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Magazine

SHENANDOAH, IOWA

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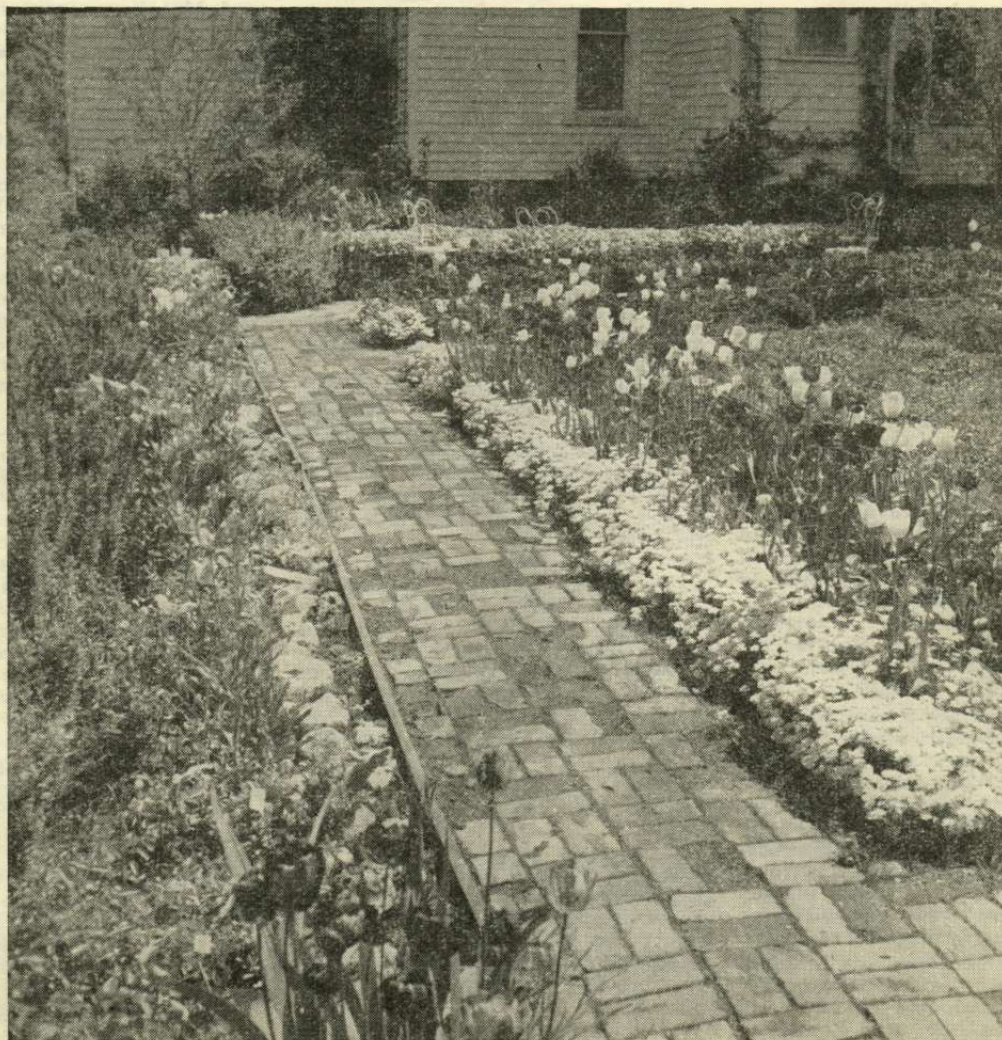


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LETTER FROM LEANNA

KITCHEN-KLATTER MAGAZINE

"More Than Just Paper And Ink"

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Dear Friends:

Home again! As we drown down over the last curving hill into town Mart and I both said that the very best part of our trips was the moment when we covered the last mile and Shenandoah appeared before us. I think that practically everyone has this feeling — traveling is pleasant, but home is wonderful!

Before this can slip my mind, I want to pass on information to all of you who have written to ask about the route that we take to Florida.

On our trip down this winter we found what must be about the shortest possible way to cover the ground. This took us from Shenandoah to Springfield, Mo.; from Springfield to Tupelo, Miss.; from Tupelo to Dothan, Ala.; and from Dothan to Maitland—a very short distance from Orlando and Winter Park in central Florida. The exact mileage reading on this is 1,457 from our own back door to the place where we stayed in Maitland. If you will add to this the distance you are from Shenandoah, then you can figure exactly how far you must drive.

It was a lovely cool, clear morning when we left Florida. Everyone predicted that we were leaving too early and would surely run into snow, but we were so impatient to get home that we decided to take the chance. I might add that only a short time after we left they had snow in northern Florida and across the Gulf — the heaviest snowfall in more than fifty years. We didn't see a flake of it!

We went directly from Maitland to St. Petersburg and then on to Newport Richey where we visited with cousins whom we used to see in Illinois many years ago. From there we went to Tallahassee, and I particularly enjoyed the beautiful flowers that were in full bloom along this route . . . fields of blue and yellow lupines, hillsides covered with daffodils, and quantities of hardy creeping red phlox.

The third night found us at Meridian, Alabama. From there we drove up through Mississippi to Vicksburg and across the river into Louisiana. We were particularly interested in Vicksburg and took time to drive through it carefully. Those of you who have seen our kodachromes with the Southern States included will remember that Russell and Lucile took a number of pictures at Vicksburg,

and I had always wanted to see those places in "real life", as the grandchildren say.

This entire area is filled with markers pertaining to Civil War battlefields, and since Mart has done so much reading on the Civil War period he only wished that we had much more time to spend in this section.

We passed acres and acres of land covered with cheesecloth where new tobacco plants were being raised, and we also noticed that the cotton fields were plowed and ready for spring planting. In this area too are many lumber mills and turpentine plants.

The fourth night found us in Little Rock, Ark., and on the following day we drove to Springfield, Mo. This drive was through the Ozarks, and we noticed that little new leaves were coming out on the trees and that every evidence of spring was at hand. We always stop at the Rock Village Motel in Springfield, and it was almost like getting home to unpack that close to Shenandoah.

We had a perfect day to make the final lap of our journey. It was bright and clear, and the only suggestion of winter was a small amount of snow by the roadsides in Missouri. We were home in Shenandoah around 3:00 o'clock, and found that our mileage on this route was 1,537.

Not many people are so fortunate as we were to come home from a long absence and find the house warm and welcoming with food in the refrigerator, a pot of tulips in bloom on the coffee table, and even the morning paper to pick up. Mae and Howard had lived here during our absence, you know, and they had everything done to welcome us home. Even Donna's parakeet began chirping away in the kitchen when he heard the front door open!

In no time at all the family had gathered to greet us. Naturally we saw the greatest change in Clark, for he was only a month old when we went away and is now a big, husky baby who laughs out loud and would certainly like to sit up. Emily seemed quite grown up to us — we could see that kindergarten has made a great change; and darling little Alison is every bit as sweet as her picture on the cover last month would indicate.

Juliana surprised us by being much taller, and she is considerably thinner than when we went away. Martin was struggling along without his front

teeth when we told him goodbye, but he now is happy to have his permanent teeth in. All in all, it seemed to us that the grandchildren had changed a great deal. Now when we get to see Kristin I'll feel that we've caught up again.

April 24th is to be a big day for the Driftmiers. At 2:30 on that afternoon we will be seated in the auditorium of the First Presbyterian Church in Anderson, Indiana for the wedding of Mary Beth Schneider, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Schneider, 3430 Maple Road, Edgewood (Anderson) to our youngest son, Donald. He is the youngest of our seven children, and the last to marry. With Donald in his own home we can relax in the knowledge that all of our children are happily established in their own homes.

Last December Mary Beth came out here to meet her future family, and she was so insistent that we all appear at her wedding that it almost looks as if this will come to pass! Abigail can't leave because of baby Clark, but Wayne is to be best man. Russell, Lucile and Juliana are definitely going, as are Dorothy and Kristin. Howard and Mae have every hope of being able to get away, and we know that Frederick will be there from Rhode Island. (We're very hopeful that Betty will be able to make the trip also.) Margery expects to go, and if Oliver's business permits him to be in that area, he will attend too. We told Mary Beth (who has only one sister) that she didn't know what it meant to move a big family across country!

I think that Donald's marriage brings me a sharper sense of Time than anything else could, for to so many, many of you he is still little Donnie Paul who sat on my lap almost thirty years ago when you and I first became friends. Where have all these years gone? It seems almost yesterday that he rode to the studio with me and crawled up in a chair beside me at the desk. He was a very good little boy, and the only thing he ever did to distract me was when he got older and realized that if he asked for a penny to buy candy, I'd never refuse him while I was broadcasting.

Mart and I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Schneider last year, so we won't greet strangers when we go to Anderson. In this issue you will see a picture of Mary Beth, and after the wedding there will be other pictures to share with you.

All of you who remember from years gone by the many references that my sister Helen Fischer made to her youngest daughter, Louise, will enjoy the letter from Louise in this issue. It's been almost a year now since Helen left us, and I'm still grateful for the beautiful letters you sent at that time. Fred is looking well, and we are glad to pick up our evenings together once again.

Next month I'll try to go back and pick up a few things about Florida that might interest you, but right now I'm still so happy to be home that I had to devote most of this letter to things right here. I know that you old family friends understand!

Sincerely always . . . Leanna

A CORNER OF YOUR OWN

By
Lucile

Through these winter months I've been interestd in the number of letters from people who ask me how to go about creating some privacy in their yards. It's a reflection of the rapidly changing conditions in which we live today.

There was a time when life moved at such a leisurely pace in our Mid-western towns and farms that no one felt a pressing urgency to have his own garden retreat. People wanted a big lawn where they could sit in full view of the few passers-by, and during the "chigger" season they sat on their front porches, still in full view.

You know and I know what happened to the front porch. You and I also know that it's possible to drive up and down the streets of every town on a summer day without once seeing a soul sitting on his front lawn. Our family life has moved to the rear of the house — you'll note that practically all of the new homes place the porch (if there is one) at the back. Most breezeways take advantage of the rear angles also.

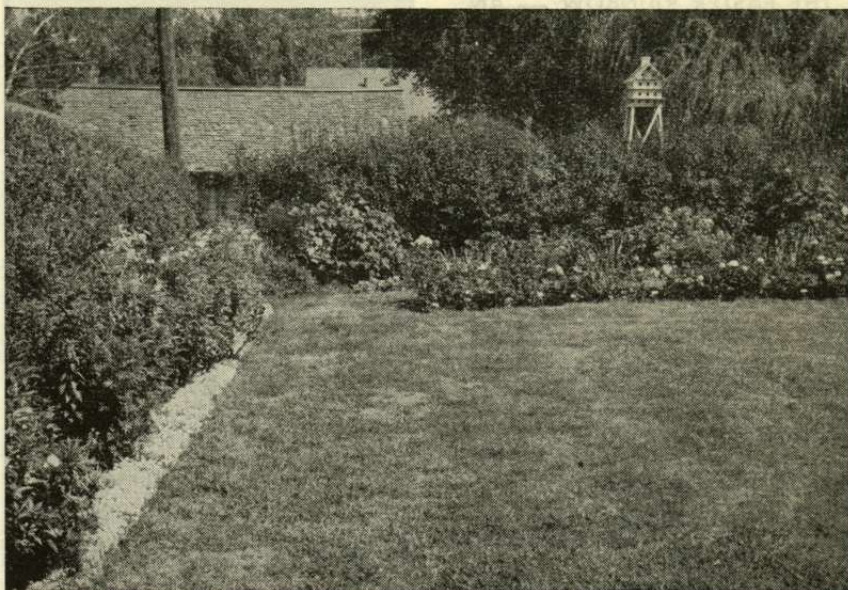
Along with these changes has come the determined wish to improve the back yard. I reflected the other day that in my childhood all back yards were sort of outdoor attics — they contained the conglomeration of things that no self-respecting home owner would think of having in his front yard. This makes sense. When tired people sat down to rest on their front porches they didn't want to look out over a jumble of things. In the same way we're sitting down to rest these days at the rear of our properties and we no longer want the "outdoor attic" to fret us.

As a matter of fact, we are only now beginning to utilize the possibilities of privacy and peace that other countries have utilized for hundreds of years. Home owners elsewhere have always taken for granted the fact that they'll do their living away from the eyes of the world. If you've ever spent any extended length of time in a city or town where nothing but walls are to be seen when you walk down the street, you know how "wide open" our towns look when you return.

Few people want a wall. Few people can afford it. And when it's all said and done, walls can't begin to compete with the beauty of living shrubs and hedges.

If you want a secluded area in your garden I would earnestly recommend that you start this spring by planting *Amur River North Privet*. It is wonderfully versatile. As you will note in the picture of Wayne's backyard that appears on this page, you can let it grow very high. It provides such a dense screen that the illusion of a wall is created.

If, on the other hand, you already have in large plantings such as *Honeysuckle* or *Mock Orange* of many years growth, you can use the *Privet* as a dense, low hedge to give maximum protection to flowers, as well as to create the boundaries of your own



This is the backyard of Wayne and Abigail's home at 207 University Avenue, and it shows you the type of screen that can be developed in only a few growing seasons. The large hedge at the left is *Amur River North Privet*. The tall shrubs at the rear close out the alley.

private retreat. Those of you who have seen our garden will recall that we use it to separate the terraced shelter from the large rose garden.

To produce this extremely tight, dense growth you must prune severely through the first year of the *Privet's* life. Once you have achieved this almost solid low growth you can let it reach any height that you wish. But since you can control its development by severe pruning, this makes it absolutely wonderful for boundary plantings. I'm thinking particularly of situations where dogs constitute such a never-ending problem that flower lovers give up their gardening efforts in disgust. No dog could get through the hedge that we've developed!

Shade trees are a necessity for these garden retreats. Your choice of a tree will depend upon the type of gardening that you have the time and the strength to do. If circumstances limit you to annuals during the summer months you can plant any kind of a tree. But if you want roses and fine perennials you're going to be compelled to look ahead and choose with care. Finely-cut foliage that will let the light sift through is what you need. We feel that the *Moraine Locust* is simply invaluable for this purpose. *Clump Birch* will never provide as much shade as the *Moraine Locust* but it is so beautifully graceful and lovely that it would be a joy to you for years to come.

If you have a well-established property with fenced boundaries at the rear, full grown trees, etc., your prime concern in creating one special area of privacy may be in flowering shrubs. We think that for this purpose you could do no better than to plant *Minnesota Snowflake* (a wonderful new *Mock Orange*) and *Altheas*.

Minnesota Snowflake is gorgeous beyond description in June, and the *Altheas* make a glorious display during August. If you've never seen these new Double varieties with their huge, tropical looking flowers in vivid colors,

you simply cannot imagine what a showing they make on blistering August days when other things give up.

Most of us have to take our plantings slow and easy. We may dream and dream and dream, but when it comes to sitting down and writing out a nursery order, reality must be faced. This is why I would urge all of you who are starting at the very beginning to develop a back yard retreat, to get your trees and hedges in this spring. They're not going to achieve their potential beauty and value in one growing season, and it's important to get started on the basic necessities.

(At this point a favorite phrase of Mother's flashes across my mind. "Girls, make the dress before you trim it.")

The same principle applies to your garden. Get the basic plantings in first and then you can begin to utilize your garden money on the other things that you dream about and want so badly. When the time comes that you can manage the other things, they will have the background that is all-important.

COVER PICTURE

A glorious splash of color
Burst into bloom last night
To beautify my garden—
Red, violet, gold and white.
This vivid spot of beauty
Out by the garden wall
Is my recompense for planting
Tulip bulbs last fall.

—Carrie Wiggins

All of us who planted tulip bulbs last fall will soon be echoing the above lines. And my! when I remember how our garden looked when Russell took this picture it makes me wish fervently that the black-and-white could be transformed into color.

Note what a wonderful edging *Candytuft* makes. It furnishes a dazzling background for the red and white tulips planted along there, and lasts for the entire duration of their bloom.

—Lucile

THE EASTER RAINBOW — AN EASTER DEVOTIONAL

By
Mabel Nair Brown

This devotional service is such that it may be adapted for any group to use during the Easter season. By the arrangement of the solos, poems and scriptures suggested, the service can be timed to fit in with the time allowed on your program. Following the service you will find suggestions for background, props and costumes that can be used to add to the impressiveness of this devotional, providing, of course, that your group can give the extra time and effort required.

Soft music: "The Old Rugged Cross" during reading of scripture, Matt. 28:1-10.

Leader (stands to one side of stage): "Once again we have heard the story of the glorious Resurrection, the first Easter. Yes, Easter means rebirth—a new beginning. Even the grass springs green again underfoot and the spring buds burst forth in gorgeous array, a part of the rebirth that is Easter.

"Yet how sad that so many seem never to see beyond the despair, the agony and the humiliation of the Crucifixion. For them, the cross becomes the reproachful symbol of shame and sadness.

"But God would not have it so. He would have us look beyond the darkness of that first Good Friday to the significance of the glorious Easter which followed. Then, the Easter Cross becomes the symbol of the Guiding Light, the spirit of Him who gave his life that we might have life everlasting. Then, the Easter Cross will each year shine forth from the dark clouds of discouragement, doubt, woe, despair, indifference, affliction and fear, as a symbol of THE EASTER RAINBOW. This is a rainbow of God's truths, and promises to help us bear the crosses of our daily life, spurring us to new resolutions, to reconsecration, to a spiritual rebirth—if we but see, and hear and BELIEVE".

Solo: "Open My Eyes That I May See"

Reader: "Let us open our eyes and our ears to the rainbow of God's promises. How many of us traveling life's road meet up with discouragement and are easily convinced that everything is wrong and that there is little we can do to make it right! We need to remember what the Good Book says about Faith".

(Enter Faith carrying a yellow flower). Soft music: "My Faith Looks Up To Thee". Reader: Hebrews 11:1-6 and Psalms 37:1-8.

"Somewhere along the journey of life we are bound to meet with despair. Then we must rely on HOPE". (Enter Hope carrying a pink flower to music of "Whispering Hope" played softly for both Hope and Courage). "For Hope brings to us comfort and release from worry." Reader: Psalms 46:1 and Psalms 9:9-10 and 1 Corinthians 10:13.

"Afflictions may befall any of us. Sometimes it would seem that surely we have more than our share, that our



Mary Beth Schneider, whom we will welcome into our family on April 24th. See mother's letter for details.

load is too heavy to bear. Then we must turn to Him who offers us COURAGE." (Courage enters carrying a dark rose flower). Reader: 11 Corinthians 1:3-7. "We need to remember that Jesus, too, walked the rough road of life. He knows what troubles we face."

Solo: "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked".

Reader: "Each day's living brings its doubts. Sometimes these doubts grow so big in our mind that their ugly shadow completely overshadows our better intentions, our friendships. They may even put their blight on those we love. Then it is time for us to remember that we must seek the TRUTH." (Truth enters carrying BIBLE in one hand and blue flowers in the other. Musical background, "My God And I" which may be sung as a solo following the reading of the scripture) Psalm 119:1-7.

"Oh, the sadness to know and see so many bowed down under the weight of woe, self-pity and sadness. They have failed to learn the need for having JOY." (Enter Joy with deep lilac or purple flower. Music softly, "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today".) "Joy must be in our daily life, the joy of loving, the joy of sharing, the joy of giving." Phillipians 4:4-10.

"Indifference is the cause of so many of the world's ills today. Is it because we have forgotten what the Bible says so often 'the greatest of these is—LOVE'?" (Enter Love with lavender flower. Music, "Love Divine All Love Excelling.")

Reader: John 13:34. We ponder this thought and we long to begin anew. There is a poem by Louisa Fletcher Tarkington called "The Land Of Beginning Again" which so aptly expresses this thought. will read it for us". (Music during poem, "Others", or any appropriate song.)

Reader: "Recent years, or the Atomic Age, has brought us a fuller understanding of, or, should I say acquaintanceship with fear. At times it would seem to unbalance the whole

universe. Again we see it creep in to upset the serenity of our home. But God would have us know PEACE." (Enter Peace carrying a white or a pale orchid flower. Music, "Wonderful Peace" or "It Is Well With My Soul".)

Reader: John 14:1, 26 and 27.

"There, we have God's Easter rainbow of promises. God sent forth Truth as a light to lead His followers onward and upward. If we believe, He gives us Courage, Love, Faith, Joy, Hope and Peace to carry us through whatever life may bring to us—yes, if we believe! Let us look behind the clouds to see the rainbow this Easter. (During this last speech by reader, the pianist softly plays. "In The Cross Of Christ I Glory" and as reader finishes she leads audience in singing the hymn.)

BENEDICTION: "Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and Peace shall be with you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen." (11 Cor. 13:11, 14.)

Suggestions for presentation of devotional: High in center back hang a large cross. If possible, let it be illuminated as audience begins to sing "In The Cross Of Christ". If this is not possible, place cross on high table and light candles on either side of it at the proper moment.

For a very impressive (almost pageant-like) service, let each one of the rainbow group wear the designated color in a flowing gown of dyed cheesecloth with head scarf to match. Then above the entrance door on stage, fasten graduated lengths of crepe paper in the seven colors. Each person would hold to other end of her streamer color and keep it taut as she stepped in line on stage. At end all streamers would form rainbow!

THE LENTEN SEASON

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of Eternity
Interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness
Till all our strivings cease:
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the hearts of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind
and fire,
O still, small voice of calm,
—John Greenleaf Whittier

MOVING DAY AT THE MANSE!

Dear Friends:

Some of you who have had the experience will know exactly how Betty and I felt when we awoke this morning to the sound of a driving rain—our moving day! Wouldn't you know it? All week we had had the most beautiful spring weather, and then on the day we had to move to our new home it simply poured.

At the crack of dawn I left the house to drive up to the new parsonage and park the car right in front of our entrance. You see, we are only two blocks from a large United States Rubber factory and many of the employees park their cars in front of our new house. I had to ask them to park elsewhere today so that the moving vans would have a place to unload. Well, I sat there in the rain listening to the car radio until nearly eight o'clock, at which time the highway department put up two large "No Parking" signs to help me out. The rain stopped and the sun came out just at noon, and from then until six-thirty this evening a large crew of men and two huge moving vans literally picked us up and set us down in our new home.

As I sit here in the library writing to you tonight, it just doesn't seem possible that we are actually moved. For three years we have been hoping and praying that our church would have an opportunity to buy this beautiful home with its lovely lawn and gardens, and now it is a reality. It is the first time in many years that the church has had a parsonage in the vicinity of the church, and all of us are grateful. Even though this is our moving day and Betty has been up since dawn, tonight she is across the street attending choir rehearsal, and from there she will go next door to our parish house to attend a meeting of her missionary society. Until today, she would have had to come some distance to attend these church functions.

Last Sunday I invited all of the congregation to go through the new parsonage right after the church service. Not all of them did, but more than 150 persons saw all ten rooms and three bathrooms. Since most of them had never been inside the house, Betty and I held our breath until we found out what they thought of our choice of wallpaper and paint. They were delighted! How good it made us feel to hear them "oh" and "ah" at the beauty of it. The decorators had cleared out of the house just twenty-four hours before we let the congregation go through it, and so you can be sure that Betty and I, with two good friends, worked awfully hard to have it clean for the inspection.

During the inspection, the children were in their glory. Little David was easily lost in the multitude, but when I started to look for him I was told that he was taking people on personally conducted tours of his part of the house. You see, he has one wing all to himself—a large hall, a bathroom, and his bedroom. His bedroom is done in blue and burgundy with a deep-sea fishing scene wallpaper. It is just the thing for a lively boy whose grand-



Mother and Dad soak up the Florida sun. This was snapped by Mrs. Stangler, the congenial and thoughtful owner of El Rancho Motel in Maitland.

father is one of the world's most famous sport fishermen. David's grandfather Crandall will love that wallpaper, but he won't have an opportunity to see it until he returns from a fishing trip around the world. (Betty's father and mother are doing some research on fishing in all parts of the world.)

Two months ago Betty gave you a complete description of our new home, but there was one thing she couldn't tell you then simply because she didn't know about it. In her letter she told you that the kitchen had a fireplace. We knew that in the kitchen there was a fireplace which had been boarded up behind a false wall many years ago, but what we didn't know was that in the fireplace there is the cutest little cookstove imaginable. The stove was put into the kitchen just before the Civil War, and yet all we had to do to it was to clean it. It is only two feet high and four feet wide, and is the most charming little stove I have ever seen. Of course we shall use an electric stove, but we shall keep the cookstove for decorative purposes. Counting the fireplace-cookstove combination in the kitchen, this house has six fireplaces. We shall actually use only two of them.

There was one other item in the house that Betty did not mention in her December letter, and that is our elevator. Yes, we have a four passenger Otis elevator that runs from the library on the first floor to Mary Leanna's room on the second floor. It is a very safe one with electric door locks so that one could not possibly get hurt on it. We don't intend to use it except when it is absolutely necessary and, as a matter of fact, although they have been in this house many times during the redecoration process, our children do not know, as of this moment, that there is an elevator here. No doubt they will learn of it before long, and then I shall have to give them a ride.

Last night the women in our church gave their annual turkey supper. We sold two hundred tickets at \$2.00 a ticket (our dining room only seats

200), and I rather think that they will make a profit of at least \$200.00. We never have any difficulty selling tickets for our turkey suppers even though we do charge a higher price than most other churches. Of course Betty had a big part in the preparation of the supper and then again in its serving. Yesterday she worked in the church kitchen from ten in the morning until ten at night—and all of that the day before moving. Yes, even I had a part in the supper; I was the head usher.

Just after writing the above paragraph and before writing this one, I drove down to the old parsonage to make certain that everything was all right—doors locked, furnace running, lights out, etc. I rather dreaded going into it for there has always been something sad to me about an empty house, but actually, I enjoyed my visit tonight. It was empty all right, but there was nothing sad about it.

All I could think of as I checked each room was how much joy and happiness had been ours while living there. That was where we were living when David was born. There we had entertained my parents and Betty's parents and a host of friends. Four of the most wonderful Christmases we have ever known were celebrated in that old house. It was a friendly house tonight, and as I walked up the stairs it seemed to me that the walls were actually smiling at me. When I stepped into the children's rooms, I thought of the countless numbers of prayers I had said there at their bedsides.

Tonight when Mary Leanna went to bed she asked me to come up to her room so that she could show me "the most wonderful sight." I was a bit slow in going and so she called to me again: "Daddy, come up here. Never in your life have you seen a more wonderful sight than what I have to show you!"

Well, I went up, and what do you suppose that wonderful sight was? It was the sight of the enormous stained glass window in the chapel of our church all lighted up. She could see it from her bed, and really, it was beautiful. Of course, our church is to us the most precious thing in the world, and I can't think of anything I would rather have my child see from her bedroom than a church window. I told Betty this afternoon that living right across the street from the church actually made me feel more devoted to it than ever before, and I have always been devoted.

When the previous owners of this house sold it to our church, they removed all of its contents from the attic to the cellar, but there were two things left in the attic. The one is a hand-operated vacuum cleaner. Have you ever seen one? I never had until I saw this rare machine. Of course, the person holding the cleaning hose could not operate the machine at the same time, and so it meant that two persons had to run the cleaner—the one to pump it, and the other to clean with it. Yesterday I was showing it to a vacuum cleaner salesman, and he was really surprised at how much suction it has even today.

(Continued on Page 12)

SAIL AWAY TO BABY LAND

By Mildred Cathcart

This Pink and Blue shower will be a little different and may be planned around the theme "Sailing to Babyland."

Make your invitations in the shape of a little boat with three cornered sails to which you attach a tiny gold safety pin. The bottom of the boat may carry this message:

"Sail away to Baby land

On the ship of pink and blue,
Mary Jones will be the skipper
And we shall be the crew."

GAMES

When each guest arrives give her a piece of ribbon—either pink or blue. These are their SAFETY BELTS. At a given signal the players are to search for small safety pins that you have hidden in advance. Each pin is to be fastened to the "safety belt," and counts one point unless you have special gold ones; these will count five. These new safety type ones with the colored plastic guards may count ten points. After the winner is found, give the pins to the honored guest.

WHO'S THE CREW?

On this special ship to Babyland the crew must have rhyming names such as Gary and Mary, Kim and Tim, Lee and Dee. See who can write the longest list in a designated time.

THE TREASURE CHEST

This treasure chest holds twenty-five articles that "The Captain" will find necessary. The guests may *feel* but not *see* the contents of the treasure chest (a paper sack). Include such items as a bottle, safety pin, small can of talcum, comb, brush, Q-tips, can of milk and so on. Each player may hold the chest only a certain length of time, and then he makes a list of what he thinks the sack contains. The one with the most accurate list is winner.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

Place a baby bottle on the floor, give each contestant five safety pins and from a given position see who can drop the most pins into the bottle.

FINDING THE CAPTAIN

From magazines or calendars find colored pictures of babies or small children. Mount these on heavy paper and cut into equal numbered jig saw puzzles. See who can assemble the picture first.

BLOW THE MAN DOWN

Give each player a balloon. At a given signal each player is to blow up the balloon, sit on it, and burst it. One balloon will contain a tiny piece of pink or blue paper designating that person as the winner. Another balloon will contain a similar slip telling the winner where to look for his hidden prize.

THE SHIP'S LOG

Each player may have her choice of a piece of blue or pink paper—or both, if she predicts twins! On these sheets you will have written the necessary data for a new arrival such as time, date, so on. After each person fills in the information and signs his name the slips are given to the mother-to-be with the instructions that she must notify you if any are correct in

order that you may award a prize to the seer.

REFRESHMENTS

You will find it easy to carry out your color scheme of pink and blue but you can carry out the "Sail to Babyland" theme, too. Fashion a ship centerpiece from a low cardboard box and use a triangular diaper sail. Besides being artistic this ship may contain some of the gifts for the guest.

For place cards, nut cups, and favors, try one of these ideas. Tiny pink or blue nut cups may form the bottom of the ship. Attach a white paper sail, and write the guest's name on the sail. This will double as a place card. Or make a stick candy boat, tie the white sail to the candy boat with pink or blue ribbon. This, too, may serve for a place card.

You may plan secretly with your guests and give them such prizes as baby cream, powder, wash clothes, etc. Then when you are ready to serve, your guests will lay their prizes in the boat in the center of the table and this will be given to the honored guest.

Before the guests depart ask them to join in and sing "Sweet and Low" or "Baby's Boat."

HOW TO PRESENT A WORTH-WHILE LESSON

By Myrtle E. Fellner

Perhaps you are dreading the very sight of the words which you know are in your club or church aid notebooks this month. "Lesson Leader: You." Most of us honestly enjoy a study club, as long as someone else is presenting the lesson. When our turn comes, we wonder why we ever thought that this was a good idea!

On the other hand, the leader who knows her material and is confident that she can present it well is likely to enjoy her own lesson as much as anyone else. You can be in the latter category with a little effort and not a great deal of time. Here are the steps to take in preparing your lesson.

1. Read the entire material without interruption. This is to give you the whole picture, the complete idea which you are to present. Estimated time: Ten minutes.

2. Re-read the material, taking notes or underlining the *main thought* of each portion. Estimated time: Ten minutes.

3. These "main thoughts" are now the nucleus around which you will work. List and number these thoughts on a large sheet of manilla or white wrapping paper. Print with black crayon so it can be easily read and followed. This is your guide during the talk. Following it with you will make your listeners feel like participants. Writing them down will make you more confident of your facts, too. Estimated time: Fifteen minutes.

4. In presenting these points, plan to illustrate one or two of them with a story or anecdote. For instance, your mission lesson might read like this: "Palmore Institute has been instrumental in training many Mexican Indians in church work. These Mexicans then return to work among their own people." You decide immediately

that this must be a very important part of the work at Palmore. But will your listeners remember it? Of course they will, if you tell them the actual story of one such Mexican missionary. A letter to the Institute will probably result in a prompt and inspiring answer. Incorporate this letter or a resume of its contents in your talk. Now your point is effectively illustrated. It's interesting, too. Estimated time: Ten minutes.

5. Visual aids can be as effective with adults as with children. If you have the equipment and can find movie slides to illustrate one of your points, that is excellent. The old-fashioned poster is probably more practical, however. At a recent homemaker's meeting, our leader was speaking on the subject, "Modern Laundry Methods." She used a long divided poster. On the left she showed "Wash Day, 1853;" on the right, "Wash Day, 1953." The tremendous differences between soaps, equipment, etc., were all too plain to be seen!

Another idea of interest might have been employed here. Why not a poster showing "The Evolution of the Washing Machine?" There is quite a contrast between the automatic washer of today and the hand-pushed dasher apparatus that Grandma toiled over! Estimated time in poster making: Thirty minutes.

6. Again re-read all your material, so that you can make any explanatory remarks or skillfully lead any discussion necessary to a full understanding of each point. By now you are saturated with the subject. Estimated time: Ten minutes.

7. It's time to decide how to begin, how to finish. Frankly, many of us are tired of the speaker who invariably begins, "Well, Madam President, this reminds me of a little story . . ."

A clever young woman was to speak about a geographically remote and isolated spot. She simply printed on a piece of paper, "Where is Tangent Point?" This paper hung before the group throughout the luncheon and business meeting. It became a conversation piece as we racked our brains to remember.

When lesson time arrived, this young woman displayed a large map of Alaska, pointed to Tangent Point and smiled, "Here it is!" It was an unusual and straight forward beginning. We were intrigued before she ever uttered a word.

Similarly, a weak "Well, I guess that's all I have," can ruin a fine lesson. Make your concluding remarks, answer any questions, thank your audience for its attention, smile and sit. That's all. Estimated time in preparation: Five minutes.

In little over an hour and a half, you have prepared a lesson which you can be proud to present. Better still, your club can be proud of you.

The words that we scatter from day unto day

Will take root in life's sod forever to stay,

Then let us choose well the seeds that we sow,

For whatever we've planted the harvest will show.

LOUISE FISCHER ALEXANDER WRITES FROM CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

Dear Aunt Leanna:

When Aunt Sue was visiting me we wished again and again that you were in California with us this winter instead of in Florida. Our winter here has been exceptionally pleasant, and I certainly wish there were some way of knowing these things in advance.

Aunt Sue spent a week with me, and she is so much improved in health that she was able to enjoy seeing the ceramic work at the colleges, and we also attended a demonstration given by a very famous ceramist from Montana. Aunt Sue knew of his work and it was an experience she really enjoyed. Very few of our relatives have had a chance to visit us since we've been in our new house, and so I took genuine pleasure in being able to entertain her.

Since we were living in makeshift quarters the last time you were here, I'm sure you would be amazed at the change! When I think back to the six years we spent in that tiny one-bedroom house with a sleeping porch for each child and no heat except the fireplace, I have to pinch myself to be sure I'm not just dreaming. How glad I am that we were able to get our dream home while the children are young enough to enjoy it with us. So many times people must wait until the children are all gone, and then so much of the pleasure is lost.

We started planning our house so long ago that even I began to doubt if it would ever be a reality. It seemed as if every calamity in the world fell on us. There was simply an avalanche of illness, operations and financial reverses. I remember that the last time you were here we had completed the concrete slab floor and Roger had put in all the sub-plumbing and the heating ducts. (I can still see the skeptical look in Uncle Mart's eyes as he viewed that spread out and odd-shaped block—it looked just like the ruins of Kubla Khan!)

After that slab just sat there for two years with weeds grown up around it, I'm sure the whole town regarded it as "Alexanders' Folly". Now that it is completed and we even have a swimming pool and it is *all ours*, we feel quite pleased with ourselves.

It is marvellous to live in a house that was planned for our family alone. You know our architect is very modern. He studied with Frank Lloyd Wright, and besides being artistic he believes that the way a family lives is the most important thing in planning a house. As he says, you must know where a man throws his socks at night! So we made a list of things the house must have to suit just us.

Fortunately we agreed that this would be our permanent home so we didn't at any time let it enter our heads to worry about what might suit a possible future owner. This attitude makes a big difference, and yet I don't honestly think it makes a house less salable—just might take a little more time to find the right person.

I don't know if I've ever told you any of these suggestions we made, but



Emily loves her charming wooden plate that was painted by her Aunt Margery.

since I know you'll enjoy seeing how close we came to getting everything when you finally do come to see me, I'll tell you a few of them.

1. Complete privacy from the street and neighbors.

2. All rooms opening wide to the view of the mountains.

3. Floors as easy to take care of as possible (my lovely light tan tile which is exactly the color of *dust*.)

4. The kind of a floor plan that defies you to step in the front door and know where each room is, plus lots of odd nooks and crannies to give it the feeling of romance and adventure we associate with quaint old houses. (It is because of this request that we have no square rooms in our house. It is a positive delight to me always.)

Oh, there were lots more but we haven't regretted a one of them and I believe they were all incorporated in the final plan.

Of course this lovely new house was made possible by Roger finally getting into the line of work which seems to be just right for him. He finds it very exciting to be selling big things such as his machine tools. Of course there are good weeks and bad weeks because when you sell big things it sometimes takes months for a sale to develop.

I would have said at one time that it would be the easiest thing in the world to take an increased income in stride, but I've found that when you've pinched for so long it's very hard to cut loose! Aunt Sue got real provoked with me that I hadn't gotten a decent spring coat. And although our meat budget provides for good cuts, I find myself clinging to the old thrifty stews. It's hard to plan a gay vacation too.

Imagine the rationalizing I had to do to consent to a swimming pool. Even though they have become extremely commonplace out here I had to do a lot of tormented thinking before I could bring myself to the point of saying "yes".

But I'm truly glad that we went ahead with it for it's something we can share and enjoy with so many friends. Claremont is really desert climate and in the summer we are just in and out all the time. My floors are ideal for it and we don't have a piece of furniture (aside from the beds) that can't be sat on in a wet bathing suit. In fact, with all that water and a good mop, my floors are cleaner in summer than in winter.

I realize that this must sound awfully crazy to you, but our house is built for outdoor living, and people who have swimming pools just get so they live differently from other people. Informal is the word, I guess.

I was amused when Dad visited us last summer. I'm sure he at first thought that our swimming pool was the wildest extravagance he had ever seen, but by the time he left he was completely in favor of it. You'll be interested to know that there is actually a sub-division near us which has houses all under ten thousand dollars and each comes equipped with a small pool. People from the East are interested in the fact that here in California with our filtered pools the water is left in all winter long. You never refill them or empty them for cleaning because the water is constantly filtered by an electric device.

Jeanne and Carter are such a satisfaction to us. While I was ill for that real long spell they just learned to take over most anything. They seem so sensible as well as independent. I think sometimes we mothers get an inflated idea of our importance. I certainly wouldn't want anyone to have an illness like mine, but it wouldn't do any child harm to have his doting mother out of the way for a spell!

Jeanne makes me think of you in that she can't sit down without something in her hands to work on. The other night she knitted a pair of mittens while watching television. Certainly she is different than I was at fifteen. She makes many of her own clothes, and now she is working as a substitute at our city library; and of course she does lots of baby sitting.

Carter is so outgoing that he has oodles of friends. He's a typical eleven-year old—a real Tom Sawyer, Dad says.

Now that my children are fifteen and eleven I feel free to do some of the things that were not possible when they were small. I really poured a great deal of effort into my job as Area Chairman for Red Cross funds, and my duties as president of the Claremont Woman's Club keep me jumping to sandwich in all of the committee meetings and responsibilities along with my home. But I'm enjoying it, and know that my family likes to have me interested in these community projects.

I hope you'll get to California next year. It's great here and I wouldn't live anyplace else, but as Jean Field Johnson says, we miss all the family doings. It is so comforting to know that Dad is near you all. I wish he'd quit worrying about whether his pipes will freeze and come on out and be with me!

Lovingly, Louise

"Recipes Tested in the Kitchen - Klatter Kitchen"

By

LEANNA, LUCILE, and MARGERY

RHUBARB OATMEAL CRUMBLE

- 3 cups diced rhubarb
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 Tbls. butter or margarine

Arrange rhubarb in a shallow, greased baking dish. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Dot with butter and add water. Spread the following topping evenly over rhubarb and bake. Serve warm with top milk.

Topping

- 2/3 cup sifted flour
- 2/3 cup oatmeal
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. soda
- 1/4 cup melted shortening

Sift flour, salt and soda together. Mix oatmeal and sugar with flour mixture. Blend shortening into dry ingredients until crumbly. Bake 40 minutes in 350 degree oven.

VARIATIONS FOR CAKE MIXES

Banana Cake

- 1 Box White Cake Mix
- 1 cup water
- 1 1/2 cups mashed banana or, when you must add eggs
- 1 Box White Cake Mix
- 1/2 cup liquid
- 1 cup mashed banana
- Eggs

Texas Pecan Cake

- 1 Box White Cake Mix
- 3 Tbls. burnt sugar
- 1 cup pecan meats
- 1 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter maple flavoring

Cherry-Nut Cake

- 1 Box White Cake Mix
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1/2 cup chopped maraschino cherries
- 1/2 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter almond flavoring

CHURCH HAM LOAF

- 3 1/2 lbs. ground veal or beef
- 3/4 lb. ground smoked ham
- 2 tsp. salt
- 6 Tbls. catsup
- 6 Tbls. horseradish
- 1 1/2 cups cracker crumbs
- 3 well-beaten eggs
- 1 1/2 cups rich milk
- 1 cup mushrooms

Place a few strips of bacon in the baking dish. Form the loaf on top of them. Place 2 strips of bacon over the top. Bake this loaf for 3 hours in a 350 degree oven, covered. Will serve 15 and can easily be doubled or tripled (if you have an enormous roaster) for a large crowd. Slices perfectly.

COUNTRY STYLE LIVER

- 6 slices bacon
- 2 Tbls. flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 Tbls. grated onion
- 2 cups milk
- 1 lb. sliced liver
- 1/4 cup buttered bread crumbs
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

Cut bacon in squares, fry in heavy skillet until crisp. Remove bacon; add flour, salt and pepper, stirring until smooth. Gradually add milk and cook until thick and smooth. Roll liver slices in flour and brown in bacon fat. Alternate layers of liver slices, bacon, onion and gravy in a greased casserole. Top with buttered crumbs and bake 45 minutes in a 350 degree oven. This is a favorite with a family who were neighbors of ours in Essex.—Margery.

MY FAVORITE BREAKFAST CAKE

- 4 Tbls. shortening
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbls. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Melt shortening, cool slightly and then mix with egg and milk. Sift dry ingredients together (aside from last 2 items) and then add to the first mixture, stirring only enough to get out the lumps. Pour batter into an 8" square pan, well greased. Combine sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle over top. Bake about 15 minutes at 375 degrees. A very, very light and tender breakfast cake.

—Lucile

OLD-FASHIONED RICE PUDDING

- 1/3 cup uncooked rice, washed
- 3 cups milk
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 tsp. salt
- Nutmeg
- 2/3 cup raisins

Combine rice, milk, sugar and salt in a greased shallow baking dish. Sprinkle with nutmeg. Bake, uncovered, in a slow oven, 300 degrees, for 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Stir occasionally during first hour of baking. Add raisins and finish baking, stirring in brown crust as it forms on top. Serves 4 generously.

ENGLISH TOFFEE DESSERT

- 2 cups powdered sugar
 - 1 rounded Tbls. cocoa
 - Add: 1/2 cup soft butter
 - 2 well beaten yolks
 - 1/2 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla flavoring
 - Add: 1/2 cup chopped nuts
 - 2 stiffly beaten egg whites
- Line dish with waxed paper. Sprinkle 1/2 box crushed vanilla wafers in dish. Add filling and then more crumbs on top. Serve with whipped cream.



Remember our wonderful salad recipe that we call Elaine's Molded Salad? (It's our one great favorite in the vegetable salad department.) Well, there actually is an Elaine! And here she is, Elaine Powell. We've enjoyed a great deal of her fine cooking through the years; she prepares wonderful meals for her busy doctor husband and three children.

MY WHITE BREAD RECIPE

- 2 1/4 cups lukewarm liquid (see below)

- 3 Tbls. sugar
- 1 Tbls. salt
- 2 cakes compressed yeast
- 2 Tbls. soft shortening
- 7 to 7 1/4 cups sifted flour

(Milk, water or potato water can be used. Be sure to scald raw milk first and cool to lukewarm.)

(If you prefer dry yeast, soak 2 pkg. in 1/2 cup lukewarm water for 5 minutes without stirring. Then stir thoroughly before adding.)

Mix together the liquid, sugar, and salt. Add the yeast and stir until thoroughly mixed. Then add shortening, and lastly mix in the flour. Use a spoon to start with and then use your hands. When the dough begins to leave the sides of the bowl, turn it out onto a lightly floured surface and knead thoroughly until it is smooth and elastic. (Only experience gives you this "feeling!")

Now place in a greased bowl, cover with damp cloth and let rise in a warm, draft-free spot until double. This will take from 1 1/2 to 2 hours. At this point turn it out on to floured board or pastry cloth and knead for a few minutes. Then divide into two portions, shape into loaves and place in two well-greased bread pans. Cover and let rise until dough is light and fills the pans with a nicely rounded top. Place pans in a 425 degree oven and bake until brown, probably around 25 to 30 minutes.

To test: tap loaf and tip gently out of pan, tap bottom. It should sound hollow. If not, bake a few minutes more.

Remove bread from pans at once—otherwise loaves will "sweat" and get soggy. I always cover top with butter.—Lucile.

AN EASTER EGG CART

Youngsters will much enjoy making a pretty cart that can be used for favors or place cards on Easter Sunday.

Use one-half of an egg shell for each cart; tint in various colors and decorate with Easter egg designs. Glue a life-saver mint on each side for wheels. Tiny candy bunnies or chicks can be hitched to the cart with bright colored baby ribbon reins.

If you can make these about two weeks before Easter, fill the cart with sand and dirt and plant any seed that grows quickly such as grass, lettuce, wheat, etc. A few tiny flowers can be added for a gay touch.

These carts can also serve as place cards if you will write the person's name on with the wax pencil that comes in dye sets.

AN EASTER EGG TREE

An Easter Egg Tree is fun to make and is a very pretty centerpiece for your dinner table on Easter Sunday.

Select a nicely shaped small limb that has many tiny branches and spray it with gold, silver, or aluminum; or paint it with black or green enamel. The gold tree makes a fairy-like arrangement while the shiny black branches looks more modernistic and show off the bright colored eggs to good advantage. Set your branch in a jar or bowl filled with sand or small rocks. It must be anchored securely.

Several weeks before Easter break all the eggs carefully so you can decorate the dry egg shells. Color these shells many bright colors, add Easter egg transfers or decorate them any way you choose.

Put bright colored string through tiny needle holes in the top of each egg and tie it to your branch. Color a blue bird on heavy cardboard and perch him in the tip top of your tree.

—Mildred Cathcart

EASTER EGG DESSERT

We have an Easter dessert at our house that has become one of our cherished family traditions. The children always greet it with cries of joy for our gelatine Easter egg dessert serves a two-fold purpose: it makes a most colorful and decorative center piece, and it is delicious to eat.

Perhaps other families would enjoy this dessert too, so here's the way to make it. First, for several days before Easter save your egg shells. They must be practically whole as they are to be your gelatine molds. (I break as small a piece of the shell off one end of the egg as I can, and still manage to get the egg out. For this reason it is best to use eggs that you plan to scramble or use in pancakes or custards.)

You can save the shells in the refrigerator. Then when you prepare the jello, place the empty egg shells upright in the sections of used egg cartons. I like to make several colors of jello. Pour the hot gelatine carefully from a pitcher into the egg shell moulds.

Easter Day when you are ready to

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make your center piece dessert, call on the children for help. They can "peel" the Easter eggs for you and will love doing it. We always arrange ours in a low, wide spreading bowl. Around the bowl the children place green artificial grass. Then for the final authentic touch the children place a chocolate bunny beside the nest.

With the gelatine eggs we serve a fruit plate and a bowl of whipped cream. The first plate can be as elaborate or as simple as you wish. Orange sections, banana quarters and pineapple rings with strawberries from our freezer are our usual choice. Then a dab of whipped cream on the gelatine egg and you have a most delicious dessert.

We like to do things together at our house and this is a dessert centerpiece that we can all have a hand in making. Maybe that's why it always looks and tastes so good to us when we enjoy our Easter family dinner! Try it sometime at your house.

—Marion Ullmark

CREAM OF CORN SOUP

- 1 No. 2 can of corn
- 1 quart of rich milk
- 1 slice of onion
- 2 Tbls. butter
- 2 Tbls. flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- Dash of pepper

Cook the corn with the milk and the slice of onion. Put the corn through a strainer, forcing as much of it through as possible. Melt the butter, add the flour, and when smooth stir in the hot mixture of milk and corn puree. Season, cook together slowly for a few minutes. Serve hot and for an extra attraction, add a spoonful of whipped cream to the top of each serving.

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CHILLED BAKED CUSTARD

(The friend in Hiawatha, Kansas who sent this recipe said: "It is simply elegant! I got the recipe in Baltimore—people there much preferred it to ice cream. Angel food makers should note that it calls for 8 egg yolks".)

- 8 egg yolks
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla flavoring
- 1/4 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter almond flavoring
- 3 cups milk
- 1/2 cup cream (do not omit)

Beat egg yolks; add sugar and the other ingredients aside from milk and cream. Now scald milk, add cream and add to egg mixture. Pour in buttered baking dish and cook in a pan of hot water for 50 minutes in a 325 oven. Chill.

DIFFERENT CHOCOLATE COOKIES

Beat 3 egg whites stiff but not dry. Fold in 1 cup powdered sugar, a little at a time. Fold in 1/2 cup salted crackers or graham crackers, crushed. Add 1/2 cup cut pecans, 1 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla and 6 ounces melted semi-sweet chocolate chips, cooled slightly. Drop by teaspoon on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 325 degrees for 12 minutes. Cool and remove.

LETTER FROM LUCILE

Dear Friends:

Can you smell my blueberry pie? And my fresh bread—two loaves of it? Of course not, for that's what we call a rhetorical question, but when the house smells so good it's easy to think that some of those tempting odors are powerful enough to penetrate paper itself.

I made that blueberry pie today because I felt guilty! My family never goes hungry, you understand, and we always sit down to three meals a day, but I will confess that when I'm exceptionally busy at this desk we skitter by on canned fruit or commercial products for dessert. There's nothing wrong with canned fruit or the commercial products, goodness knows, but any family is going to wince if it encounters them too many meals in a row. Hence the blueberry pie.

As a matter of fact, pie of some kind was inevitable because I've spent many hours at this desk compiling a new pie book to go to those of you who use our flavorings. Under these circumstances it would have been a little peculiar had I headed for the kitchen to make cookies or a cake!

And speaking of cake reminds me of something funny a friend told me the other day. During the war years she lived in Cleveland and worked in an art gallery, and it came as quite a shock to her when members of the staff said that when they got home that night they were going to BUILD a cake. They never said "make" a cake—it was always "build" a cake. And they thought it sounded equally funny to talk about "making" a cake.

This reminds me, in turn, that Russell and I once had an artist friend who was born and reared in Italy. He had mastered the English language beautifully and spoke with only the slightest trace of an accent. One day when we were commenting about this he said:

"You know, when I first came to New York and began to learn your language I was terribly baffled by one thing. I heard people say "anybody, everybody, somebody, nobody" and I couldn't figure out why everyone laughed when I said whobody."

"Whobody" is now one of our favorite words! It sounds so funny, even though the reasoning behind it makes sense.

Our upstairs is coming along at a slow and steady pace. Juliana's room will probably be completed by the time you read this, and when I realize how little actual carpentry experience Russell has had, I marvel at what he has accomplished.

This room is much smaller than ours, but every inch has been planned so carefully that it will serve her present needs and future needs beautifully. One big space saver we utilized was sliding doors, both for the closet and for the entrance to the room. These are installed on tracks with nylon runners and you just wouldn't believe how smoothly and silently they operate. (The same type of doors will be utilized in our room, needless to say.)

But although Juliana's room is



Juliana and Kristin spend hours pouring over the wonderful LITTLE HOUSE books that are stacked up in front of them in this picture.

smaller than ours, it has one great advantage about which I am frankly envious. Her big south window looks down over the garden and all of the design and pattern is so clearly evidenced when viewed from that height. Since she has been a small child she has greeted the morning from that window, and many a moonlight night I have gone upstairs to find her lost in thought in front of that window. She needs it more than we do for the growing mind is the impressionable mind, but how I wish our own window looked out on something other than Clarinda Avenue!

One day last month I was fortunate enough to get a copy of "Cross Creek" by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. If you like to read, and if you have not yet read "Cross Creek", do make an effort to get it. I don't believe that any American writer has ever written about a certain section of our country more successfully than Mrs. Rawlings has written about her much-loved section of Florida. It's a book filled with real understanding, wonderful writing and, the rarest thing in the world, a delightful sense of humor.

It seemed to me that American literature had suffered a genuine loss when Mrs. Rawlings passed away only two or three months ago at what seems a comparatively youthful age—I believe that she was only in her early fifties. She had great talent (as witness "The Yearling", "South Moon Under", etc.) and a lack of affectation that one doesn't often encounter in this world. I treasure my copy of her wonderful cook book titled "Cross Creek Cookery", and although I never met her, I really feel as if I had had the privilege of knowing her. And I also feel that this small, belated tribute is long overdue.

Speaking of writers brings to mind the fact that Juliana has one great goal: she longs to meet Laura Ingalls Wilder, the author of the beloved "Little House" books. I have explained to her that Mrs. Wilder is now a wo-

man in her eighties and that it would be an imposition to take her time and strength by a visit from utter strangers, but nevertheless Juliana is still hopeful that someday we can get to southern Missouri where Mrs. Wilder lives on the farm that she and her husband built up together. Mr. Wilder passed away several years ago, but Mrs. Wilder still lives there. (I wouldn't know these facts if you good friends hadn't sent me clippings.)

My thoughts have been so occupied with all the remodeling that's been going on around here that I've just plain neglected to mention something that I'm sure will be of interest to many of you.

Until we visited the magnificent Art Center in Des Moines last November we didn't know that they have many paintings for rent, as well as for sale. I thought instantly how much this would mean to teachers and to 4-H club leaders. It seems that they charge only \$1.00 per month for work that is priced at \$100 or less, and \$2.00 per month for work above \$100. Things may be kept out on rental for a maximum of three months. Just think what an opportunity this would give people to become acquainted with the work of Iowa artists—and we have many fine ones in our state. You can get full information on this by writing to Mrs. Edith Stanton, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Ia.

I am writing this immediately following Juliana's birthday slumber party, and I still feel just a little bit shattered! No one could ask for nicer little girls, but thirteen of them together in the rare luxury of not having a grown-up on the second floor where they slept, gave rise to what I'd call a REAL lively situation. I don't know how much Dorothy is going to say about the party because she had not yet written her letter when I told her goodbye at the Red Oak station, but I'll go ahead and tell you that there was one moment about midnight when I actually thought the house was going to fall in. If you've ever had thirteen girls engaged in pillow fights directly above your head you'll know what I mean.

So many people have asked me if our parakeet has learned to talk that I think it just as well to come right out and say that it met the fate of the first one and that we positively, under no conditions, will ever again attempt to have anything but cats. I don't know how many letters I've read from people who tell me that they keep a cat and a parakeet without any trouble, but it's a combination that we have no luck with whatsoever. I'm sure that these disasters would never have occurred had our parakeets been willing to live in their cage; ours weren't. The second one all but killed itself trying to get out, and once we gave it the freedom of the house it would never return to the cage but even slept in the large ivy at night. From here on out it's just cats at this house.

Time to put on some swiss steak and take an inventory of what I need in the line of fresh vegetables when we go to town. We'll pick up the mail while we're on Main street, and I wonder if I'll find a letter from you!

Always . . . Lucile

GIRL TALK

By Mabel Weber

Did the dainty little girl for whom you had been sewing frilly pinafores and smocked dresses sprout overnight about six inches in height and breadth? Mine did. We went from size 6 to 8 to 10 in a few months and at just six years of age! Now at seven and a half my daughter has settled down to a slow growth in height while slimming at the waistline. Here are some of the things we learned in the changing process.

Average sized girls can wear any style of clothes, but the simple designs always look the best. Since mothers are busy, we should study the pattern books for easy-to-maintain styles made distinctive thru material, color, texture or design rather than intricate detail.

A slim girl can wear full skirted dresses, separate blouses and skirts, crosswise stripes, extra petticoats or anything that will make her look a little larger. She should avoid lengthwise stripes, slim skirts and other details which make her appear thinner.

Many of the pattern makers now give special diagrams to help adjust the patterns to chubby girls. They also print "not good for chubby girls" on some of the patterns. By measuring chest, waist and other vital spots, almost any pattern can be made to fit the fuller figure.

We avoid blouses and skirts almost entirely but make one-piece dresses that look like two. By using a plain color for the skirt and stripes, dotted, small print, or texture of a different material for the bodice, we create the "separate" illusion. If we use a small plaid, check or stripe for the skirt, we make a plain colored bodice. Entire plaid dresses are not good for these girls either.

The easy-to-make two width skirt gathered at the waist is not flattering to plumper middles either. Currently available there are several new patterns with a four gore slightly flared skirt. These are held in at the waist front by two groups of unpressed pleats and make your young daughter look much slimmer, at the same time they give her the skirt fullness she needs over her tummy.

As in our adult dressmaking, when sewing for children it is worthwhile to use the best appropriate material you can afford. There is nothing sadder looking than a child in a faded, limp, sleazy dress. Or one dressed in a grownup material such as slipper satin or velvet.

Bright clear colors are always preferable to gaudy ones. Every child has a color preference, but this choice can be guided by the adults in the family. Now is the time also to give her ideas about having her clothes "go together". "Busyness" is never pleasant. This is why a plaid coat is a poor choice if the wardrobe already has dresses of prints or plaids in it.

By the time a girl is seven, she can select the shoes, socks and hairribbons that match or accent her dress. When she grows up, she will know instinctively that it is poor taste to wear a figured skirt and a plaid blouse, a plaid coat



Almost every afternoon while Mother was in Florida she went to Lake Eola in Winter Park and fed the ducks and geese. Can you see the gull that is swooping down to take bread from her hand?

and a plaid dress, a plaid suit with a figured blouse, a checked blouse with a plaid skirt. She will also know that a dotted blouse might do nicely with a checked skirt, that pink looks fine with red if they are the same color in shade variation and are properly proportioned, and dozens of other hints that will make her well dressed.

These "between" girls are independent and want to be able to dress themselves. The elastic waist backs found in the patterns of one manufacturer do away with the need for dress plackets of any kind. This idea can be used with any pattern. The back bodice underarm seam is cut straight down from the armseye to the waist. The back waist darts are not used. The skirt is gathered to fit the bodice and the two sections are sewed together. Press the seam up. Then cut $\frac{3}{8}$ inch elastic as follows: $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches for size 2; 12 inches for 4; $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches for 6; 13 inches for 8; $13\frac{1}{2}$ for size 10. (Add a little if your child is chubby.) Pin one end of the elastic to each side of the back bodice seam, centers matching. Stitch along the waist line seam, stretching elastic as you stitch.

Elimination of the side placket make possible a "secret" pocket in each side seam instead of just one. These are the set-in type that don't show and in which girls love to stow their handkerchiefs and valuables. Every school dress needs pockets and when the pattern design doesn't have patch pockets, the side seam ones are ideal, especially since they never tear or rip off. If you can't draft your own pattern, the pattern books all have a few dresses using them. After you buy one pattern you can use the pocket piece for all future dresses, cutting it a little larger as your daughter's hand gets bigger.

A coat will do for several years if it has a good hem allowance in coat, interlining and lining. The sleeve length can be adjusted by making the sleeves as long as possible and then turning up a cuff. In a year the cuff can be turned down and there is no wear on the outside of the coat as there is when a sleeve hem is let down. The new aluminum backed satin linings are wonderfully warm and light in weight.

Cuffs on elastic waist snow slacks add a year or two to their wearability, too.

Our favorite summer play clothes are short bloomers. These are espec-

ially kind to chubby hips. The bare midriff blouses are good if they stay put instead of rolling up. A sleeveless blouse always looks neat and unbulky. Sun dresses that tie with bias strings at the shoulder are cool, comfortable and adjustable for several years of wearing. White or plain colored boleros make these sun dresses warm enough for cool days or evenings, and dressy enough for more festive occasions. Since poorly ironed ruffles are horrible and few mothers can spend hours at the ironing board, we omit the frills almost entirely for summer togs.

Petticoats can be worn for at least three years by using a straight bottom pattern that is cut in and gathered at the sides. I lengthen the bodice by splitting the pattern across and pinning the pieces an inch or two apart on the nainsook or white crinkle crepe. (The latter is wonderfully easy to care for if it is lightly starched and then steam ironed.) For easier putting on, I also open the petticoat back down to a little below the waist, allowing enough material for a hem with buttonholes. At least four inches are added to the bottom. I make a ruffle about three inches wide, gathering it easily with the sewing machine shirring foot. This is sewed on by putting the right side of the ruffle to the right side on the petticoat so the raw edge of the latter can be felled down over the ruffle after the preliminary stitching is done. Narrow lace is then machine stitched to the ruffle by slipping the lace just far enough under the ruffle edge to catch it securely. With a little practice this can soon be done rapidly. Then with the longest stitch setting, half inch tucks are sewed in the skirt starting a little over an inch from the top of the ruffle with one inch spaces between the tucks until the petticoat is the proper length. As the child grows, the tucks are ripped out one at a time and she really gets much wear from her slips before they are too short.

With thought and effort on your part your little big girl can be comfortably well dressed in clothes she likes without undue strain on the family's clothes allowance.

MENAGERIE PUZZLE

By Grace Stoner Clark

Add the name of one well known animal to each set of letters so that the finished word fits the definition given.

1. - - - ard One who is not brave.
2. - - - ma. A belief.
3. - - - - d Hair on a man's face.
4. - - - - ize To treat as a celebrity.
5. - - - trot Kind of a dance.
6. - - - - laugh Loud, coarse laugh.
7. - - - aract A waterfall.
8. - - - page Wild outbreak of behavior.
9. - - - ion An allowance, as of food.
10. - - - il One who studies under a teacher.
11. - - - ygen What one breathes.
12. - - - an Navajo Indian home.

ANSWERS

1. Cow; 2. Dog; 3. Bear; 4. Lion; 5. Fox; 6. Horse; 7. Cat; 8. Ram; 9. Rat; 10. Pup; 11. Ox; 12. Hog.

DOROTHY'S REPORT FROM THE FARM

Dear Friends:

We are having another one of those nice warm springlike days today but I understand from the weather report that we can expect colder weather and some snow during the night and tomorrow.

Last Thursday we had a regular blizzard here and I was afraid we might not be able to go to Shenandoah to attend Juliana's birthday party, but by late afternoon the sun had come out so I knew that unless I heard from Lucile they would meet us in Red Oak Friday evening. When Kristin and her friend, Lois Jean Hutchinson, and I got on the train in Chariton Friday evening there was still a lot of snow on the ground and we had to wear our boots. We were surprised when we got off the train at Red Oak to find that they hadn't had the storm that we had had, and there was no snow on the ground at all.

Juliana's birthday party was a huge success and the girls had a wonderful time. It was really a double celebration for us because Lois Jean's eleventh birthday happened to be the very day of the party. In Juliana's eleven years Kristin has never missed celebrating with her on her birthday, and she was also glad that she could help Lois Jean celebrate hers at the same time.

I had hoped to get a skirt made for Juliana for her birthday, but the material I wanted to use, this new squaw cloth that is so popular right now, had been ordered by our dry goods store here in Chariton but it did not get here in time for me to get the skirt made. I told Juliana she could either wait for that or we would get her something else, but she was thrilled at the prospects of having a new skirt so when I go to town this afternoon I will check to see if the material is in yet so that I can get it made this week. I will probably get enough so that I can make Kristin one just like it. When the girls are together they still like to dress alike.

Our 4-H Club in Lucas County have been working hard this past month to raise enough money to build some new buildings to be used for their 4-H Achievement Show in the fall. Each of the clubs has been promoting some project that would make money to be turned over to this building fund. Some have had programs, some have been having chili suppers, and our boys' and girls' clubs in our township served the lunch at a farm sale last week.

I must tell you a good joke on me. When our club had a food sale recently I forgot all about it, and needless to say I felt very badly that Kristin didn't support the affair. So when they called me about this farm sale and asked me to bring a pie, I was bound I was going to keep it on my mind and not forget it.

The sale was to be on a Thursday, and I have been helping out in the Superintendent's office on Thursday so I asked Edna, Frank's sister, if she would bake my pie for me in the



Martin Erik Strom and his father, Oliver Strom. This was taken while Martin struggled without front teeth!

morning, then planned to take it out to this farm during my lunch hour. So on a Thursday morning I called Edna and told her this was the day for the pie, and when I stopped by her house at noon she had this beautiful cherry pie all ready for me and I dashed out with it.

When I approached the house I could see a washing on the line and not a car in sight, but I bravely went up to the back door, pie in hand. Mrs. Edie came to the door and looked rather surprised to see me. I asked her if they weren't having a sale at her house today and she said no, that the sale was next Thursday. Well, I certainly felt silly. And we had cherry pie for supper that night. Last Thursday I took my pie and went to the sale — it was the right day.

The veterinarian came out last week to have a look at Little Champ. He hadn't seen him since we took the cast off his leg. We were awfully glad he came out because Champ is still limping some and we were afraid maybe something was wrong. The doctor said that the leg was in fine shape and that Kristin could start breaking him to ride anytime now, and by the end of the summer we won't be able to tell which leg was broken. Of course Little Champ is much too small for Kristin now, but she is anxious to break him for riding so that when Martin, Emily and Alison come to visit her they will have a little pony that they can ride. Because he will come to her whenever she calls him and follows her around the barn lot like a big dog, she thinks she won't have any trouble with him at all. But her Daddy tells her just to wait until she gets on his back for the first time and she will soon change her mind. At least she won't have far to fall.

After my letter describing our cistern filter in the February issue, I had a letter from a friend in Chilhowee, Mo., with a helpful suggestion that I thought you might like to try. Quoting from her letter, "We have our

filtering material in a heavy hardware cloth basket the same shape and size of the filter. It is reinforced with heavy wire — No. 9, I imagine — and handles of it are made on two sides at the top. We lift it out and cleaning is no problem at all. We have used ours for a number of years and see no signs of it wearing out."

I had a letter last week from a friend requesting Bernie's doughnut recipe that Kristin and Juliana have had such good results with. It occurred to me then that perhaps some of the rest of you readers would enjoy having this recipe, so I decided to include it in my letter to you this month.

CAKE DOUGHNUTS

- 2 eggs or 4 egg yolks
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 T. soft shortening
- 3/4 c. milk
- 4 t. Baking Powder
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. nutmeg
- 1/4 t. cinnamon
- 3 1/2 c. sifted flour

Beat eggs and beat in the sugar and shortening. Stir in milk. Sift dry ingredients together and stir into the egg-milk mixture. Roll dough on lightly floured cloth to thickness of one-third to one-half inch. Cut with floured doughnut cutter. Fry doughnuts in hot fat. Brown them on one side, turn them and brown on the other. Don't keep turning them over and over.

Kristin has a music lesson after school tonight and won't be able to ride home on the bus. I have some other errands to do in town this afternoon and told her that I would pick her up and bring her home. It is just about time to go so I'll say goodbye for this month. . . .

Sincerely, Dorothy

(Continued from Page 5)

We are planning to leave it in the attic for the children to play with.

But the other item left there is really something—a 75 pound bag of green, unroasted coffee beans. Because of the high price of coffee today, I may have a very good thing here, but there are two things I must learn first. One is whether age causes unroasted beans to lose their flavor (the beans are at least twenty years old), and the other is how on earth I shall ever manage to roast the beans if they are any good. Many years back I can remember as a child seeing coffee beans roasted in grocery stores, and how well I can remember the aroma that rose from the roasting beans.

One morning last week while Betty and I were working out in the kitchen, there came to the door a young sailor from Clarinda, Iowa. His last name was Berry and I think that he told me his first name was Harold. Naturally we were delighted to see someone from Iowa, and he seemed to enjoy seeing us. He pitched right in and helped with the work that we were doing just as though he were one of the family. If any of you should be coming this way, be sure and look us up. We would love to meet you.

Sincerely, Frederick.



These two little sisters are Barbara and Joan Felkner whose mother wrote the article on page 6. The small rocking chair is 43 years old and belongs to Mrs. Stella Felkner.

EGG-ACTLY RIGHT FOR APRIL!

By Mabel Nair Brown

How many egg garnishes, salad or relish plate egg ideas can you use in April? Here are some to use as starters.

BUTTERFLY: Slice hard-cooked egg into rounds. Cut a bit off of the side of each slice. Place two of these on chopped salad greens, rounded sides of the slices together. Parsley stems may be used as the long antennae and bits of parsley and pimiento can be used as "spots" on butterfly wings.

DAISY to use on salad plate or to decorate a bowl of salad: Slice egg lengthwise through center. Carefully remove yolk, and place it on plate or salad as center of daisy. Cut petals by slicing the egg white halves lengthwise. Arrange these petals around the yolk center. Sprinkle yolk with paprika or pepper. The daisy may have stem from slice of green pepper, or garnishes with parsley leaves.

OPEN-FACED EGG SALAD. Cut hard-cooked eggs in half lengthwise. Use slices of stuffed olives, strips of pimiento, parsley, cheese, etc., to decorate the top of these eggs. (Similar to open-faced sandwiches.) Arrange on a nest of greens.

DYE PEELED HARD-COOKED EGGS in the different colored dyes. (These are all harmless, you know.) By cutting these in half crosswise in a sawtooth manner you can remove the yolk and there you have a pretty tulip in a rose, red, yellow, lavender—any color. You can fill these with a deviled egg mixture, with potato salad, or with a gelatine vegetable salad.

Another way is to slice one of the colored eggs in crosswise slices BUT do not slice entirely through. Then carefully lay the egg on the salad plate with the un-cut portion down. Thus the slices will fall apart slightly to allow yolk to peek through "spirals". Garnish with tiny sprigs of parsley. Use dots of dressing on the greens but do not spoil egg design by putting dressing over it.

Try placing one of these colored egg slices inside a ring of green pepper on the relish plate.

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salad plate is made by using long strips of green pepper for stem and leaves and then a round slice of the colored eggs becomes the flower. Remove two or three wedge shaped notches in top of slice to give petal shape to posy.

JUST PRETTY could be the name of this egg salad. Make the colored eggs up by your favorite deviled egg method. Then put two of these together to form whole egg shape. Place two of these, in harmonizing colors, on salad greens. Into the end of each egg insert thin strips of carrot or green pepper in a fan-tail effect. Pass dressing in a bowl.

DEVILED EGG SALAD is simply deviled eggs placed in glass pan, cut side up. Very carefully pour in a



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lemon gelatin mix (I use a little vinegar for part of liquid in this and chop up a bit of celery and pimiento into it) over the eggs. Let congeal until it sets the eggs firmly in place.

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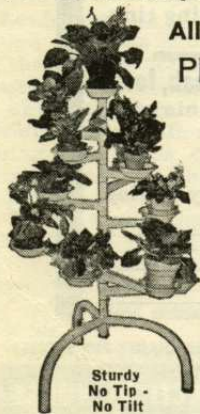
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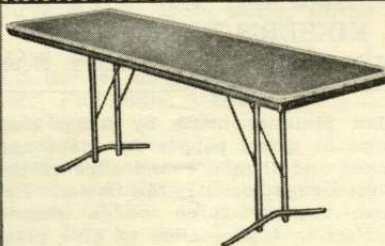
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GOOD NEIGHBORS

By Gertrude Hayzlett

Five or six years ago we made dozens
of knitted and crocheted afghans
for use at the different Veterans' Hos-
pitals. Many of you helped with them
and I know you loved doing it, but the
demand for them ceased and we quit
making them. Now, we are asked a-
gain to make more afghans and I am
asking you to help.

We need knitted blocks 8 inches
square, of sweater weight yarn, any
and all colors. Will you knit some?
Or do you have yarn that you will
donate for someone else to knit? Any
amount, from a few yards to full
skeins can be used. By doubling it,
we can even use lighter weight yarn.
If you have yarn, write me at 685
Thayer Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.,
before mailing it. Perhaps some one
living not so far from you will have
volunteered to knit and does not have
yarn, and you can send it there.

Here are some shutins who need
cheer. Mrs. Emma Heldt, 502 E. 11
St., Fremont, Nebr., is unable to walk
since she had polio 12 years ago. She
makes doll clothes for little polio pati-
ents.

Mrs. Clara Rasmussen, R 4, c/o
Floyd Briggs, Sr., Council Bluffs,
Iowa, is almost completely helpless as
result of a sudden attack of arthritis.
She is 74 and gets very lonely.

Kay Ransom, St. Mary's Hospital,
Kansas City, Mo., is only seven. She
suffered 70% burns over her body and
is now undergoing skin grafts.

Bill Sloggett, Veterans Hospital, O-
maha, Nebr., had an operation recent-
ly. Send cheery cards.

Mrs. Sara Riegler, Box 371, Kalama-
zoo, Mich., is entirely shutin. She
hasn't been out of her apartment for
more than six years and would enjoy
mail.

Mrs. Helen Loy, 429 Riverdale Ave.,
Merrill, Wisc., had a stroke some time
ago and is practically helpless. She
is unable to write but needs contact
with outsiders. Do write to her.

Dean Spidell, University Hospital, O-
maha, Nebr., lost his arm from a se-
vere burn and is still not out of dan-
ger. Send him a letter.

Miss Anna E. Ohlson, Elgin State
Hospital, Elgin, Ill., has been bedfast
for a long time. She is unable to
write but does enjoy hearing from
folks.

Mrs. May Bunting, Box 84, Sham-
baugh, Iowa, is bedfast and cannot
write or help herself in any way. She
loves to get mail so do send a shower
of Easter cards.

Mrs. Evelyn Swearingen, County
Home, Spirit Lake, Iowa, has been
bedfast for many years. She lies on
her stomach, with arms and legs in
the same position all the time as they
break so easily. She loves to get mail
and can read it but cannot answer.

Mrs. Edward Scott, 1012 S. 9 St.,
Oskaloosa, Iowa, has been ill three
years and is not allowed to do any-
thing at all. Please write to her.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Posey, RFD 1,
Bevier, Mo., are completely shut-in and
would be extremely grateful for cards
and letters.

"Little Ads"

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