vegetable soup is simmered with one pound of cubed bologna and 4 cups of water, green pepper may be added, if desired. Browned cubed onion and minced green pepper may be added, if desired. Have You Used Sausage to add flavor to bread stuffing? You can do the same when you grind frankfurters.

Ground leftover pork combined with bread crumbs, egg, chopped apple and a bit of moistening are grand when baked in custard cups.

A nice garnish for pork or veal consists of cooking thick apple slices in a combination of 1/2 cup grape jelly and 1/2 cup of water.

Quick Supper? Broil liver slices after brushing with fat and serve with leftover fried potatoes and a green salad.

The Poet's Corner

SO CLOSE THE DREAM

What more can April say?
The words that April spoke were here again.
When April woke. So close the dream
Her hair recalls the sun, her voice the vagrant stream.
The web so carefully spun glistens with early rain.
The spider at its core is motionless.
The nest made snug again begins to mark the tree.
The blade of grass foretells the August sea.

What more can April say? Her words along the wind
Are old, are known; warm after winter's cold,
Each note in falling flowers in the stone.

Sara Van Alstyne Allen

SOMETIMES

Across the fields of yesterday
He sometimes comes to me.
A little lad just back from play —
The lad I used to be.
And yet he smiles so wistfully,
Once he has crept within.
I wonder if he hopes to see
The man I might have been.

Thomas S. Jones.

SALVATION ARMY

SUN, 11 a.m. 2.15 p.m. Young People's Company 7.00 p.m. Special Services for Cradles Roll Sunday.
THURS. 2.30 p.m. Home League, 7 p.m. Corps Cafets, 8.00 p.m. Public Meeting.

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