

ELLEN'S DIARY

By An Island Farmer's Wife

At a window this evening, we watched the fire of today's sun burn low above the chimneys of a homestead set against the far side of this valley. Red were the last flames, which presently in reflecting embers set enchanting paths aflame toward them, along the snowy fields of the farmlands. . . . Because last night while we slept, Winter moved nearer.

"But not seriously," as Jamie said after exploring the trails about the yards, yet, all the same, leaving small drifts here and there and a light coverlet of white on tree and bush and upon resting meadow and field. The tractor was brought into service to track the lane provided satisfying vehicle to carry Jamie to school.

And James, chancing to notice a neglected plow mounded gently with the snow commented, "It's high time that was under covers and the sleighs taken out!" "I hope," Gage, who must patiently bear the disappointment of remaining indoors while a first snowfall lay engagingly without, said, "I just hope, we'll have to drive by horse and sleigh to the school-concert! We sometimes do—and it's one of the best ways of going!" He nodded, "If it's moonlight—that makes it better . . . and the bells jingle and the horse trots, making the snow fly. But you don't mind, because you're warm with the fur robe about you. And, he considered a moment, this lad who is often old for his years, "it's just like it ought to be at Christmas-concert time."

"It won't be too long now before the dear old fellow in red comes, will it?" he brought up the intriguing subject later when he was busy coloring at the kitchen table. "We'll need to be in bed early that

A Country Garden

By Mrs. Gordon MacMillan

Christmas trees grow from legends and in the far northern countries where the winters are long and severe, the inhabitants in older days lived in a world surrounded by many spirits—good and bad. And the good woodland spirits lived in the trees. In those ancient times, everything in Nature had its supernatural significance—the whispering of the branches was the murmuring of the gods, the fountains had their dryads and the mountains their dryads. So it was natural for the Northmen to bring in these evergreen branches at Christmas time because, by so doing, they welcomed the helpful spirits.

In early Christian days, the apple tree was considered the appropriate one for Christmas, because it symbolized both the fall of Adam and his reclamation by the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. Throughout many European provinces fruit-tree branches were forced into bloom for the Yule season. Evergreen trees were sometimes adorned with fruits and paper flowers to imitate the flowering fruit tree.

The Germans have always associated Christmas with childhood and the sentiments of the home. Literature records a Christmas tree in 1604 in Strassburg, and it is from this reference that some like to date the true origin of the modern Christmas tree. After this time, the Germans had such trees in their homes although they were unknown to the French and English.

Prince Albert, who came from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, surprised Queen Victoria with a true German Christmas tree. Whatever the Queen did or had, the English people did and had also. Consequently, Christmas trees soon became popular throughout Northern Europe, and spread to America

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"GENERAL'S DAM"

This is the Petawawa Camp dam, nicknamed the "General's Dam," which was mentioned in the Currie Report tabled in the House of Commons. The report said the dam was not authorized by defence headquarters, that it was built on a stream in the camp at a cost of \$3,000 to \$4,000 and that its purpose was not clear. Percy Wright, CCF member for McEbert, charged it was used by officers as a fishing spot. (Cp Photo)

DOROTHY DIX'S COLUMN

Mom's Night Out

Change Away From Home Does Her World Of Good

DEAR MISS DIX: Should a housewife have a night out? I've been married eleven years and have three children. My neighbor and I enjoy going to the movies one night a week. My husband thinks I should either stay home or go with him and the children. I do like to go with him, but I don't feel I'm asking too much by wanting a night out with my friend. My husband goes bowling one night a week, and occasionally goes to the movies with my friend's husband.

My mother-in-law agrees with me, and we'd all like your opinion.

ANXIOUS



Marjell Nissen

ANSWER: Your husband enjoys his bowling night, so should be able to see the justice of your desire for an evening with a friend of your own. However, don't put his objections down as ornerness; most husbands—especially good ones—simply don't like to be alone. Even though they spend the evening reading, watching television, or dozing at home. A wise wife realizes that a contented husband is not likely to wander; but at the same time she also knows that a tired mother needs an occasional reprieve from household duties. Every woman should have friends of her own sex and age. No matter how devoted she is to husband and children, the companionship of another woman provides the needed balance to her daily life. Getting away for a weekly movie date is good for mom and it's good for her family, too. A relaxed evening means a rested mother the next day, and a fresh topic of conversation added to the common round of subjects.

FATHER'S OPPORTUNITY

An evening alone with the children is good for Dad, too. Often he can come closer to them than at any other time. Perhaps your youngsters are already in bed by the time you leave. If they aren't, father can take over the job of tucking them in on your night out and, if he approaches the task with the proper spirit, he can establish a very special bond between himself and his offspring.

DEAR MISS DIX: The man I love is in the Army—and engaged to someone else. I'm sure he doesn't love her, but just wanted someone to write to him. I think it would be better for all concerned

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Morning Smile

Sure Thing

The cocky behavior of a brash young applicant at an Army recruiting office began to wear on the officer in charge.

"I suppose you want a commission, too?" said the officer.

"No, thanks," was the rejoinder. "I'd rather work on a straight salary."

On The Lose

At a dinner party in the House of Commons an American was among the guests. His M. P. host explained how closely confined they were and how they were in effect under compulsion to dine in the House every night. Then the division bell rang.

"Good Heavens!" exclaimed the American, "one of your boys has got out!"

Seven Days A Week

(By Anne Shannon)

1. Monday: And so The Big Week is upon us once again. By now energetic housewives all over the Island have their larders filled with all manner of good things—what a feeling of satisfaction, and relief to know that all the cookie and cake tins are filled to overflowing all ready for this Season's entertaining. At our house on the hill, we have made cookies in all sizes, shapes and colors! One basic recipe will make many variations—"cookie canes," stars, trees, bells, wreaths I think the latter are a prime favourite here. I make cookie wreaths with the doughnut cutter. Iced in pink or red and decorated with colored gumdrops they are eye appealing to say the least. Nothing pleases the juvenile visitors like a big plate of assorted cookies, and chocolate milk, what could be nicer anyway?

2. Tuesday: I have a recipe for Surprise Plum Pudding and just the other day I came across a recipe called Surprise Fruit Cake. I tried it out. (naturally," says Dad!) a bit dubiously I must confess, but it really was a surprise. It turned out good. I'm passing it along to you. 2 cups sifted cake flour, 2 eggs, baking powder, 1-2 tsp. soda, 1-2 tsp powdered cloves, 1-2 tsp. cinnamon, 1-2 tsp. nutmeg, 1-2 cup shortening, 1 cup sugar, 2 1-2 cups prepared mince-meat, 2 eggs, well beaten, 1-4 cups condensed tomato soup, 1 cup chopped nuts.

Sift together flour, baking powder, soda and spices. Cream shortening and sugar; add cold mince-meat and mix thoroughly. Blend

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Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

Q. When are bread and rolls served at dinner?

A. As soon as the soup is served, the rolls of bread are passed. Most popular container nowadays is a shallow wicker basket that has a fringed napkin laid in it, and several sorts of breads displayed.

Q. To whom does a bride address her letter when received from a married couple?

A. She writes to the wife and thanks both: "Thank you for the lovely present you and Mr. Smith (or Jack sent me, etc."

Q. When a man offers his seat in a bus to a woman, should he lift his hat?

A. Yes, this is the polite thing for this "rare man" of today to do.

The Stars Say

By Genevieve Kemble

For Tomorrow

THE augury is for a day of unusual and challenging situations, with many petty anxieties and adventures, annoying and depicting. The holiday wear and tear are bound to cap the customary confusion with the usual stress and strain. Late in the day guard against loss, and particularly refrain from extravagance or any form of overindulgence. Sign no papers.

For the Birthday

Those whose birthday it may have a year of the routine and regulation, with but little to make for memorable experiences. Neutral astral configurations presage a routine trend, with some petty annoyances, lack of the spectacular or noteworthy. There could be laps or change of jobs, possibly super-induced by urge for drama, or perhaps through a clamor to try out some fresh ideas. Loss of funds or possessions could be due to extravagance or carelessness. Prodigal tendencies pay no dividends. Personal annoyances may be attributable to thoughtlessness, possibly to misrepresentation.

A child born on this day may have a rather routine life, with many petty annoyances in its life-patterns, with but little to challenge ambition or adventure.

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by Alice Brooks

Cook's Corner

POT O' GOLD PUNCH

4 cups sugar
1 quart water
¼ cup crushed mint leaves (optional)
1½ quarts orange juice
1 quart pineapple juice
2 cups lemon juice
1 quart iced tea
4 quarts water
1 quart gingerale.

Boil sugar with the 1 quart water for 5 minutes. Add crushed mint. Cool and strain. Add fruit juices, tea and water. Just before serving, add gingerale. Pour over ice in punch bowls. Garnish with thin orange and lemon slices and mint sprigs. Serves 50.

Ice Plaque for Punch Bowl: Arrange pineapple slices in bottom of refrigerator tray, place marachino cherry in centre of each. Half pineapple slices if necessary to form an attractive design. Add ¼ cup lemonade, freeze until design is set. Add another ¼ cup lemonade, freeze again. When sufficiently frozen to anchor design, fill tray with lemonade, freeze again.

Just before serving, loosen plaque by immersing briefly in warm water. Place plaque design side up, in punch bowl. Pour chilled punch over plaque and serve.

CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Rich and yet crunchy, these are real special-occasion cookies, and they keep well. They can be cut in any shape just now, star, tree and Santa Claus cutters are very popular, or they may be cut into fingers or squares with a knife. Eke them out with plain squares or fingers to make the most of the dough.

Yield—2½ dozen.

2¼ cups once-sifted pastry flour or 2 cups once-sifted all-purpose flour
¼ teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
2/3 cup butter or margarine
1/3 cup fine granulated sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla
1 tablespoon grated orange rind
2 tablespoons strained orange juice.

Measure and sift together three times the flour, baking soda and salt.

Cream the butter or margarine and gradually blend in the sugar; cream well.

Blend in the vanilla and grated orange rind.

Add the flour mixture to the creamed mixture alternately with the orange juice, combining well after each addition.

Divide the dough into three parts and finish as follows.

Better English

By G. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "The boy is named after his father, and it isn't difficult to size up his worth."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "pianissimo"?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Sarsaparilla, sassafras, satellite, sanctimonious.

4. What does the word "accede" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with diss that means "pretension"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "The boy is named for his father, and it isn't difficult to estimate his worth." 2. Pronounce pe-a-nis-si-mo, e as in pea, a unstressed, both 's' as in it, o as in no, principal accent on third syllable. 3. Satellite. 4. To agree. "They acceded to our terms." 5. Dissimulation.

Floured baking canvas or board to ¼-inch thickness; cut into rounds and arrange on baking sheet. Press halved blanched almonds into the cookies, to form a design. Bake in a moderate oven, 350 degrees, about 15 minutes. Lift onto cake coolers. Combine ¼ cup sifted icing sugar and 2 tablespoons orange juice; brush this thin frosting over the cold cookies.

Filled Cookies: Roll out one part of the dough on lightly floured baking canvas or board to 1/8-inch thickness; cut into stars or rounds. Place a spoonful of date filling or thick jam on half of the shapes; dampen edges around the filling and top with the plain shapes; press edges together to seal; prick tops. Bake in a moderate oven, 350 degrees about 15 minutes. Lift onto cake coolers.

BIBLES ALWAYS HIGH ON CHRISTMAS LISTS

More Bibles are bought for Christmas giving than at any other time of the year.

Each year publishers bring out new editions in special Christmas format, some with elaborate and papers and chapter headings, others specially gift boxed.

Most elaborate Bible publication this year is the new Revised Standard Version which was issued this fall with an advanced print order of more than a million copies.

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How Can I!!!

By Anne Ashley

Q. How can I wash a paint brush thoroughly?

A. Wash the brush thoroughly in boiling water, with plenty of washing powder in it. If the brush is caked very hard with old paint, try boiling it a little while in vinegar. Then remove from fire and allow to soak for 15 minutes.

Q. How can I clean a doll's face without removing the paint?

A. If the little girl's doll has acquired a dirty face, rub it with some cleansing cream on a soft rag. This will remove the soil without injuring the paint and luster.

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