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Kitchen-Klatter

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MAGAZINE

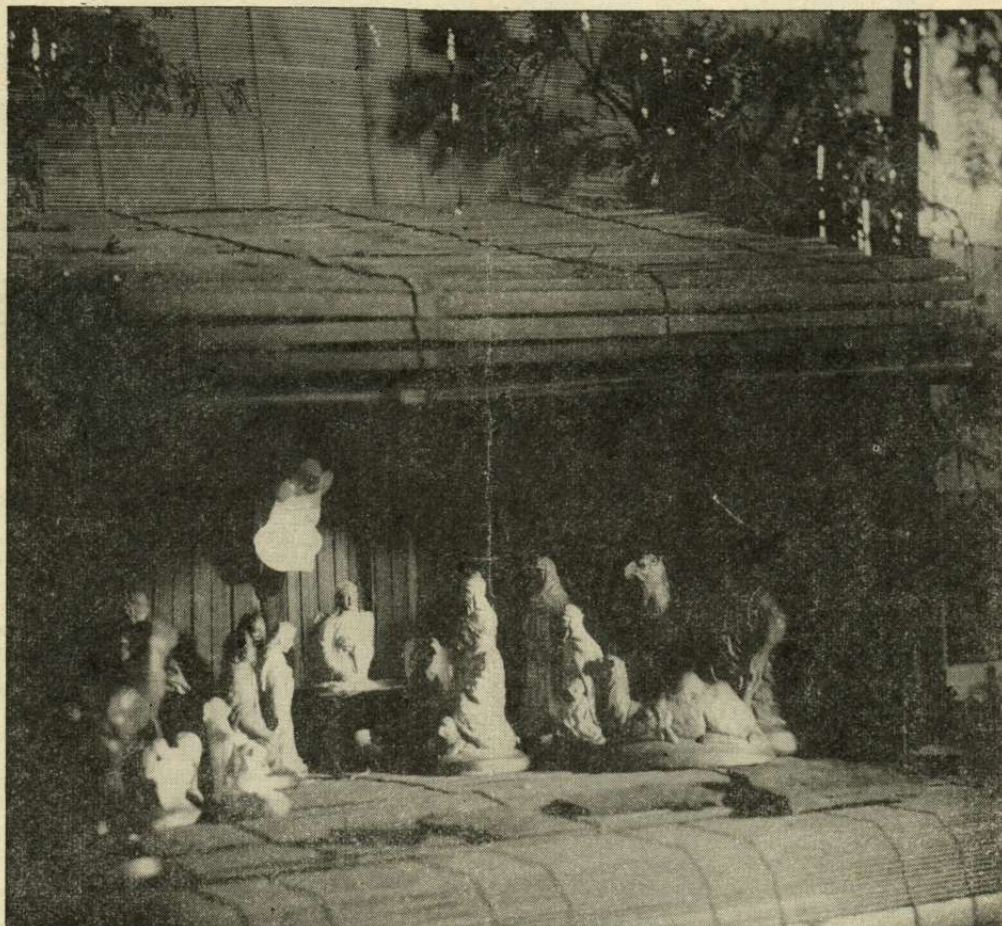
SHENANDOAH, IOWA
Price 10 cents



Vol. 15

DECEMBER, 1950

Number 12



—Photo by Russell Verness

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. —St. Luke 2:15-16



LETTER FROM LEANNA

KITCHEN-KLATTER MAGAZINE

"More Than Just Paper And Ink"

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S. W. DRIFTMIER, Business Manager.

Subscription Price \$1.00 per year (12 issues) in the U. S. A.

Foreign Countries \$1.50 per year.

Advertising rates made known on application.

Entered as second class matter May 21, 1937 at the Post Office at Shenandoah, Ia., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Published Monthly by

DRIFTMIER PUBLISHING COMPANY

Shenandoah, Iowa

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Dear Friends:

Have you ever been so interested in a piece of handwork that you could hardly bear to put it down? Well, that's my predicament these days. I had to promise myself tonight that I wouldn't pick up my tablecloth and start cross-stitching until I'd written this letter to you. Now I always look forward to writing my monthly letter, so this tells you how engrossed I've gotten with the tablecloth! It's the first time I've ever made a large cloth. In days gone by I've embroidered many a lunch cloth and napkins, but until this winter I never tackled a full sized cloth big enough for our dining room table. My goal is to have it done for Christmas dinner, and when I first said this the family laughed at me for they thought that Christmas dinner in 1952 or 1953 would be more like it, but now it begins to look as though we'll actually use it on December 25th, 1950.

The only completely unexpected thing that's happened since I last wrote was a very short visit with Donald. He didn't tell us that he was coming, so when someone knocked at four in the morning I immediately imagined the worst! Mart went to the door and there was Donald—he'd driven straight through from Rapid City without stopping. His leave was so short that we had time only for one meal with him, and then he had to start back on the return trip. His letters have been so few and far between these past months that I told him it looked as though he preferred driving 1200 miles to sitting down and writing to us.

These last few weeks Margery has been struggling with two bad teeth that just about got her down. She hoped very much that they could be extracted locally, but the x-rays showed that a specialist should grapple with them, so as soon as they were in any condition to be removed she had the work done in Omaha. At one time anyone looking at her would have thought she had mumps, so that tells you what an unpleasant session it was.

Our autumn in this section of the country certainly made up for the cool, damp summer. I can never recall such hot days as we had this fall. It was almost enough to make a person begin to wonder just what is in store for us during these coming

months. The long procession of warm days gave us ample opportunity to do a lot of fall planting, but we had to get outdoors and water more frequently than has ever been necessary before. You can't expect bulbs and other fall stock to thrive if you don't give them plenty of moisture, so I hope that everyone who set out new things spent additional time and energy giving them a good soaking.

Last week we drew names for our Christmas exchange. This is a custom that we started about fifteen years ago, and with a family the size of ours it's the only sensible thing. Mart and I give all of the children and grandchildren gifts, and they in turn remember us, but the brothers and sisters draw names, although their nieces and nephews are remembered individually. If we were all to be together now there would be a grand total of nineteen, so I think you can see why drawing names seems to be the best solution.

During Christmas week the Driftmiers all get together for their annual party, and this is an event that we anticipate eagerly. We go to a different home every year; last year Wayne and Abigail entertained us, but we haven't yet decided where we will be this year. Names are exchanged for this party and as we arrive we put the gifts under the tree. Just before lunch is served we open them, and all in all it is a happy family time. Last year the three babies in our family, Emily, Curtis Otte and John Rope, were all too small to take much interest in the activities, but this year it will be a different story.

We expect to have our tree on Christmas Eve as usual, and probably on Christmas Day we'll all sit down to dinner at our house. We know that Frederick's family can't be with us, and Donald doesn't expect to have another leave for a long time, so the chances are that only those of us here in Iowa can be together.

My sister, Martha, alternates her time between Jessie and Sue in Clarinda, and Helen and me here in Shenandoah. Sue frequently comes over to spend Sunday with us, so this past six months we sisters have been able to see more of each other than we had for the past forty years.

Edith Hansen is so happy with her

new grandson, Harold and Maureen's baby. He is a big, sturdy boy who has done so much to erase the unhappiness of last year when their first baby died. Those of you who have followed Don Hansen's progress with such interest will be happy to know that he is feeling fine here at home, and has had good times with the young crowd to help make up for the years of hospitalization. He and Edith plan to leave soon on a trip South, and if possible he wants to find a place to spend the winter months where he won't be shut in for weeks on end.

Mart and I went up to present a program for Dorothy's school several weeks ago. It's very hard for us to get away in the evening, for we don't like to drive late at night, but she was so eager to have us show our kodachromes on Hawaii that we finally set a date when it could be managed. We met many friends in Norwood that evening, and then stayed overnight to avoid the late drive. We won't be able to go out and do this again, but those of you who are interested in getting these kodachromes for a club program or school or church entertainment should write to Lucile. She keeps the files on these and will be able to let you know what dates are open, etc. I should probably add here that in addition to the Hawaiian pictures we have three other collections on The West, California, and Midwestern flowers.

The end of October brought a happy event for us when we added radio station WJAG, Norfolk, Nebr. (780 on your dial) to our list of stations that carry the Kitchen-Klatter program every weekday morning at eleven o'clock. We have a lot of old-time friends in the Norfolk area, and are glad that they can now pick up our visit from their good local station. Between our morning half-hour and Mary Moore's afternoon program, there should be a lot of good recipes to try out in the days ahead.

I hope that all of you friends have a happy Christmas this year. If you're a widely scattered family it's my wish that you can manage to be together at this blessed season.

Sincerely yours, Leanna.



CHRISTMAS WISH TO OUR READERS

Wherever there is sickness,
May Santa Claus bring health;
Wherever there is poverty,
May Santa Claus bring wealth;
Wherever one is weeping,
May tears to smiles give way;
Wherever sadness hovers,
May joy come Christmas day.
To every heart that's aching,
May peace and comfort come,
And may an outlook rosy
Supplant each outlook glum;
May friends now separated
Reunited be to stay,
And everyone find gladness
Upon this Christmas Day.

Come into the Garden

FOR LOVERS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

By Hallie M. Barrow

Are your African Violets blooming? If not, and you feel that some changes should be made in their care, it may interest you to hear how a most successful grower handles his plants.

Bernard Ulrich lives in Atchison, Kansas. The privilege of visiting his African Violet room, a sun room built entirely across the south side of his house just to accommodate his hobby, is a trip to a real Violet heaven. Articles about his hobby have appeared in numerous papers, and he is often requested to talk to clubs of various kinds. All of his talks are illustrated with colored slides of his own gorgeous Violet plants for they prove that his theories have really worked for him. That he is a true flower lover is proved again by his willingness to share any knowledge he has acquired about Violet culture. He says frequently, "As you know, African Violets are often queer sisters," and he is happy to share with other growers his understanding of their many tricks.

More queries about correct watering come to Mr. Ulrich's desk than any other phase of violet culture. He has solved this by using glass wicks in his pots. He cuts a piece of glass wick (7/32 inch in diameter) 4 inches long; this is for the squatty 4 inch ordinary flower pot which holds most of his plants. No drainage material is used in the pot. He frays out both ends of the glass wick and then inserts one frayed end an inch up into the pot. He holds this in place, fills the pot with soil and sets his plant. Then this pot with 3 inches of wick coming out of the bottom hole is placed over a container of water, and very preferably soft water.

Caution: Don't use soft water made by running it through a chemical. Use snow or rain water.

Now when the water starts up through the wick, your flower pot always has just the right degree of dampness—it is never too soggy or too dry. You never water the plant but of course keep the container full enough to cover the wick end. One big advantage in this method of watering is that you can go off on a two weeks' trip and not have to leave the watering to some other person.

Mr. Ulrich has experimented with several inexpensive types of containers to hold the pot. First he used plastic baby plates and bent a piece of metal to hold the pot up off the water—just the wick needs to be in the water. It was necessary to bore a hole in the middle of the metal piece in order that the wick would go down through into the dish of water. Since that time there has appeared on the market a type of plastic sandwich kit with a tight cover. Mr. Ulrich drilled two holes in the cover, one for the wick to go down

through, and the other near the edge for watering purposes. With a long, pointed-spout watering can, all of the kits could be filled in a short time.

Now, however, there are small plastic bowls with tight covers and these are even better. With an electric drill these two holes can be made neatly and quickly. Such a container automatically solves the watering problem and no beginner need hear the phrase "Use your own judgment." He doesn't have any judgment to use at this stage of the game, so he need not depend upon a non-existent quality. Incidentally, although this plastic container just described works on exactly the same principle as the wick-fed pot, it is much less costly.

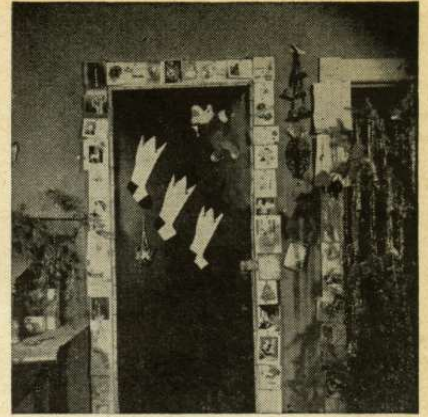
Mr. Ulrich says that the next most common problem is that of light. Violets want all possible light but very little of this must be direct sunlight. However, he doesn't think that north windows are the best place for your Violets unless these windows get strong light. At one time he went again and again to visit a north window where Violets bloomed profusely. After studying the situation carefully he finally concluded that the reason these Violets bloomed so magnificently in a north window was because they received a strong reflected light from a large white building nearby. However, this same principle didn't work so well with an east window which ordinarily is considered ideal. The owner called him to prescribe for her badly ailing violets, and in this case he found that a glaring white building across the street reflected so strong a light that it had almost cooked her plants.

While on the problem of light, which Mr. Ulrich thinks is so important, we might take a look at the Violets in his own sun parlor or conservatory.

These plants are not placed up against the south windows but stand back against the north wall. However, that wall is white and draws light from those south windows. Direct sunlight is controlled by venetian blinds. Mr. Ulrich had special stands made for his plants. These too are white and consist of a series of shelves, each shelf projecting out beyond the one above. He says that in this way the plant on the lower shelves gets just as much light as though it stood on a shelf by itself. He does not like shelves placed one under the other.

At the present time he is watching with great interest an experiment that is being made by using constant fluorescent lighting. He reports that to date the foliage is not such a good healthy green as is produced by normal light.

After Mr. Ulrich has explained his watering and lighting systems, visitors look at his thrifty pots of plants full of leaves and blooms and insist that he must have other secrets. The only other secret is the soil that he uses. At this point visitors beg to



This doorway with its Christmas decorations is in Lucile's home. In her letter this month you will find a detailed description of it, plus descriptions of other pictures that appear on these pages.

be allowed to buy some of it, and although he does not sell (*and will not sell*) any plants, leaves, pots or soil, he generously shares his formula.

Mr. Ulrich says that Violets love leaf mold, but if you get fresh leaf mold the likelihood is that it will have enough insect life in it to work on your Violet roots. If he uses leaf mold, it is a bucketful that has stood in his furnace room for at least a year. By then it has dried until it is dust and contains no harmful insect life.

But in case you cannot wait a year to dry out your leaf mold, here is his formula: 2 parts of good garden soil, 2 parts of peat moss, 1 part of sand, and 1 part of vermiculite. Mix thoroughly, and then to each quart of this soil add one tablespoon each of bone meal, charcoal and limestone. The limestone is not an absolute necessity, but it will make the colors more intense.

Mr. Ulrich says that you must have plenty of humidity in the room where you grow your African violets. And how much humidity? Well, a room with enough humidity to make people healthy, will make your Violets thrive too.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Everywhere—everywhere, Christmas tonight!
Christmas in lands of the Fir tree and Pine,
Christmas in lands of the Palm tree and vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where corn fields lie sunny and bright,
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

—Phillips Brooks

COVER PICTURE

This is Juliana's creche that is assembled each Christmas. It was made by covering a large cardboard carton with a brown porch blind; one side of the carton was cut away, and the roof was made to slant just as an old stable roof would slant. An electric cord was run directly underneath the highest portion of this roof, and a tiny white bulb gives soft illumination.

SO SHINETH THE CHRISTMAS GLOW

By Mabel Nair Brown

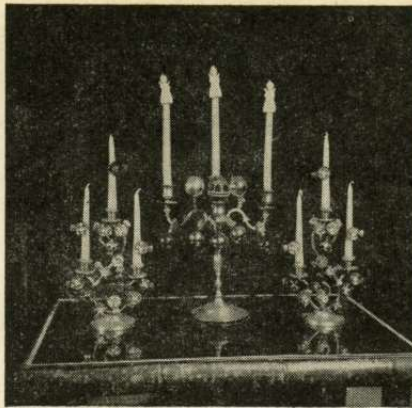
Setting: Table (preferably a round one) center stage. Large globe in center of the table. Nine candle holders encircle the globe with greens placed around the base of the holders to make a large wreath. At right of this table on a pedestal is placed a tall white taper lighted. Immediately in front of this is the Bible, opened to the Christmas story.

The narrator takes up this Bible and reads from it the Story as indicated; she then places it back on the pedestal and steps back for other characters to appear. Each woman puts her candle in one of the holders as she finishes speaking, and thus by end of the playlet the lighted "Christmas Glow" encircles the world. As each woman finishes placing her candle she steps to back of stage, and a semi-circle is formed. The characters should dress as their role indicates. The first stanza of "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" is sung softly from behind stage just before the narrator comes to stand by the pedestal as the play opens. She takes up the Bible and reads Luke 2:7-20.

Narrator: "Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year! The sweet *Christmas Glow* spreads over the world making all hearts akin at Christmas. Grudges fade away, differences are forgotten, troubles are shared and lightened at Christmas. The whole world seems enfolded in love and goodwill. For a few short days, the song the angels sang on that long ago first Christmas becomes a reality. (Thoughtfully) "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men". What changes would be wrought in our old world if this Christmas glow of love, tolerance and understanding might be made to stretch the whole year through! So many heartaches would be spared, friendships would be strengthened, hate and greed would be banished . . . if only this might become a reality and not just a dream! "Peace—goodwill" So many of us are *wishing* and *thinking* for peace, we *say* we want goodwill toward all men. But what are we *doing* about it? What *can we do*? Each of us is such a small part of such a big world! But I wonder—"Peace on earth, Goodwill toward men"—some of us are so busy, some so tired, some so discouraged, some so indifferent. Yet if we all resolved to hold fast to this Christmas Glow through the days to come—if we but *try*—could we—?" (narrator lays Bible reverently back on pedestal and steps softly to far right of stage.)

(Enter young mother rather breathlessly, pushing hair back from forehead with one hand as she hurries in. Carries unlighted candle in other hand. She stops just to right of pedestal and faces audience.)

Young Mother: "Oh dear, a busy young mother surely has her hands full. With two in High School, two in grade school and a toddler at home,



Candles glow at Christmas time.

I never can find enough hours in the day to get everything done. Washing, ironing, mending, cleaning, cooking—it seems an endless chain. And all the time in the back of my mind is the worry over Jim. After all, he is a senior in High School this year and with the world in such a turmoil . . . well, I can't help but wonder where he will be next year. If I could only do something to help get this world on a more peaceful footing. "Goodwill toward men"—that's what we need. (Ponders thoughtfully) If all of us would start right where we are, maybe we could do something. Now at Christmas everyone is so happy and friendly. Why couldn't it last? I am pretty tied down at home, but I could start at home. I can get books from the library and read to the children about how children live in other lands. We can make a CARE package our home project, thus helping the children to be grateful for their blessings and to share with the less fortunate. And we must not forget to look around for home folks we can help. There is dear little Mrs. Potter—Mary and Tommy could do many little chores to make her burden lighter. She is so alone and neglected. People just get careless and forget. Yes, I can start my *Christmas glow* right at home and watch it spread". (She lights her candle from the taper on the pedestal and then places it in a holder on the table and steps to far left in back of stage.)

(Gold Star Mother enters carrying candle; may also carry service flag.) *Gold Star Mother:* "I never thought to see the world torn by such strife and unrest again so soon. How sore my heart is as I realize that the tolerance and peace for which our children fought seems still so far away. If I could only do *something* to help "carry on" for my boy. This Christmas season my heart is filled with memories of other Christmases he shared with us, of the dreams and plans he had made. He always wanted everyone to be as happy as he was! "Goodwill toward men"—he believed in that. Now if I carried on from there . . . Well, I *can begin by writing* to that buddy of John's who is now stationed in Germany, he will tell me just how I can do the most good to help over there. And another thing . . . our house has been so

empty since our boy went away. I hear they are looking for homes where the exchange students from other countries can stay and actually see first hand how we live. I will see if we cannot get one to be our foster child for awhile. That way we will all be learning more about each other. And here I have been bemoaning the fact there would be no patter of grandchildren's feet in our house. Well, I'll be like the innkeeper of old—I'll take them in from the byways! I know young Mrs. Jones would love to work down at the Settlement House or help out as a Grey Lady in the hospital if she had someone to look after the children. I'll be that someone! Oh, I think I have found a way to pass the Christmas glow of love along and to "carry on" from where John had to stop." (Lights her candle and then goes to back of stage.)

(Enter Clubwoman)

Clubwoman: Looking around me this holiday season at all the goodwill and understanding, I, the average clubwoman, have been thinking seriously—why aren't we filled with this love of friend and neighbor all the months of the year and not just in December? Those words "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men" keep going through my mind, and now I think I know what I can do. I am going to try to get as much enthusiasm aroused in my clubs for working for peace and understanding as we worked during World War II. We could easily adopt a family in some country over there, a family desperately in need of the help we could give, food, clothing, medicine, but, best of all, our *friendship*. We will have more speakers who can tell us actual ways to help at home and abroad. We can organize a Grey Ladies unit right in our club. And how long, I wonder, since any of our members sent a letter or a package to a veterans' hospital? We must not let them become "forgotten men". Right now is the time to start this Christmas Glow spreading out to everyone we know. "Whatsoever ye do unto the least of these ye do it unto me"—"Goodwill toward men." Yes, there is much a clubwoman can do and I will begin today." (Lights candle, etc.)

(Enter School Teacher)

School Teacher: As a typical school teacher I know just what we teachers can do. Tolerance and understanding—that's where we will begin. We will read and study together with our pupils not only about other lands but about the unfortunate here in our own land of plenty! There is much we can do at home to bring about a better understanding between races. We can make history "come to life" for our pupils and point out the fallacies which lead us to war. And one big thing we can do is to promote more correspondence between our pupils and foreign students so they can learn to sympathize with each other's problems. These letters can form a chain of friendship the world around. We can make scrap books illustrating our way of life and send them to our little overseas friends. We can send

(Continued on Page 16)

LETTER FROM LUCILE

Dear Friends:

It won't be long now until you begin your annual search to find all of the Christmas decorations and "fixings" that were put away just about the time this year opened. If you have a stronger backbone than the one I own you'll manage to keep your children at bay until mid-December on this business of getting the house ready for Christmas, but if you're as weak at resisting pleading eyes as I am . . . well, just any night now the dusty search will begin.

I always marvel at how shabby decorations look when first they are unearthed! The trinkets that I remember as glittering, sparkling things look dreadfully woebegone to my eyes, and I think with a moment's panic-why, we can't possibly use those. And yet there really must be some kind of genuine magic concerned with all of that "stuff" for somehow or other they begin to look pretty good before many hours have passed, and by the time they're in place and the house is ready for the holidays I'm infatuated all over again with the entire collection.

Scattered through this issue are pictures taken in our home last Christmas, and were you to stop here this year you'd see the identical things once again for we're great believers in creating and maintaining traditions. I'm convinced that one of the most powerful spells exerted by Christmas is seeing familiar and beloved objects that appear for only one brief season. I'm not strong for ultra-modern fads that appear and disappear overnight, so to speak. I want to see the same things on the tree, the same table arrangement, the same everything!

On page 3 is a picture of our front door. Its permanent covering of green leather makes a splendid background for objects that take Juliana's fancy during the holidays. The three socks that you will note were a gift from our good friend, Ruth Ahlgren; they are made of white outing flannel, trimmed with brilliant scarlet cambric, and decorated with tiny bells. These socks belong to Juliana, Kristin and Martin. Directly underneath them is a pair of tiny red shoes; these too were a gift to Emily from Ruth. The cards around the doorway (put up with thumbtacks) are from your friends. And since you can't see the other side of the door I'll tell you that hanging on it was a string of sleighbells and a child's red horn. Most of our friends who called on us during the holidays just blew a blast on that horn rather than knocking.

On this page you'll see a section of our front windows. The drapes are crimson wool and they don't hang there just for Christmas! When our tardy ship limps into harbor we're going to have summer drapes and winter drapes, but until that time we'll just look at the crimson drapes the year around. The big stars were cut from sheets of aluminum foil and pinned to the valance; it too is



You too can make big silver stars.

covered with crimson wool. Long silver icicles are hung between the stars. On the round table is our luxuriant grape ivy that grows on the heavy, gnarled grape vine that we salvaged when our too ancient arbor had to be removed.

On page 13 is a corner of our doorway to the study with cards tacked around it, the cultivator disc that I first told you about long ago, and a sugar plum tree. Do you remember my story about the cultivator disc? We found it buried in some weeds on Frank's farm long, long ago, and after the many year's accumulation of rust had been removed we enameled it white. I should say enameled *them* white, for there were two of the discs. Russell attached a socket to the middle of the disc and put a green Christmas tree bulb in it; he also strung a short line of lights around the spokes and used reds and green bulbs at intervals.

The container for the plum tree is a Chinese brass vase, and although it's in use the year around it never has such a fine gleam to it as during the holidays when I get busy and use a lot of elbow grease. The branches of the sugar plum tree came from one of the trees in our yard; we dipped them in thick starch and scattered both imitation snow and Epsom Salts on them while they were wet. The sugar plums are simply these big gum drops that come in brilliant colors. We keep a sack of them handy during the holidays for you'd be amazed at the grown-ups who snatch them as they pass. That's more than any child has done to date!

One of the most effective things we've ever made is the miniature tree pictured on page 7. There were two of these on the coffee table last year and they called forth many comments. A big round frog is the base. The stem of the "tree" is a balloon stick; you can jam it firmly into the sharp points of the frog. Get together a big collection of round Christmas tree ornaments in all colors and simply slip each little metal ring over the stick. Use the largest balls at the bottom and graduate them in size to the top. These "trees" are amazingly effective, and I hope that you'll make at least one.

Eleven months during the year our candlelabra simply hold candles, but

during December they look as they do on page 4. Each tall white taper has a fancy angel candle on top; you can get them on firmly by lighting the taper for a moment and pressing the small candle into the soft wax. The bright clips that you see are old-fashioned candle holders, the kind that everyone used before electric lights arrived. These were applied with some of Juliana's molding clay; a little bit of it was pressed on where we wanted it, and then the clip pressed into it. This arrangement stood on our chest of drawers in the dining room. Behind it we had sprays of evergreen with bittersweet berries scattered through them.

All through December we have the dining room table pulled out its full length with a cloth covering it that I made just for the holidays. It is a brilliant red color-fast cotton and it simply screams Christmas! We change the centerpiece a number of times during the month. One week we may use a fairly good-sized table Christmas tree surrounded by miniature trees. The next week we may fill a large pewter bowl with brilliant Christmas tree balls and flank it with white candles. During the days between December 25th and January 2nd we use a big silver platter filled with decorated Christmas cookies. (This is one centerpiece that must be "jigged up" almost daily—people have a way of eating those cookies!) But whatever the centerpiece may be, that red tablecloth is the background.

Last year we found instructions for making a sugar cube house, and if Time can be snatched by the forelock and made to mind, we want to try it. I don't really think it would be an overpowering job for you simply build up four walls with sugar cubes using red powdered sugar icing for cement, and of course space must be left for windows and a door. The roof is made of red cardboard. If we can get this thing assembled for a table centerpiece you can be sure that Russell will photograph it, so perhaps next December you'll find my account of it on this page.

It seems long ago now, but we DID get to Lucas. (The outside of the fence isn't all painted yet either!) Dorothy's and Frank's timber was incredibly beautiful that weekend, and we had a wonderful picnic at the very highest spot where we could look out over the country for miles and enjoy the dazzling landscape.

I don't know just what Santa Claus aims to bring Juliana this year, but I do know one thing he won't bring and that's a bicycle. We've had a heart to heart talk with Santa Claus and he understands that an eighth birthday in February is a more sensible date.

A happy holiday to you and yours,
Lucile.

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HAVE YOU EVER TRIED—?

By Mildred B. Grenier

A CHRISTMAS CARD GREETING TREE? "Plant" an evergreen or pine tree in a vase of sand in your front hall or living room, and clip cards to its branches. Paper clips work fine. Another attractive tree can be made by placing a miniature evergreen in a vase filled with sand, and placing bright colored toy balloons on sticks to peep out among the green branches.

A COOKY TREE? All children love a Gingerbread Boy Tree. Hang raisin-eyed, raisin-buttoned gingerbread boys from the branches. If you punch holes in the tops of their heads and insert the string before baking, you won't have any trouble hanging them. Santa Claus, reindeer, and star cookies, all beautifully decorated, make fine tree ornaments. (Be sure to insert string before baking!)

IDEAS FOR A CENTERPIECE?

A bowl filled with candy canes is attractive on any table or sideboard, but add an extra touch by making giant canes. Wrap mailing tubes with red and white crepe paper for these. Silver ball Christmas tree ornaments wired through gaily colored fluted baking cups make a novel bouquet. White candles for your centerpiece may be painted with red nail polish to resemble stick candy. For these candles, and any others you may be using around the house, chill several hours in the refrigerator. This prevents drip.

OR THESE IDEAS FOR YOUR FRONT DOOR? For an inexpensive but attractive wreath, dip twigs in a very stiff paste of flour and water. Before the paste has dried, sprinkle artificial snow over them to provide glitter. Tie the twigs with white thread to a circle of soft wire, and then cover the wire by winding it with Christmas tree tinsel. Also try wrapping a straight stick with cotton to make it fat; after this is done cover it with white tissue paper held in place with scotch tape. Now a length of red satin ribbon twined 'round and 'round it, and you have a huge candy cane. Fasten it to your door by a big bow of the same red ribbon. If you planted gourds in your garden this summer, enamel several in brilliant colors, hang three or four in a cluster, and tie with evergreen and pine cones to hang on your front door. Incidentally, this type of decoration is grand for a gay and weatherproof outdoor Christmas tree.

And have you ever painted used electric light bulbs in various colors—stripes, dots and faces—and hung them on your tree? Remember that your tree will hold its needles much longer if it is mounted in a bucket of sand that is faithfully kept moist. And don't forget to save some pine and evergreen boughs to burn in your fireplace grate, or in a tin pie plate on top of the kitchen stove. This pleasant odor will quickly spread throughout the house and even SMELL like Christmas!

A CHRISTMAS HORSE

By Eileen Derr

Some of the most cherished toys of childhood are often those fashioned out of odds and ends by some member of the family. Several years ago we made a horse at our house that has withstood the storm of four children. He has been led, driven, lassoed and ridden, and although he is a little spraddle-legged and his stomach is closer to the ground than when he first came into being, he is still all in one piece and a full-fledged member of the family.

His framework was fashioned from some 2x4 boards nailed into a small-sized carpenter's saw-horse. Daddy did this, and he also toe-nailed a 12 inch piece of 2x4 at one end which later served as a support for his much abused head. At this point Mom took over.

Old shirt tails from the rag-bag wadded up and tied on to the saw-horse with binding twine made a well padded back, hips, hocks, chest and stomach on the would-be animal. To make these wads more secure they were wound with strips torn from an old sheet and tacked at various points with carpet warp threaded into an upholstery needle. Big balls of cotton tied to the bottom of each saw-horse leg insured us against future scratched floors.

When the body was developed to a satisfactory point it was covered with an old worn out black plush coat. The pieces were cut and laid on and sewed down with black thread at points least likely to show. Two old black felt hats cut in circles covered the balls of cotton on each saw-horse leg and were a good imitation of hooves. A piece of an old black fur collar made a perfect tail.

Now we were ready to go to work on the head. An L-shaped pillow was fashioned out of the black plush, sewed across and stuffed tightly on one end. The other end of the L was left open and stuffed loosely leaving enough room so that it might be worked over the 2x4 head support Daddy had fixed. When this was sewed to the body securely, two finger length double pieces of plush were wired on the inside to hold them erect and sewed on the head at the bend of the L. These served as ears. Two big round red buttons made nostrils, and two large white buttons topped with two small black buttons made realistic eyes. Another strip of fur for a mane to match the tail, and behold—a horse!

One wouldn't need to use black plush. If you can't put your hand on a worn out coat, any old piece of wool will do. It could be an old grey blanket, a fur-fabric jacket, or an ancient wine colored bathrobe. And if fur isn't available for the mane and tail you can make good use of heavy yarn, rug rags, or a frayed-out rope. A saddle and bridle of bright colored print might make your horse more valuable. But whatever you use to make him of the many hours of enjoyment he will afford your young cowboy or cowgirl will well repay you for the time and effort expended.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

By Gertrude Hayzlett

With Christmas so near, I know you are anxious to share your blessings with somebody who is sick or crippled or needy. So here are some people who need you.

Mrs. Anne Booe, 1014 Utah St., Hiawatha, Kansas, has arthritis and is bedfast. Her 13 year old son has been handicapped since birth and her 11 year daughter has rheumatic fever.

Mrs. Nina Todd, 319 Pearl St., Brooklyn 1, New York, has a fractured spine and has been shut in for two years, bedfast most of that time. She wants crochet patterns and patterns for stuffed animals, also quilt pieces, and would like to exchange fancywork.

Mrs. Elizabeth Rose, Star Rt., Rushville, Ill., has not been well for a long time. She has 6 children of her own and is raising 3 of her sister's children. I'm sure she would love to get things for them.

Mrs. Adah Barnes, Box 471, Marmarth, N. Dak., fell and broke her hip two years ago. She lives alone and does her work from her wheel chair. Cheery letters would be appreciated.

Miss MaryBelle Gillham, Rt. 2, Savannah, Tenn., is discouraged since she had a severe illness some months ago. She needs cheer but will not be able to write much. She is 58.

Mr. Richard Smithers, 2505 Albert St., Montreal 3, Quebec, Canada, is quite ill. His daughter asks that we send cards to him.

Mrs. Mattie Dunning, Star Rt., Box 179, Brunswick, Maine, has arthritis. She would like to get print quilt pieces.

Mrs. Lulu Baugh, 923 W. Oak St., South Bend 16, Ind., has been sick and needs cheer. An injury to her leg keeps her shut inside although she is able to get about the house some. Her hobby is collecting holders.

Miss Jessie Wedster, 9802 S. Loomis St., Chicago 43, Ill., has been in the hospital for another operation. She fears she will not be able to walk now even with crutches. Send cards, please, although she will not be able to answer them.

Mrs. Helen Balcer, Box 96, Lisle, Ill., is just home from the hospital. She collects view cards and is anxious to get views of St. Joseph churches and hospitals and St. Joan of Arc churches.

Mrs. M. J. Shinn, Box 39, Masonville, N. J., has been sick all year and would enjoy letters.

Miss Gloria Payne, Rt. 5, Liberty, Miss., age 15, has lost a hand. Please send cards to her.

You will be interested to know that we were able to get the wheel chair I mentioned a couple of months ago. Thanks to every one of you who helped. A new Good Neighbor Guide is ready. It contains names of many shut-ins who will like to hear from you this Christmas. Write me at 685 Thayer Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif., for a copy, and let's make this a happy Christmas for everybody.

LETTER FROM DOROTHY

Dear Friends:

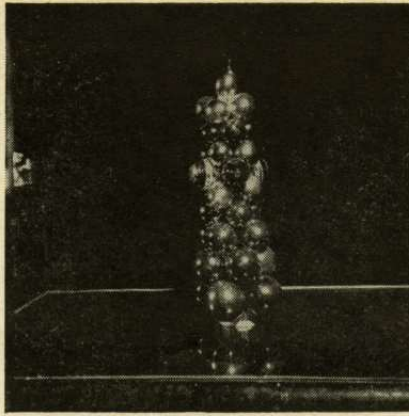
Today has been another beautiful fall day, just the kind of a day when you like to stay outside and rake leaves, then have a big bonfire and burn them. I just love the odor of burning leaves on a warm fall evening. The fall of the year was the one season I missed so much while living in California.

Last week I took a rake to school and the children and I took turns raking the yard. The boys made a sort of hayrack affair with boards and a big piece of heavy cardboard, then they took turns being either horses or loaders, and as soon as I got a little pile raked up they would come and haul it away to a big ditch. They wanted to burn it, but the schoolhouse sits on the top of this little hill and the wind is always pretty strong there, and with fifteen children around to keep an eye on, I just didn't think it was wise.

Kristin and I have attended a few of the school Hallowe'en programs the past week, and have enjoyed them a lot. Her program is tomorrow night and she has been counting the days. Her teacher, Mrs. McNeer, is doing something tomorrow night to raise money that I have never heard of and I am very anxious to see how it is done. They are having a Cake Walk, and all I know about it is that I made a cake this afternoon, and that somebody at the program is going to get it when they play this game. I will have to wait and tell you about it in my next letter. Several of the schools this year had "white elephant" auctions and made quite a bit that way.

We have something new in my school yard that hasn't been idle one minute when the children are in the yard. They decided to use some of their program money for playground equipment, so they bought two swings and a trapeze bar, and one of the fathers, Ross Welch, spent two mornings setting posts in the ground and bracing them, installing the cross beam and putting up the swings so that everything was safe and secure. The children certainly did appreciate the time and labor that he donated to fix this equipment for them. Since there are fifteen children and they all wanted to play on it at the same time, we have set certain times that the girls get to play on it, and certain times for the boys, and everything has worked out beautifully. Of course the teacher is the one who gets the real exercise because she does the pushing!

We have had our usual amount of fall company this past month. We love to entertain in October, and it is the month when everyone likes to come here because the timber is so beautiful. We had a nice week-end visit with Mother and Dad and Wayne and his family, so Abigail got to have her annual ride on Bonnie. While I had a good visit with the rest of the family, Frank rode on Copper and went with her. The timber was so gorgeous that Sunday that I wanted her to ride on all the trails through



One of the balloon stick ornaments.

it. Since Frank knows every inch of it, and I still can get lost, he was certainly the one to go with her.

On the next Friday afternoon, Lucile, Russell and Juliana came and stayed until Monday morning. I think this is the longest time they have ever spent with us and they couldn't have picked a more perfect week-end. On Saturday Russell and the girls spent the entire day roaming through the woods, and just about sunset Frank came and got us all in the jeep and took us through several gates, fields and pastures, and finally to the top of this big hill right in the center of the timber. I have traveled from coast to coast and I don't think I have seen anything more breathtaking than the sun on that solid mass of color below us and all around us. We decided right there and then to eat our dinner up in the same spot the next day. I fried a couple of chickens, baked some potatoes and fixed a salad, and we had a wonderful time.

On Saturday night we had a weiner roast in the back yard, something we always try to do at least once when Juliana visits us. We had such a good time together that week-end that I hated to see it end.

I have forgotten if I mentioned in another letter that Kristin had started taking piano lessons. She was very thrilled yesterday because she graduated out of her first book and came home with her second brand new book. We feel she is doing very well and just hope that she keeps on being as enthused as she has been so far. As soon as she gets home from school she goes right to the piano and starts practicing, even before I can get my books out of the car and get into the house. I keep telling myself that it can't last, and in the same breath keep hoping that it will.

Frank is busy picking corn. Our corn is unusually good this year considering the bad start we had in the spring.

Our fall pigs have all arrived now, the last litter of twelve arriving last night. We are hoping she saves them all. We feel fortunate that we have had all this nice warm weather so that they could get a good start. We had an eight average, which we are very pleased about.

I still have some lessons to prepare so I must say goodnight.—Dorothy.

STATE LIBRARY SERVICE—YOURS FOR THE ASKING

By Eileen Derr

Long winter days are here and with them we who have been so busy gardening, raising chickens and canning, will have a small respite from these tasks with time to relax and do the things we women love to do—crochet, sew, knit, and last but not least, read.

People in various parts of the country have to secure their literature in various ways. Magazine subscriptions, bookstore purchases, book club membership, neighborhood exchange and local library membership are all utilized in one way or another.

At our house we use all of these methods in satisfying our hunger for reading material, but recently we added another method to our list and it is most satisfying of all. We have taken out a card from our Missouri State Library at Jefferson City.

From the financial standpoint it has anything beat we have ever tried. There is no membership fee such as many local libraries require, and there is nothing to buy. Even the postage on the books is paid one way by the library. Return postage on borrowed books is the only expenditure required. As many as 10 books may be borrowed at one time from the some 80,000 books available, and regardless of the current popularity of the book it may be kept a full month by the borrower. If the books are returned to the library before the month is up we are eligible to borrow ten more books by return mail. Ten books at a time are enough to supply the needs of the entire family. And, of course, if we do not want ten books we may order one book at a time or as many up to ten as we do want.

Registration with the State Library is easy. First you send for an application blank to be filled in and signed by one member of the family and then signed by one person not living in the same residence, as reference. When you return this application card to the library you may order the books you want to read and they will be sent to you immediately.

Any type of literature may be borrowed—fiction, non-fiction, juvenile, romance, mystery, history—anything right down to the latest best seller. Research reading on different crafts, cooking, mechanics, textbooks to cover any college course, clippings, government pamphlets, magazine issues—all of these may be had for the asking. Books for children from preschool age through adolescence are available.

An advisory service is maintained for the use of those who are not sure just what they want and who feel that they need help in selection. Although lists of books available are furnished on request, all that is needed many times is a suggestion of the type book desired.

If you belong to a reading family, or if there are members in your family (perhaps an invalid or an elderly person) whose reading wants are hard to satisfy, try your State Library.

CHRISTMAS IS FOR CHILDREN

By Mildred Cathcart

Decorating for Christmas has been a lot of fun at our house the past few years. If you were to drive by you would not be impressed with the artistic beauty of our decorations, but if you paused long enough you would surely see the hours of loving companionship that is displayed.

On our front door, you would find three angels, not cherubic perhaps, but carefully designed by the chubby hand of our four year old. The stars about them will be lopsided and will not shine half so brightly as the eyes of the little girl who pasted them there.

Our tree, to you casual passers-by, might resemble a bargain counter from the local Five and Ten but upon closer observation you would find it glistening with scores of cherished memories. There would be the tiny lantern where Kerry Lee, on her second Christmas, found Mommie wasn't fooling when she said, "Burn." There would be the fat jolly Santa that took a good many hard bumps when little feet stepped uncertainly about. You would find the shiny red boot, gold trimmed, that always holds money or a savings bond—a more practical side of the giving from indulgent grandparents. To be sure there is an over-abundance of tinsel, icicles, spirals, etc., but think of the happy hours it took a youngster to get it all on!

If you come early enough you will find the decorated cookies, silver bells, plump Santas, yellow stars, red stockings, all hanging from the limbs. If you come after the neighbor children have been at the tea party you may find only a few tell tale crumbs around the tree.

If you look closely underneath the tree you will find a few packages with floppy corners and bows unevenly tied. The tags may be ink smeared but you can see that they say "To Daddy" or "To Mother." The lady in the gift shop could not wrap a present more lovingly.

The creche you will find on the doll's maple tea table. One angel has a wing missing but that is unimportant. The Baby Jesus has his bed of straw but it is not "prickly" because a tiny satin doll quilt makes it more comfortable. Nowhere will you feel more reverently the blessings of His love than here at this lowly creche when a little girl tells her favorite dolly the simple story of the Babe of Bethlehem. Here you feel that "All is calm, all is bright."

We often drive about at night and look at the beautifully decorated homes. Elaborate tall candles, Santas so huge and realistic upon the porch roofs, stately outdoor trees with innumerable twinkling lights! And invariably as we turn towards home, Kerry Lee says, "I like ours the best of all."

May we ever see Christmas through the eyes of a child. Only then shall we know the true meaning of that first Christmas when angelic hosts sang

"Glory to God in the Highest!

On earth Peace, Good-will to men!"



Kerry Lee Cathcart likes to have her dolls nearby when she arranges Christmas things on her little table.

HERE ARE CHRISTMAS GIFT QUICKIES

By Mabel Nair Brown

Clever, colorful little plaques for any room in the house are quickly made by gluing small colored pictures on the bottom side of heavy glass casters (the kind we use under stove legs or bed posts). Attach a string loop to hang it by. Make a set of three for a child's bedroom using pictures of animals or babies in different poses. Any flower lover would enjoy a set of flower plaques for bedroom or living room, and nursery and seed catalogues will be a good source for the gay fruit and vegetable plaques so decorative for the kitchen. A friend of mine has a series of these hung entirely around her kitchen just above the tile-effect wall board. Even the small child could make some of these pictures for his teacher, Auntie or Grandmother.

The teenagers on your list would love a belt rack. Simply screw cup screws into the bottom edge of a wooden coat hanger. The belt buckles can then be hung on these hooks, thus making it easy to find the belt for any dress.

Along the same line, for the little primary girl make a small pocket of gay print to slip over the hook on her dress hangers. Then her mother can see that a clean hankie, anklets and hairbow are slipped into this pocket. Any little girl who had such a gift would learn almost unconsciously to combine harmonizing colors in her clothing.

Those of you who wish to share some of your houseplants or vines can make attractive containers from empty cans. Coffee cans are genuinely nice for vines. Nail holes can be made and heavy yarn or cord strung through them so that they can be hung up. An unusual antique finish can be given these cans by first pasting on brown crepe paper and then wrinkling it up a bit while it is still wet. This gives it the effect of wood.

Flower arrangement enthusiasts would "go wild" over a gift of some unusual branch or root formations, or slabs of wood which they could wax and polish to use in arrange-

ments featuring wood; these are now very popular at flower shows. Just keep an eye out for these specimens, gather up several, wrap in pretty paper, tie the box with a bow of holiday ribbon and there you have one of those "especially for you" gifts that are so acceptable.

If you are one of these people who have a special knack for making unusual centerpieces or pretty arrangements for the holidays, why not make up some extras and give them to friends who are not so gifted? They will love your handiwork—only be sure you get it to them in time to enjoy throughout the holiday season.

If you have several old picture frames just lying in the attic, bring them down and turn them into beautiful serving trays. Cut a very heavy piece of white or cream colored paper to fit the frame. This will serve as the mat for an attractive picture, or even a flower cut from splashy drapery material; whatever you use, glue it down firmly. Also glue a heavy cardboard on the back as a protection. If the original glass is broken you can have one cut to fit at a very nominal cost.

Does your family have a collection of holiday recipes that is treasured by all the cooks in the family? This Christmas make a little booklet of them to give to some old friend of the family, or they could be used in a folder to send with your Christmas card to a few chosen friends who would appreciate the sentiment connected with them.

If you live on a farm and have lots of butter and lard, there could be no finer gift to a busy homemaker than several kinds of the prepared mixes. Package them in cellophane bags and tie with a bright red ribbon. By making up several large batches of different mixes and then dividing into smaller amounts, you can make up a collection for several friends.

I wonder if you too have many friends whom you would like to remember with something more than just a greeting card, yet cannot afford to spend much money for these little remembrances? Well, then why not try to use some of these little "token" gifts as enclosures in your cards? Consider a person's hobbies or interests and then think of what you have to share along that line.

If you've saved flower seeds from your garden, put them in an envelope, label and decorate it with a Christmas seal or a picture cut from some seed catalogue. Clippings of poetry, jokes, household helps or recipes are welcome to those whose interests run along those lines. Other things to think about are snapshots, clippings of the year's important events from the local paper to someone who has moved far away, or pictures clipped from magazines which would give the receiver ideas for his hobby, whatever it might be. Something of this type enclosed with your greeting lets your friends know that you are interested in their particular interests and want to share the pleasure with them. And don't forget to add at least a few lines to tell them how it has been with you and yours since last you wrote!

**VERY BEST DARK FRUIT CAKE**

- 1 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup honey
- 5 eggs
- 6 Tbls. orange juice
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. allspice
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1/4 lb. citron
- 1/4 lb. lemon peel
- 1/4 lb. orange peel
- 1/2 lb. candied cherries
- 1/2 lb. almonds
- 1/2 lb. candied pineapple
- 1/2 lb. raisins
- 1/4 lb. dry coconut

Cream butter and sugar. Beat in honey and then add 5 whole eggs, beating vigorously. Add orange juice, and then all dry ingredients that have been sifted together. (Reserve part of flour to mix with fruits and nuts that have all been chopped fine.) Lastly add this fruit and nut mixture. Spread into 3 bread pans that have been greased and lined with waxed paper. Bake in a 300 degree oven for 1 1/2 hours. When cold store in plastic bags and put in an air-tight can until ready to use.

WHITE FRUIT CAKE

"This is absolutely super"—Leanna

- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 7 egg whites
- 1 lb. white raisins
- 1 lb. white figs
- 1/2 lb. citron
- 1/2 lb. lemon peel
- 1/2 lb. orange peel
- 1 pkg. candied cherries
- 1 pkg. candied pineapple
- 1 lb. blanched almonds

Cream butter (no substitute) and sugar. Sift flour and baking powder together; take out approximately 3/4 cup to use in mixing fruits and nuts together. Add balance of flour to first mixture alternately with milk. Fold in egg whites that have been beaten until stiff. Lastly add mixture of fruits and nuts. Spread into 3 bread pans that have been greased and lined with waxed paper. Bake in a 300 degree oven for 1 1/2 hours. When cold store as for above.

"Recipes Tested in the Kitchen - Klatter Kitchen"

By **LEANNA and LUCILE**

PECAN PRALINES

- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 cups pecans
- 2 cups thin cream
- 1 Tbls. butter

Combine all ingredients except nuts and boil, stirring constantly until a soft ball forms in cold water. Remove, beat until thick and then add pecans. Drop on to buttered surface.

SPRITZ COOKY

- 1 pound butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs well beaten
- 1 tsp. almond flavoring
- 4 cups sifted all purpose flour

Cream the butter and add the sugar gradually. Mix in well-beaten eggs, almond flavoring and finally the flour. Force thru the cookie press on to ungreased cookie sheet. Chill in refrigerator. Decorate with candied cherries and citron. Bake 12 minutes in moderate oven 375 degrees.

ALMOND BALLS

- 1 cup butter
- 3/4 cup confectioner's sugar
- 2 cups sifted all purpose flour
- 1 cup ground almonds
- 1 tsp. vanilla flavoring
- 18 candied cherries

Cream butter with sugar until fluffy. Add everything else except cherries and mix well with your hands. Take a heaping teaspoon of dough and start to form it into a ball. Push in a half cherry and roll again in your hands to make a perfect ball. Bake on greased baking sheet in slow oven 325 degrees for 35 minutes. While hot, roll in confectioner's sugar.

**CHERRY ALMOND
REFRIGERATOR COOKIES**

- 2 cups sifted flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs beaten
- Juice and rind of 1 lemon
- 1/2 cup nutmeats
- 1/2 cup cherries

Sift dry ingredients together. Cream sugar and shortening. Add eggs, lemon, dry ingredients and lastly nuts and cherries. Chill 1 hour or more. Bake 400 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes.

**DIVINITY**

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 egg whites
- Few grains of salt
- 1 Tbls. vanilla (see below)
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts (see below)

Mix sugar, corn sirup and water, stirring over heat until dissolved. Let boil without stirring to crack stage (265 degrees F.). Pour this syrup, a little at a time, over the stiffly beaten egg whites, stirring constantly. Take care not to scrape the bottom of the pan. Add the salt and vanilla, continue beating until creamy, add nuts and continue beating until candy will hold its shape. Drop quickly from tip of spoon on to waxed paper or pour into slightly greased pan and cut in squares when cold.

Many variations can be used with this basic divinity recipe. We have colored some batches a very pale green and used wintergreen flavoring rather than vanilla. We have also colored some batches a pale pink, and added finely chopped maraschino cherries. Chopped candied red cherries are also delicious. When arranged on a large platter these different colors make a wonderfully attractive sight.

REMARKABLE FUDGE

- 4 cups sugar
- 1 14 1/2 oz. can evaporated milk
- 1/4 lb. butter
- 2 packages chocolate chips
- 1 pint marshmallow creme
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Boil sugar, milk and butter together until soft ball stage. This scorches easily, so stir almost constantly. It will take quite some time (approximately 45 minutes) to reach the right stage. Remove from fire and add the chocolate chips, marshmallow creme and vanilla. Stir until all is dissolved and then pour into a large greased pan. You may add nut meats if you wish.

This is a perfectly marvelous fudge. It stays soft and creamy indefinitely and has merits not found in other recipes.

FATTIGMAND

- 6 egg yolks
- 4 Tbls. sugar
- 1 Tbls. melted butter
- 6 Tbls. sweet cream
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. ground cardamom
- 3 cups flour

Beat eggs, add sugar and mix well. Add rest of ingredients. Roll thin, cut in diamond shapes and fry in deep fat at 370 degrees for 2 or 3 minutes or until golden brown. Dust with powdered sugar.

CHERRY NOELS

- 2 Tbls. butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 5 Tbls. flour
- 1/8 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- Powdered sugar

Start oven at 350 degrees. Melt butter in a 9 inch square pan over low heat, and then remove from stove. Beat eggs slightly. Combine sugar, flour, soda and nuts and stir into beaten egg. Then add vanilla. Pour this mixture over butter in pan. *Don't stir.* Bake 20 minutes and then turn out of pan. Cut into oblongs and dust bottom with powdered sugar.

PEANUT BRITTLE

- 2 cups light brown sugar
- 1 cup white corn syrup
- 1 cup water
- 1 1/2 Tbls. butter
- 2 cups peanuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. soda

Combine sugar, syrup and water and cook to the crack stage. Then add vanilla, butter and peanuts and stir until peanuts begin to brown. At this time add 1 tsp. soda, stir lightly and pour on a greased slab. When it begins to cool stretch out very thin and break into pieces.

CREAMY PEPPER RING FOR CHRISTMAS

- 1 package lemon gelatine
- 1 1/2 cups hot water
- 1 1/2 tsp. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. onion juice
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup grated American cheese
- 1/3 cup chopped red and green peppers

Dissolve gelatine in hot water, add salt and lemon juice and chill. Mix milk, mayonnaise and onion juice and beat until well blended. Fold in cheese and peppers and mix with gelatine mixture and pour into a ring mold and chill until firm.

CANDIED GRAPEFRUIT PEEL

Peel as many grapefruit as you wish to use—probably not more than two. Cut into long narrow strips, add enough water to cover and boil 20 minutes. Drain and repeat with fresh water a total of three times. Measure the drained peel, and for each pint add 2 cups sugar, 1 1/2 cups water, and 1/8 tsp. salt. Cook slowly until syrup is quite heavy, but do not overcook or it will caramelize. When done, remove from heat and for each pint of peel and sirup add 1/2 envelope unflavored gelatine that has been softened in 2 Tbls. cold water. Stir well to dissolve gelatine. Let peel stand in syrup until cool and then drain and roll pieces in sugar. This method of preparation keeps the peel soft and tender inside.

**SALT WATER TAFFY**

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 Tbls. cornstarch
- 2/3 cup corn syrup
- 1 Tbls. butter
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. flavoring

Mix sugar and cornstarch. Add syrup, butter, water and salt. Boil until it makes a firm ball in water, or until candy thermometer registers 256 degrees. Pour on oiled platter. When cool, pull. After it has been pulled sufficiently cut in pieces and wrap in waxed paper. This batch can be divided and both colored and flavored differently.

COFFEE CREAM FUDGE

- 2 cups light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup strong cold coffee
- 1/4 cup thick sweet cream
- 2 Tbls. butter
- 1/8 tsp. salt

1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
Mix sugar, coffee and cream. Cook slowly without stirring until it boils. Then cook more rapidly until syrup makes a soft ball in cold water. Remove from fire. Add butter and salt and cool to lukewarm. Beat until thick. Add nuts. Pour into buttered pan and cut.

COCONUT CARAMEL CHEWS

Cream 1/2 cup butter and 1 cup white sugar.

Add 2 egg yolks and 1 tsp. vanilla. Sift together and add 1 tsp. baking powder, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1 1/2 cups flour.

Mix these and press into bottom of slightly greased flat pan.

Then beat 2 egg whites until stiff, add 3/4 cup brown sugar and 1/2 cup coconut.

Spread over first mixture and bake 20 to 30 minutes at 350 degrees. When done, cut in squares.

Baking time depends upon the size of your pan. Ours is about 11x15.

HOLIDAY DATE BARS

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 lb. chopped dates
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- Pinch of salt

Beat 2 egg yolks until light. Gradually add sugar and continue to beat. Mix nuts and dates with flour to which baking powder and salt have been added. Combine with first mixture, and alternate additions with the egg whites which have been beaten until stiff. Spread on a small greased cookie sheet and bake for approximately 25 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Cut in bars and roll in powdered sugar.

FONDANT

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/8 tsp. cream of tartar

Combine sugar and cream of tartar. Add water. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Cover pan and boil 5 minutes, allowing steam to dissolve any grains of sugar on sides of pan. Uncover and boil without stirring to soft ball stage. Wipe all crystals from the sides of the pan with a damp cloth. Pour into shallow pan, plate or onto a marble slab which has been rinsed with cold water. Cool to room temperature and then beat only until stiff enough to knead. When smooth place in bowl, cover with waxed paper and let stand 24 hours before using.

With this basic fondant recipe anyone can experiment endlessly. Dates are delicious stuffed with it. Roll in powdered sugar after they have been stuffed. Lovely mints can be made by melting fondant over hot water, adding peppermint or wintergreen flavoring, tinting delicately a soft pink or green, and then dropping by teaspoonfuls on to waxed paper.

ALMOND CRESCENTS

- 1 cup soft shortening (half butter)
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup ground blanched almonds
- 1 2/3 cups flour
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Cream shortening, sugar and almonds. Sift flour and salt together and work into first mixture. Chill dough. Roll with hands until pencil-thick and then cut in 2 1/2 inch lengths. Form into crescents on ungreased baking sheet. Bake until set but not brown—about 14 to 16 minutes in a 325 degree oven. Cool on pan. While slightly warm carefully dip in 1 cup of powdered sugar to which 1 tsp. cinnamon has been added.

CARAMELS

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups cream
- 1 3/4 cups corn syrup
- 1 cup butter (may be half margarine)
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1/8 tsp. salt

Combine sugar, 1 cup of cream, corn syrup, salt and butter. Boil 30 minutes. Then add the second cup of cream and boil until it makes a firm ball when dropped into cold water. Add nuts and pour without beating into well-buttered pan.

PECAN ROLL

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup white corn syrup
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup cream
- 1 1/2 cups pecans

Boil cream, sugar and syrup to soft ball stage. Cool to room temperature and then beat until creamy. Turn on to board and knead until firm. Shape into a roll, cover outside with pecan meats and set aside to harden. Slice when firm.

LETTER FROM FREDERICK

Dear Folks:

Since I last wrote to you I have had a most successful fishing trip. One of the men in my church invited me to be one of a group of four to spend the day fishing over on the far side of Narragansett Bay. I have told you before how frightfully subject I am to seasickness, and I am glad to report that on this particular fishing trip I did not get sick despite the fact that it was the roughest and stormiest trip I have ever made in a small boat. The explanation for this happy fact is a new seasick remedy, the one that the army and navy are now using.

But back to the fishing trip. We went out in a sturdy, thirty-foot cabin cruiser, but before we were outside of our own little harbor the waves were bouncing it around as if it were a cork. There was an unusually high tide that morning with a brisk wind blowing, and the waves were coming so high and so close together at the mouth of the harbor that the boat just couldn't take it. Twice my friend turned around and started home, and twice he decided to try once more to get that boat out of the harbor and into the open bay where the waves were not quite so high. After taking a terrific beating we made it through the narrow harbor mouth and were soon making some progress toward the other side of the bay.

However, we had wasted so much time in the harbor that we decided to take a short cut and run between two little islands instead of going around them. That was almost a fatal decision, for the narrow pass between the islands was just like the rough harbor, and our boat was once again given a pounding that no boat should be expected to take. Heading slowly into waves that were considerably higher than the boat itself, and all of us hanging on for dear life, we eventually reached our fishing spot.

In case you have never done it, you ought to try fishing with a rod and reel while standing up in a driving rain on the slippery deck of a boat that is pitching violently. There is quite a trick to it, and evidently we knew all the tricks that day, for between us we caught sixty fish. I had the good fortune to catch the first fish of the day and it was also the largest, but I did not catch as many fish as some of the others.

Just before we left the Hawaiian Islands to return to this part of the country, Betty was invited to attend a conference of church women. At that conference she was more amused than embarrassed to discover that she was the only woman present wearing a hat. Just this past week she was invited to attend a conference of church women here in Rhode Island, and this time she was more embarrassed than amused to note that she was the only woman present without a hat. To make matters still worse, she was called upon for an impromptu speech. All of which leads me to say that it is always much better to error on the side of cer-



Mart handed out our family gifts last year.

tainty, than it is to error on the side of doubt.

I have been attending quite a few Youth conferences in this part of the country, and every week I go to church young people's meetings. At these conferences and meetings I have observed that high school age youngsters are smoking cigarettes more than they used to when I was in school. At first I refused to think this because it seemed to make me appear to be such an old fogey, but now I am definitely sure that this is the case. Whether or not a grown man smokes is something that concerns only the individual in question, but I do not like to see growing children smoking, and that is just what I am seeing more of every day.

Boys and girls begin smoking in a desperate effort to be adult. Because smoking is an adult behavior pattern, the boy or girl who smokes naturally feels more adult. If only the youngster smoking could actually see himself as older people see him:—"The poor child, trying so hard to be grown up!"—he would throw away his cigarette in disgust. Unfortunately, however, he usually sees himself through the eyes of his contemporaries who, he thinks, admire his courage. I really believe, however, that young people who do not smoke, have no admiration for one of their own age who smokes, for the simple reason that intelligent youngsters like to see people act their own age.

As I go about my work as a clergyman, calling upon people in their homes, counseling with people in my study, and working with people in groups large and small, I have grand opportunities to study human nature. And the more I study human nature the more certain I am that no one is completely sane. All of us are in some way a little crazy. No one is completely healthy. All of us are in some way slightly ailing. We are all bothered more or less frequently, and to varying degrees, by mental ills, and by physical ills.

I have also learned that every family has had its sorrows and disappointments. So often I have called in a home that appears from all outward signs to be a completely happy,

ideally perfect home, only to discover that it, like every other home, has had its cross to bear. It is not often that I come across a home that has had some unique problem. Indeed, if you will give some thought to your own life history, I think you will note that of all your experiences, happy and otherwise, very few, if any, were unique; that is, they were experiences that other people have had at some time or other. I have often felt that when we are feeling sorry for ourselves we forget how many other people have had the same experiences that we have had, and how many people have had experiences far worse than we have had.

I came across an item in one of our newspapers the other day that gave me much encouragement for the world situation in general. When so many people are feeling certain that there is nothing but trouble for us in China, *The Boston Globe* carried this statement made by one of the two American Navy fliers who had been held for nineteen months in Communist China and then released. This flier said: "Back in the bamboo, the village people know only a few things about the United States, but those things could get us back into China. They know we established colleges and hospitals. American mission schools and hospitals made a deep impression on China. They know we never had any idea of grabbing territory. They know about our contributions for famine relief. They are tremendously impressed by our mechanical equipment. The door is wide open for us (because of) the friendly feeling even all-out Chinese Communists have for Americans. (But we must) make our pitch straight to the Chinese people."

These are ties that bind China and America together which it will be hard for anyone to destroy. They are the results of Christian missions and American Christian concern. The next time you hear someone saying that the future of the United States in China is hopeless, just remind them that too many Chinese have been friends with the United States for too long a time to permit the Communists to alienate them completely from us.

Betty and I are beginning to look forward to our first Christmas with a little daughter and a little son. David is far too small to know that anything out of the ordinary is in the air, but Mary Leanna is old enough to share in every bit of our anticipation. She attends Sunday School regularly now and loves it. In fact, she begins to seem quite grown up to us these days, and I suppose one reason for this is the fact that we have an honest-to-goodness baby in the house.

Always your friend,
Frederick

SUE'S POTTERY

An attractive window sill flower pot of glazed pottery with saucer attached. Soft leaf green color. Size 3 inches by 3½ inches. Fine for African Violets or other plants.

Price \$1.00, postpaid.

SUE CONRAD
CLARINDA, IOWA



"DECK THE HALLS WITH —"

By Mabel Nair Brown

Not just the halls, of course, but your whole house can be made to shine forth and fairly glow with genuine Christmas hospitality, peace and cheer, if you are willing to spend some of your spare moments in giving the "handmade" touch to those holiday decorations that mean so much to the whole family at this season of the year.

The door is the logical place to start—that's what everyone sees first. Is your door one that has a large pane of glass? Then you might use Bon Ami to mark it off into smaller "panes". Fasten a fluff of cotton in the lower corner of each "pane" so that it gives the door that "just after the snow storm" look. Or tie red ribbon across the glass and from this ribbon hang candy canes, little popcorn balls, and decorated Christmas cookies. You can also make a large sack of red oil cloth, fill it with toys and nuts, tie with ribbon, add greens and a few tiny bells and hang on the door. Each child who comes to visit might be offered to choose one gift from this "door pack".

Want an unusual tree centerpiece? Then have one tall red candle in a holder—this will be the "trunk" of the tree. Take a length of wide green ribbon (there is a new decorative ribbon called Lacey that is especially lovely for this). Cut a hole in one end of the ribbon and slip over the candle. Next make a big loop of the ribbon. Cut a slightly smaller hole, and slip over the candle. Next make a big loop of the ribbon, cut a slightly smaller hole, and slip over the candle; continue this, graduating the size of the holes and also the length of the branches (loops) on up to the top of the candle. If a tree ball ornament is fastened between each size loop, it will be even prettier.

If you have a tiny angel or madonna figurine, make a niche for it from a bright tin can. Cut from the top to the bottom rim one-third of the distance around the can from the side seam. Then do the same on the other side and cut this section out at the base, thus leaving a semi-circle of the can as a background for the figurine. The round bottom of the can is the base upon which the figurine stands. This little niche placed on a few evergreen tips

with a white candle standing near it would be very pretty on the buffet, the mantel or the piano.

A lollipop Christmas tree will delight the kiddies. Take evergreen twigs and fasten several together to make a low, symmetrical tree that you can stand on a mirror "pond." For the tree ornaments push the sticks of the lollipops into the tree so the colored candy becomes the ornaments. Why not make some little marshmallow or tiny cotton snowmen to skate around the tree on the "pond"? A little Bon Ami on the mirror and a sprinkle of artificial snow will make the pond look very winterish.

You have made popcorn balls and popcorn trees I'm sure. But popcorn (tinted red) can be molded to make clever little fireplaces for table favors. Cut a tiny red sock of white paper and color heel and toes red. Write the guest's name on the sock and fasten to the mantel of the popcorn ball fireplace. Tiny candies in various colors and shape stuck on the mantel will resemble mantel vases or ornaments. And have you made confetti popcorn to use in decorating? Simply make the candied corn, but tint the syrup different colors. When the corn has all been candied, then mix all of the colors together.

Have you some old tin or aluminum cake pans you no longer use? If you can locate three sizes you can make a very attractive pyramid base to use in many arrangements. You will need a length of an old broomstick or some other round stick. Fasten this stick to a base so it will stand upright. Cut hole in center of largest pan and slide over stick till it rests on base. The next size pan goes on in about the center of the stick. Fasten underneath with tiny nails. The smallest pan goes on for the top tier. You can paint this tier stand any color you prefer. Now it is ready to use to make a tier arrangement of fruits and greens (or leaves), or it is a lovely way to show off your decorated Christmas cookies. Your homemade candy would look pretty in this, too.

A spiral twist ribbon log is very effective on buffet or mantel or on a buffet luncheon table (especially if one side of table is against the wall). Use about one yard of the paper "satin" ribbon to wind around a roll of paper. Slip roll of paper out, leaving a spiral roll of the ribbon. Insert evergreen in this, add cones or small tree ornaments.

If you have some ruby colored glassware, nothing could be lovelier to use on your glass window shelves. Stand the plates up as reflectors behind little Christmas figures. Little bowls can hold low candles. Just fasten a string of the colored tree lights across the top of the window and watch that ruby glass sparkle with holiday cheer.

There are many ornaments the children can make for the windows, the tree, to decorate packages, etc. For instance, small corks given a coat of red, green, silver or gold

paint can be fastened to yarn (run a darning needle through the cork to get yarn through) and make an attractive cluster of little bells. Large red and green gum drops can be used in the same manner.

One of my prettiest arrangements last year I called "My Christmas Rainbow". I have two cornucopia shaped vases. These I covered with aluminum foil. In each one I put a small curved branch of cedar and then placed the vases about 15 inches apart so that the branches overlapped slightly to make an arc or "bow". From this I hung miniature bells which come in all the holiday colors, thus getting my "rainbow" in color. Among the evergreen tips which were placed around the vases, I placed a small flat plate and on it heaped a pile of tiny tree balls (a gold one on top, of course, so anyone would know this was the "pot o' gold"). With candles on either side to provide the light which set my "rainbow" aglow it made an arrangement that was indescribably lovely.

A marshmallow snowball can be used in many ways throughout the holidays. Stick a marshmallow full of tooth picks. Then stick a marshmallow on each toothpick. Cover with glue or paste and put in a sack with some snow glitter and shake. When dry it is really a sparkly snowball!

If you have decided to make a church or castle or a house to use in some Christmas scenes (children love these and will spend many an evening helping) make the building and then cover with a heavy coat of flour and water paste and sprinkle with artificial snow while wet. They will be beautifully "snowcovered" for your scenes. A church made this way, with a "bank" of cotton snow piled around it, set amid evergreen trees (stick branches in pin point holders and hide holders with cotton snow) with perhaps a plastic deer or two standing beside a little mirror "lake" nearby, would be very pretty on the piano, or on an occasional table.

Candle craft offers many possibilities for holiday decorations. By melting old candles in a pan over low heat and then remolding the wax in gelatin molds or cutting various shapes with cookie cutters, you can have any number of interesting candles. To get the colors you want melt a wax crayon with the candle wax. Star candles are pretty as place favors. When you want these stars, bells, wreathes etc., pour melted wax in cake pan and when it begins to congeal, cut with the cutters. Of course you will want to put heavy cord in the warm wax for the wicks. Tie one end to sticks laid across the pan, to keep the cord in place until wax is set. Be sure to cut so the wick in each candle is in the center. I like to make large candles by molding them in butter or cheese boxes or waxed milk cartons. By dripping melted wax in another color down the sides of these, you get the lovely rough hand dripped effect.

THE NIGHT AFTER CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night after Christmas, and
all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, except-
ing a mouse.
The stockings were flung in haste
over the chair
For hopes of St. Nicholas were no
longer there.
The children were restlessly tossing
in bed,
For the pie and candy were heavy
as lead;
While mamma in her 'kerchief and I
in my gown
Had just made up our minds that we
would not lie down,
When out on the lawn there arose
such a clatter,
I sprang from my chair to see what
was the matter.
Away to the window I went with a
dash,
Flung open the shutter and threw
up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new
fallen snow
Gave the luster of noonday to ob-
jects below;
When what to my long anxious eyes
should appear
But a horse and a sleigh, both old
fashioned and queer,
With a little old driver, so solemn and
slow,
I knew at a glance it must be Dr.
Brough.
I drew in my head, and was turning
around,
When upstairs came the doctor, with
scarcely a sound,
He wore a thick overcoat made long
ago,
And the beard on his chin was white
with snow.
He spoke a few words, and went
straight to his work,
He felt all the pulses, then turned
with a jerk,
And, laying his finger aside of his
nose,
With a nod of his head to the chim-
ney he goes,
"A spoonful of oil, ma'am if you
have it handy;
No nuts, no raisins, no ples, and no
candy.
These tender young stomachs can-
not well digest
All the sweets that they get; toys
and books are the best.
But I know my advice will not find
many friends,
For the custom of Christmas the oth-
er way tends,
The fathers and mothers, and Santa
Claus, too,
Are exceedingly blind. Well, a good
night to you!"
And I heard him exclaim, as he drove
out of sight,
"These feastings and candies makes
doctors' bills right."

No one seems to know the original
source of this old favorite. Your child
would enjoy reciting this at his school
program.

All men are alike in their lower
natures; it is in their higher char-
acters that they differ.—Bovee.



The cultivator disc and sugar plum tree.
Perhaps the card that you sent is
among those on the doorway.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Once more the Christmas bells ring
out,
And human hearts catch heavenly
song,
Once more the Christmas star appears
And overshadows pain and wrong,
In that soft light the visions come
Of treasures death can never end,
And radiant with tenderness
I see the face of you, my friend.
—Selected

CHRISTMAS

The earth has grown old with its
burden of care
But at Christmas it always is
young,
The heart of the jewel burns lus-
trous and fair
And its soul full of music breaks forth
on the air,
When the song of the angels is
sung.

The feet of the humblest may walk
in the field
Where the feet of the holiest
have trod,
This, this is the marvel to mortals
revealed
When the silvery trumpets of Christ-
mas have pealed
That mankind are children of
God.

—Phillips Brooks

CHRISTMAS ACROSTIC

Use this before pageant if you have
small children.

Each small child carries a gilded
letter as he speaks his line.

C is for Christ Child who came to
earth.

H is for Herald angels who told of
His birth.

R is for Room—no room that day.
I is for Inn—they turned them a-
way.

S is for Star that led the Wise Men.
T is for Tidings—glad tidings to
them.

M is for Manger where the Christ
Child lay.

A is for All—we all love Christmas
Day.

S is for Story—we'll tell it again.
On earth peace—good will to men.

(All hold letters to spell Christmas.)

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE

By Mildred Dooley Cathcart

At Christmas time your club may
wish to do something extra special to
show the real Christmas spirit. It is
a fine gesture to help those less for-
tunate than we.

Why not secure the names of all
the people in the home for the old
folks, the shut-ins in your commu-
nity, or the older residents of your
town? Send a greeting card to each
one and they will be especially happy
to be remembered personally.

One year we wrote to a children's
home and asked to have each child
send us a list of things he would like
for Christmas. Each club member
took a certain number of names, a
definite sum from the club treasury,
and purchased at least part of what
he requested. Since the persons in
charge said all packages must be
opened for inspection, we tied a string
and the name to each gift but we
included gift wrappings for each, a
special tag, ribbon, seals, etc., and we
mailed each child a Christmas card.

Still another year we took a larger
sum of money and bought a few more
expensive gifts for a children's home.
One home asked for a table tennis
set while another requested a basket-
ball.

It is a fine thing to have the club
go carolling and spread a bit of
Christmas cheer. Why not plan your
Christmas party so that the members
can meet about seven o'clock and go
carolling until nine? Visit an old
folk's home, an orphanage, the hos-
pital, shut-ins, or go and serenade
your neighbors. Later you may take
the gang to your home for chili, sand-
wiches, cake and coffee or other re-
freshments.

A neighboring club carried out an-
other idea very successfully. They
planned an informal program of
songs, readings, carols, the Christmas
story from the Bible, and then pre-
sented the entertainment for the res-
idents at the local home for the aged.

One year our club held the Decem-
ber meeting early in the month and
we spent the afternoon making sock
dolls, stuffed toys, or repairing old
toys we had collected. These were
sent to a near by children's home.

Whatever you plan, remember the
true meaning of Christmas and may
you cause many to say, "God Bless
You Every One!"

THINGS YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE POSSESSES

1. Some baggage. Trunk.
2. An act of courtesy. Bough (bow).
3. Warm Apparel. Fir (fur).
4. Found in the workbasket. Need-
les.
5. A wild animal with a queer nose.
Taper (tapir).
6. Never sophisticated. Ever green.
7. Existing here now. Present.
8. Not the head office. Branch.
9. To waste with melancholy. Pine.
10. A childish fancy. Trinket.

Be what your friends think you are;
avoid what your enemies say you are.



FOR THE CHILDREN

WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY!

By Myrtle E. Felkner

Long, long ago there lived a wicked king called Herod. King Herod was cruel, selfish, and lustful, and he was also very greedy. Every year he would burden his people with a terrific tax. Then he lived in splendor while his people suffered in poverty. Some of the people over whom he ruled were the Jews. These people endured their hardships only because they always hoped for the fulfillment of a promise God had made to them. This was the promise that someday a King and Saviour would be born to them.

Now there came a day when King Herod demanded that everyone must go to his city to pay a heavy tax. Many people joined together, taking mules and donkeys loaded with bundles of food and tents. This odd procession was called a caravan. Joseph a carpenter, traveled with a caravan to Bethlehem, and so did Mary, his wife. Day after day they traveled, and then one night they came to Bethlehem. Joseph went immediately to the inn to secure lodgings for the night.

"There are no beds here!" said the Innkeeper. "The village is full of travelers!" He started to shut the door, but at Joseph's look of weariness and bewilderment, he paused a moment.

"Pray," he asked slowly, "would you sleep in the stable? It is poor quarters, but there is shelter from wind and cold."

"Aye," agreed Joseph, "Aye." Then he went to lead his donkey, which Mary rode, to the stable.

Now, in the hills around Bethlehem that night, some shepherds were sleeping by their sheep when they awakened to the sounds of heavenly music. Startled, they arose, and they saw Angels in the sky, singing beautiful songs of praise to God.

These Angels told wonderful news to the shepherds.

"Go to Bethlehem!" they urged. "There you will find the Babe who is born to be King of the Jews." The shepherds left their flocks, tied their sandals on their feet, and hurried to Bethlehem.

Soon they saw a large and shiny star in the sky. This star was seen, too, by Wise Men in a far country. They knew it led to the Holy Babe, so they departed from their homes and hastened to Bethlehem, bringing fine gifts with them.

The Shepherds and the Wise Men knelt, that night, beside the manger where lay the Baby Jesus, for here in the stable of the inn, the King and

Saviour was born. Mary, his mother, watched tenderly over him, and surely Joseph must have hushed the people who came to worship, that they might not disturb His gentle sleep.

We do not know for sure how many came that night to worship at the stable. We only know that for one thousand, nine hundred and fifty years, men and women and boys and girls have loved and worshipped Jesus. Every year we give each other gifts of love and go to Church to celebrate His Birthday. This is called Christmas Day, and it is the most wonderful birthday we will ever know. And the story of Jesus' birth is the most wonderful story that has ever been told!

CHRISTMAS TIME IS NEAR

Mystery is in the air

Whispers here and secrets there,
Dad comes in his face aglow

Bulges in his pocket show,
Mother softly moves about
Hiding packages, no doubt.

Grandma in her rocker sits

Busily she sews or knits,
Sis and brother too, slip by
Asking questions on the sly,
Mystery? No, it's very clear
Christmas Day is drawing near.
—Effie Crawford.

FOR THE LITTLE COOK

December

Christmas just isn't Christmas without candy and nuts, so fix a box of these for old Santa himself when he calls at your house that busy, happy night!

DRIED APRICOT CANDY

1 ½ cups ground dried apricots
(11 oz. pkg.)

1 1/3 cups sweetened condensed milk

1 cup shredded coconut

Grind the apricots in the food chopper. Add milk and coconut and mix well. Put a little powdered sugar on your hands and roll the candy into little balls. Then roll each ball in some powdered sugar.

PECAN TASTIES

1 c. pecans (shelled using directions below)

1 Tbls. butter.

Salt

Boil uncracked nuts in water for a few minutes. Crack lengthwise ever so gently and nut meats will come out in halves. Melt the butter in a frying pan, add the nuts and let them brown on each side. When brown remove from stove, and sprinkle salt on them.

—Mildred Grenier



When Juliana saw this picture of her little cousins, Richard and Thomas Verness of Minneapolis, she marveled at their good fortune in getting to ride on such a wonderful train. We've never yet seen anyone who could resist miniature trains. This one is located at a resort north of Duluth, Minn.

CHRISTMAS STOCKING ACROSTIC

(Small children may carry stockings cut from paper or carry humorous assorted real ones.)

ALL

We're hanging our stockings in
a row
And writing letters so Santa will
know

Just what we would like for him to
bring—

We hope he doesn't forget a thing.

S—I would like a shiny Sled

All bright yellow trimmed with red.

T—I would like a little Toy

Any kind for a very small boy.

O—A big Oil Station is for me—

I'll sell the gas—the air is free.

C—Candy canes all red and white

Santa may leave Christmas night.

K—I would like a great big kite

To sail away up out of sight.

I—I'd choose Ink and gold filled pen

To use so grand like other men.

N—A box of Nuts for me to eat

Would surely be a Christmas treat.

G—Assorted Games for me will do,

Old Maid, Dig, Monopoly, too.

S—I am small but I'll wish, too.

SANTA, I think I'll just take YOU!

—Mildred Cathcart



CHRISTMAS CANDY QUIZ

What kind of candy does each of the following people bring to mind?

1. Lover (kisses).
2. Schoolmaster (stick).
3. Miser (mint).
4. Flatterer (taffy).
5. Minister (divinity).
6. Milkman (creams).
7. Dentist (gumdrop).
8. Baseball player (Baby Ruth bar).
9. Scotchman (all-day sucker).
10. Fisherman (seafoam).
11. Cheater (fudge).
12. Grandfather (Cane).

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If you have something to sell try this "Little Ad" Department. Over 125,000 people read this magazine every month. Rate: 10¢ a word, payable in advance. When counting words, count each initial in name and address. Rejection rights reserved. Your ad must reach us by the 1st of the month preceeding date of issue. January Ads due December 1. February Ads due January 1. March Ads due February 1.

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Shenandoah, Ia.

I WILL SEND YOU 5 little pottery pitchers glazed in pastel shades. Use for what-not shelf, curtain pulls, lapel ornaments, or on a chain for a necklace. All 5 pitchers for \$1.00 p.p. All different. Order from Sue Conrad, Clarinda, Iowa.

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MOTHERS, it's fun and easy for 3 to 11 year olds to do "clean up" chores and "be Good" with a growing Up Chart. Ideal Christmas Gift. Chart and stars \$1.25 postpaid. Send for description. Satisfaction guaranteed. Handy Craft Company, Box 1708, Benson Station, Omaha, Nebr.

BLACK WALNUT MEATS: \$1.15 a pint. Mrs. Chris Rasmussen, 2019 So. 6th St., Harlan, Iowa.

SALE: NUT MEATS, Walnuts, Butter-nuts \$1.50. Hickory nuts, \$2 lb. Sage ground or leaf, 25¢ package, postage paid. Ad good anytime. Mrs. John Sattler, Ft. Atkinson, Iowa.

CROCHETED COFFEE-TABLE DOILIES, oval 24x15, 26x15, 33x15, 32x15, \$4. White. Butterfly "pineapple" davenport sets \$6. Chair sets to match, \$4. White, ecru. Tableclothes, 72x90, white \$40. Always on hand, sure to please. Postpaid. Mrs. Edna Sutterfield, Craig, Mo.

LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS: with colored or white tatting edge \$1 ea. Mrs. Clay Ketcham, Farmington, Iowa.

RUG WEAVING, \$1.10 yd. I cut, sew, weave, \$2. Sewing, experienced. House-dresses \$1.50, child's \$1. Rowena Winters, 4807, Mer Dr., Des Moines, Iowa.

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FOR SALE: Beautiful Boudoir dolls, \$1 and \$1.50 ea. White Silkies Bantam, \$2 ea. Ped. Reg. Fox Terrier Dog. Wonderful Hunter. \$30. Ivola Henrich, Fonda, Ia.

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HANKIES, crocheted edgings, 3 for \$1. Trimmed print potholders, 2 pr. 50¢. Mrs. Anna Mueller, Earling, Iowa.

REGISTERED TOY MANCHESTER PUPPIES, ideal Christmas gifts. Mrs. Gladys Suter, Wyaconda, Mo.

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HAND PAINTING: Tea towels, \$2.50. Pillow slips, \$2.50. Elva Carstens, Glidden, Iowa.

MONOGRAMMED PILLOW CASES, crocheted in color preferred, \$4.50. Mrs. Hazel Lockhart, Rt. 4, St. Joseph, Mo.

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APRONS, clothes pin aprons, \$1 ea. Embroidered pillow cases, \$2.25. Tea towels, set of 7, \$3.50. Mrs. Ray Dixon, Allerton, Ia.

SEQUIN NECKLACES, \$1.10 Bracelets \$1.10, earrings 30¢ postpaid. Phyllis Tuepker, Aurora, Nebr.

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FOR SALE: Dollies 10 in. Pansy, Roses & tailored ruffled \$1 ea. Pillow cases crocheted inset, \$3.75. Star buffet sets \$2.50. Square vanity set \$1.25. Heart shape pin-cushions, 85¢. Mrs. Frank Brabee, Box 222, Brainard, Nebr.

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NOTIONS: Write Box 345, Clarence, Mo.

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2

(Continued from Page 4)

materials to needy children's hospitals here at home. We can learn to understand and help the underprivileged in certain mountain regions and in our big cities. Yes, there is much a school teacher can do to keep the glow going!" (Lights candle.)

(Enter Missionary)

Missionary: "I, too, know what I can and must do. I must tend to the physical as well as the spiritual needs of those I serve. I must be the one who brings about a better understanding between these I serve and those back home. I tell these of the Christ Child and of the angel chorus and I must strive to make it become a reality. I will try harder to make the home folks realize that these people need friendship and goodwill, not just material things alone." (Lights candle.)

(Enter Sunday School Teacher)

S. S. Teacher: "Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth, goodwill toward men." These words seem to grow sweeter each year as I hear the children tell the Christmas story in play and song. Yet we have failed to make it come true. We Sunday school teachers must try to give our boys and girls a better understanding of practicing our religion. We must show them a way to use it, at school, on the athletic field, at home, at play.

We can point out ways to help and to be better friends right in our own community. Let the Christmas Glow start in me and spread to all those I serve and from them around the world." (Lights candle.)

(Enter Grandmother)

Grandmother: "All too often we grandmothers are too ready to 'go on the shelf', so to speak, and think there is little we can do. But as my family has gathered around this Christmas I have, like Mary, 'pondered these things in my heart'. What can I do to help? Surely I can pass on to my children the dreams, the hopes and the plans the older generations have had for this country and this world. I can share from my experiences. According to my strength I can do of the jobs I see to do about me that will spread goodwill, even if it be a small neighborly deed, smiles of encouragement when needed, pointing the way for others to follow."

(Business Woman Enters)

Business W.: "Goodness me! Everything is always in a rush. Even here at Christmas time there is hardly a moment to enjoy all the happiness, love and goodwill that seems to be everywhere. 'Goodwill'—that's what the angels sang, 'Goodwill toward men'. My, that would certainly change the whole world were it being practiced today! Perhaps others have gotten too busy just as I, a busy Business woman have done. It is time I stopped and considered what is the greatest joy about Christmas. There is no doubt it is that good feeling of

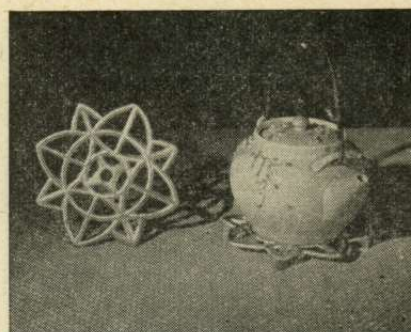
kinship with all peoples everywhere. Then why not make it last? I can take the time to do more of the things which I have always left for others because I thought my work more important. I can help on Community Drives, I can help bring about knowledge and understanding by acting as a Girl Scout leader or work with the Y.W.C.A. Surely if I, and others like me but work at it, we can keep the goodwill going onward and outward and who knows, it may bring us the Peace, too!" (Lights candle.)

(Farmwife enters)

Farmwife: "How I have enjoyed these Christmas meetings of my Aid and the Farm Bureau! Everyone seems to be almost overflowing with friendship and love. I wish the whole year could be like this! As we sang the carols today I kept wondering how we farmwomen could help to spread goodwill and peace on earth. Then it came to me that we are doing this when we become good 4-H leaders, when we spend our Farm Bureau meetings studying international relations, when we listen to talks on other lands, when we send representative farm women overseas to bring back to us first hand information, when we make the United Nations flags for our community as a township project this winter. Yes, these are the ways we learn and practice 'goodwill toward men' and so we 'light' the community where we live and let the glow spread on to others far away with whom we would be friends." (Lights candle.)

(Narrator steps forward to pedestal and women join hands and move up to form a semi-circle just back of the candle wreath now aglow on the table.)

Narrator: "A living, glowing, Christmas wreath of love, understanding and love around the world! It begins with you wherever you are, with whatever you can find to work with, so long as you do it willingly and with love in your heart." (Prays) "Let us pray that this Christmas the Christ Child will find a welcome in every heart and so fill our thoughts with love and goodwill toward men that hatred and greed are blotted out, and peace and friendship prevail to all corners of the world. Help us we pray that we may, like the candles in our wreath, glow with love and understanding for all men everywhere until that glow shall reach the world around. Amen."



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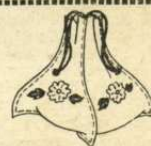
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