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Kitchen-Klatter

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Magazine

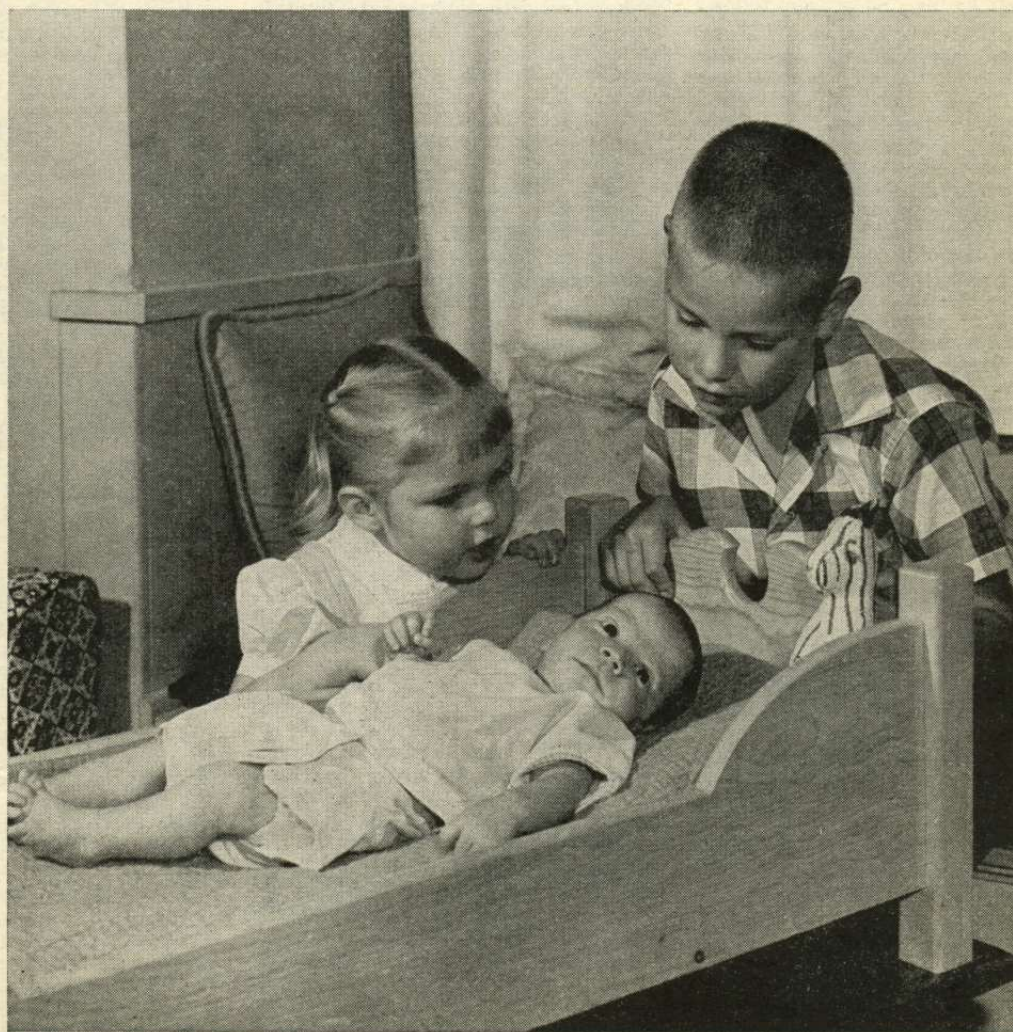
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LETTER FROM LEANNA

Kitchen-Klatter

(Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.)

MAGAZINE

"More Than Just Paper And Ink"

LEANNA FIELD DRIFTMIER, Editor.

LUCILE DRIFTMIER VERNES, Associate Editor.

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There will always be a Christmas, and it will always bring new hope, new courage—as always through the darkness the Christmas star shines its pledge of peace and freedom.

My dear Friends:

Thanksgiving day is a happy memory and we are now looking forward to Christmas. My, how fast these weeks roll by as one season follows another!

We have been fortunate enough to have nice fall rains for the first time in years. The ground has been in perfect condition for planting and we have been putting in more tulip bulbs. We dug down to see what condition the ones were in that we had planted these last three years, and in some cases found wee bulbets or just dry shells. I suppose we should have watered them more often during the dry season. Well, these we have just planted were given plenty of water and we hope that later there will be a nice covering of snow.

I haven't written you since we came back from a visit with our son Wayne and his family in Denver. We were certainly lucky to have lovely weather during the entire time we were there, for when Abigail's brother Clark and his wife came shortly after we left, the weather was foggy and they couldn't take the beautiful mountain drives that we were privileged to enjoy.

One day we drove through Central City and on further where there was a real display of brilliant yellow aspens scattered among the green pines on the mountains. It made a lovely picture. I could have spent days in Central City with its quaint old shops and narrow streets. It used to be known as the "richest square mile on earth," for the first gold discoveries in Colorado were made there in 1859. Abigail had packed a nice picnic lunch and we stopped in one of the many parks that are open to the public. We returned by way of Boulder Canyon and the city of Boulder. There is a wonderful new superhighway from Boulder to Denver.

One afternoon we drove to "Park of the Red Rocks." Here there are great colorful sandstone ledges that form a natural theatre with perfect acoustics. Easter Sunrise Services are held here and many summer concerts for it has

a seating capacity of 10,000. Don't fail to visit this park if you are in Denver. It is only a short drive on a good road. In fact, trips in the mountains are a real pleasure now for there are such wonderful safe highways.

My brother Henry Field's son John (called John Henry when he was a little boy) lives in Denver. He is production manager for a company which makes intricate instruments used in part of our defense work. He and his wife Ethel have just moved into their new home and when we visited them John was busy working on his lawn. It was very beautiful and green although it was only planted in August. Five boys whom Wayne grew up with here in Shenandoah live in Denver and I'm sure they will enjoy renewing their friendships.

I had fun making bedroom curtains for Abigail. Do you remember that I made her an applique bedspread in the pink and blue canterbury bell pattern? Well, she bought material and I copied off the pattern and used clusters of the flowers, alternating the pink and blue, spacing them about 6 inches apart just above the hem line. Of course I used green leaves too. They were draw drapes of plain white sail cloth and hung real full. We thought they looked very nice when finished.

If you ever drive west on Highway 6 take time to stop in Hastings, Nebraska to go through the "House of Yesterday." Here are displayed thousands of exhibits, relics of pioneer days. You could spend several hours there, and if you have children with you they should by all means see it. Then a little farther west you come to Minden, Nebraska where they have a "Pioneer Village." This has exhibits of many different kinds—an old school house, church, merry-go-round, farm machinery used by the pioneers, fire engines, a wonderful collection of old cars, etc. Allow for several hours' stop here.

On our return trip we stayed all night at the Sunset Tower Motel in Holdrege, Nebr. The woman in the office said, "Oh, yes, we know you! My mother takes Kitchen-Klatter." Did I ever tell you of an experience we had up in Portsmouth, New Hampshire? Mart's cousin, Bertha Driftmier Greer and her husband whom we were visiting took us to dinner at a lovely

old inn. As we were eating our dessert the waiter asked me, much to my surprise, if my name was Leanna Driftmier. I said that it was. And then he told us that a woman seated over by the window wondered if I would come over and speak to her. She had never met me, she said, but recognized my voice which she had not heard for about 20 years. She had formerly lived in a little town in northern Iowa.

The best part of a trip is getting home and when we came over the hill and saw Shenandoah in the Nishna Valley below us it was a happy thrill.

I hope none of you have been ill with this flu, the Asian or plain old United States variety. So far we have escaped.

A recent letter from our youngest son, Donald, who works for Guide Lamp Company in Anderson, Indiana told us about their annual vacation that they took this fall. He says: "I can see why you like Florida. It is wonderful!" It is much cheaper to visit Florida when the tourist season isn't in full swing. They took a small apartment for, as he says, "it isn't lavish, but why waste money on tile bath and carpets when we spend so little time inside? We spend hours on the beach in the sun. Katharine loves the water, and we are glad we didn't listen to people who told us to leave her at home!"

Mart and I haven't decided when we will leave for Florida for it depends on how the weather is here. We are in no hurry to go. I have so much to keep me busy. I am making some sets of tea towels from the patterns Margery has for sale in her collection, and I may quilt my cross-stitched bedspread on one of these small frames you see advertised. Have any of you had experience using these? I need to hem some new dinner napkins too as the ones I have are worn so thin you could easily punch a hole through them. As you can see, I'll keep busy this winter no matter where I am.

My, how much I enjoy your kind letters! One friend in Kansas City wrote recently with an excellent suggestion for those who feel they would like to be earning money and at the same time contributing a much-needed service. She heard there was a need for practical nurses so she took a course which included baby care, cooking for convalescents, etc., and now has a useful, satisfying occupation and is kept very busy. Here is another suggestion. If you like to sew and do neat work, there is a demand for dressmakers or someone who can make curtains and slip covers. The women in Shenandoah who do this work are always busy.

I've started putting things into Christmas boxes that will be mailed to our distant loved ones, and one of these nights I must begin writing Christmas letters. These will be busy days ahead for all of us, but it's the most joyous season of the year and to all of you we send our warmest wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas.

Affectionately yours,

Leanna



THE CHRISTMAS TRINITY

A Devotional Service

By

Mabel Nair Brown

Setting

On altar, a table or a fireplace mantel, make an arrangement with a creche for the center focal point. If possible, arrange a light (a concealed flashlight will work) so that later in the program it can serve as a halo above the manger; above the stable hang a large star on a backdrop of deep blue. (This star will be much more effective if you can manage to have it lighted in some manner.)

To the right of the manger scene set up figures of the three shepherds, and beyond them the figures of the Wise men. To the left, place three unlighted white tapers. With a little planning this can be made to look like a beautiful Christmas painting which seems to come to life as the devotional progresses to its climax.

Christmas carols should be played softly throughout the service. Certain appropriate music will be mentioned where it will add to the meditations.

Service

Call To Worship: "A little Child, a shining Star, a stable rude, the door ajar. Yet in that place, so crude, forlorn; The Hope of all the world was born."

Music for Scripture: "We Three Kings."

Voice of the Bible (This should be a clear, firm voice from offstage.): "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold!, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his Star in the east and are come to worship him?"

"Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem . . . They departed; and lo, the Star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the Star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they saw the young child with Mary, His mother, they fell down and worshipped him . . . they presented unto him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh."

Leader: "There is not in all the world enough darkness to put out the light of one small candle! So there is not enough darkness and evil in all the world to put out the light of the Christ Child's Star."

"I light the candle for the Star, the first of the Trinity." (Lights candle to far left.)

Music: "Star of the East."

First Speaker: "Let us this year sprinkle some stardust over all our Christmas celebration. A little stardust would tie each package with a ribbon of love and kiss each knot with a prayer. Thoughtfulness, friendship and understanding would inspire the giving of every gift. Brighter than the candles in the windows or the glitter on the tree would be the eyes of the children who have been sprinkled liberally with His Stardust! Christmas means *Presents* and *Presence*." (Speaker spells both words slowly and emphatically as she pronounces them.)

"God so loved the world that he gave to us his Son, his present to us, the blessed Christ Child. The wise men brought their most precious gifts to lay at the dear Child's feet. This was the stardust of the first Christmas."

"Christmas is Jesus' birthday. What can we give? We can give *ourselves*—our *Presence*. If we sprinkle our Christmas with genuine Stardust it will become a holy day rather than a thoughtless holiday."

"Know ye not that lowly Baby was the bright and morning Star? He who came to light the Gentiles, and the darkened isles afar? And we, too, may seek His cradle, there our hearts best treasures bring; Love and faith and true devotion, for our Savior, Lord and King."

Solo: "Star of the East" or "O Holy Night."

Music: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" followed by "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

Voice of the Bible: Read Luke 2:10 through 14.

Leader: "Harp and trumpet tell the story, Shining stars reveal His glory. And the listening spirit hears, far-off music of the spheres. Come, my heart, awake and sing, praise to Bethlehem's cradled King!"

"The second candle we light for the angel chorus who so joyfully announced that Holy Birth long ago." (Lights middle candle.)

Second Speaker: "Too often we mortals become so earthbound we are not conscious of the invisible forces all around us. That is why today we so often hear the sad complaint that Christmas has lost its meaning, that it has become only a commercialized holiday."

"Why has this state of affairs come to pass? I think it is because we let ourselves become so entangled in the tinsel, the glitter, the froth, so frantically rushed in the hustle and bustle of shopping for gifts, so hurried in making big dinner preparations that we lose our sensitiveness to the real spirit of the day."

"But if we slow down and attune our ears to the spiritual world, then we, too, will hear the angels sing! Haven't we all known some great moment of joy when we felt that our hearts would burst with gladness, when we wanted to shout that joy to the housetops? That is the joy we should all know at Christmas when we

raise our voices to sing His birthday song, 'Glory to the Newborn King!'"

Group singing: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

Music: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night" and "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear."

Voice of the Bible: "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night and lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them . . . And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into the heavens, the shepherds said one to another, Let us go unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us."

Leader: "'Come and worship at the manger,' urged the angels, and lo! Humble shepherds saw and answered, 'Unto Beth'lem let us go.'"

"For the humble shepherds who were strangers to the world of pomp and glory, we light the third candle of the trinity."

Third Speaker: "Oft we hear the familiar quote: 'I came, I saw, I conquered.' Each time I hear the story of the shepherds who watched over their flocks on that night I want to say: 'They heard, they listened, they answered.'"

"God is forever seeking to reveal Himself to Mankind. In the shepherds we recognize the eager search, the sensitive spirit, the open mind of all devout souls who really SEE the star, who HEAR the heavenly angel chorus and then GO IN SEARCH FOR THAT WHICH HAS BEEN PROMISED."

"They were not just hearers, but DOERS—they were not just stargazers, but STAR FOLLOWERS! Let us, too, really know the true spirit of Christmas. Let us go unto Bethlehem and worship the King. 'Tis His Birthday. Let us rejoice and be glad!"

Music: "Away in the Manger" followed by "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Voice of the Bible: Luke 2:4-7. (At this point the manger itself is illuminated as suggested in the setting.)

Leader: "The Christ Child is born! It is the climax of the Christmas story! The full significance of God's love for us is revealed."

"Henceforth, if we will, God, through Christ, may live in us to share our joys, our sorrows, our problems. That blessed Babe came to earth to grow to manhood physically and spiritually to show us that we, too, as the years go by should grow as Jesus did in wisdom, truth and stature, in favor with God and man."

"So we see the great trinity—the Star, the angel chorus, the shepherds climaxed in the Hope of the world, the Babe of Bethlehem! How joyfully should we sing the beloved carol: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!"

Christmas prayer and benediction: "May the joy and meaning of that first Christmas enter into our hearts and bring Peace and God's blessings to you and all the world. Amen."

Music of "Glory to the Newborn King" is to be played softly throughout the benediction and then should swell out joyfully at the conclusion of the service.

LETTER FROM LUCILE

*Greetings to Each and Everyone
of you Good Friends:*

I just now put a chocolate cake in the oven and since the alarm clock is set to ring in 30 minutes, I can relax and start this letter to you.

Believe me, I certainly miss the kitchen clock with its startling buzz that almost sounded like the horn of Judgment Day in its persistence. That buzz never stopped until it was turned off, and I found it simply priceless on a busy, busy day when it would have been easy to pay attention to a second of noise, decide to run to the kitchen that very moment, and then get sidetracked with something urgent. As it was, I just had that din going on until I got to the kitchen and turned off the thing.

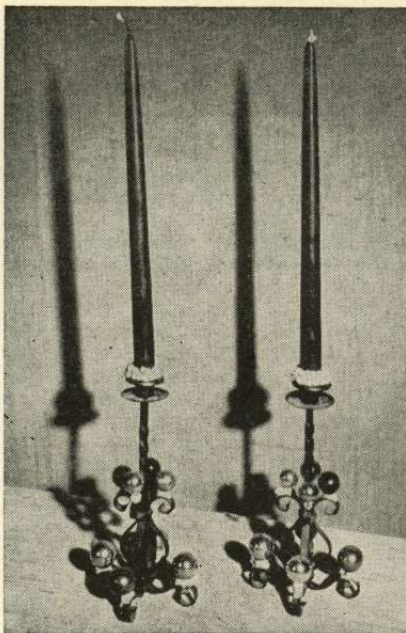
But alas, that clock wore out and we couldn't find another like it. Russell went down and scoured the town, but nothing doing. He brought home a nice kitchen clock, of course, and it looks just fine, but it doesn't have a demanding noise to remind me that it is time to pay attention to whatever is cooking. Now I have to resort to an alarm clock if I want to be at my desk while something is baking in the oven.

Not too long ago Russell and I went with our good friends, Dr. Powell and his wife, plus another friend, to a wonderful smorgasbord at the Mamrelund Lutheran church in Stanton, Iowa. I don't think that anyone in the car believed me when I said that I'd never before been in Stanton (about 34 or 35 miles from here), but it's the truth. All I knew about it was what I saw from the windows of a fast Burlington train as we roared through.

I thought that it looked like a New England town, so clean, so trim, so very comfortable and orderly. We found the church without any trouble for it is huge, and my! how beautiful! I admired every inch of it and much appreciated the invitation extended to inspect their recently remodeled kitchens, but with such an enormous crowd to serve I felt that the harried women responsible for getting food into the dining room wouldn't relish the idea of stopping to show anyone anything! Sometime when a big meal isn't in progress I'd like to go back and look at what they've done with their kitchen.

This was the first smorgasbord open to the public that the women of the Mamrelund church had attempted. We were given numbers when we entered, and since we left Shenandoah right on the dot of 4:30 we were lucky enough to have numbers 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. Everyone sat in the main auditorium until 25 had gathered, and then the group was asked to go to the basement to be served.

Our eyes were dazzled, literally, when we walked into the dining room. Tremendous energy had been poured into decorating it, and there were blazing candles, huge baskets of beautiful autumn flowers, and a general atmosphere of gaiety and festivity. We had a fruit soup first (were seated in one corner for this) and then moved on to help ourselves from a two-tiered



These black wrought iron candlesticks holding bright red candles stand on our dining room table during the holidays. We use modeling clay (the kind we buy for children) to anchor brilliant little Christmas balls for decoration. At the base of the candle is a band of gold foil.

table that was literally groaning with a collection of food that would have done justice to these elaborate ship advertisements or big hotel dining room advertisements that appear from time to time.

I always get rattled and confused when I'm confronted with such a choice array of dishes! In fact, I got halfway down the length of that long table before I looked up and saw the second tier! But the rest of my group had sharper eyes, so between them I had bites of this and that from things I'd missed.

As soon as we'd filled our plates we sat down at long tables (Monroe tables, I think) and there again we saw lovely centerpieces and blazing candles. Jelly and seasonings were on the table, and I've never in my life had so many cups of piping hot coffee—or had my water glass filled so frequently. The women who served were all dressed in gay, colorful Swedish costumes, and I must say that they were highly efficient. The whole thing was managed like a piece of beautifully oiled precision machinery.

I have no idea, of course, how many people were served and how much money was cleared, but I will say that if everyone present enjoyed it just half as much as we did and, if there were other strangers present (as there must have been) who were equally inspired by being within such a beautiful church, then the evening was a tremendous success and will be repeated next year.

There are cook books and cook books, but this past month I got ahold of one that really "hit the spot," so to speak. *Cooking American* is crammed full of good recipes, the kind that make you want to get right out to the kitchen, but it also has that wonderful personal touch we all appreciate when we pick up a cook book. I've said

many times on our radio visits, you know, that anyone can sell me on trying a new recipe if a clincher of a sales talk goes along with it! If I hear that this salad or that casserole went to a covered dish supper and had everyone oh-ing and ah-ing, my curiosity is sufficiently whetted to take action on it. The author of *Cooking American* wields this power over me!

Our Christmas plans are hanging fire because we're waiting to hear if our much-loved Chicago friends can come out for the holidays. I think it's tremendously important to make new friends all along the way, but oh! how cherished are the old, old friends who have stood by us through grief and sorrow, who have rejoiced with us when fortune brought us happiness, who have stood by just like Rocks of Gibraltar with their uncritical devotion and concern. I feel rarely blessed because I have such friends, and I feel blessed too when I realize that I have never lost a single friendship that made any difference. I think that one of the most important things we can ever give to our children is the realization that friends are to be treasured, that they represent the only real wealth we ever know in this world.

We are always old to our own children, you know, and of course Juliana and Kira (my friend's daughter, now sixteen and a freshman in college) see us as real old people and can never imagine that we were once young and comparatively giddy and adventurous! But then, in turn, Juliana's and Kira's children will never be able to imagine them as little girls visiting each other in Shenandoah or Chicago . . . and so the pattern is repeated.

We've turned our Christmas decorating over to Juliana this year and she tells us that her first project is to be some lambs. Someplace she found a pattern for cardboard lambs that are to have white cotton glued to them, and she wants to tack these to the red drapes in our living room. Right now she's trying to figure out how to make the poor little black lamb with something woolly and soft, but as yet we haven't been able to figure out what could be used. Does anyone have an idea?

She also expects to make a popcorn tree and another sugar plum tree. Our white Christmas lamb candle is still in fine shape and will come out once again, crown and all. There's a picture of him in this issue. We use our lamb cake mold and Glo-Wax to achieve him.

Last month we got the kitchen painted and I told Russell that I knew people who'd spent a couple of thousand dollars on fancy remodeling jobs and didn't get as much lift out of it as I got from two coats of paint! When we first painted that kitchen a dark wine color I liked it and found it a welcome relief from the dingy yellow I'd looked at for so long, but my kitchen is small and somehow those walls just closed in after a spell. Now it is a lovely pale clear blue, such a cheerful, light color that I've spent a lot more time than usual working in it. The ceiling still looks awful,

(Continued on page 16)

FROM MY DESK

By

Leanna

In October we printed a letter from the desperately unhappy young wife whose life was so heavily shadowed by her husband's mother and sisters.

The letters that poured in from you friends would make a big book of life stories almost unbelievable in variety and experience. However, I was struck again by the fact that most of these letters expressed the same viewpoint and offered the same suggestions. This made it difficult, as always, to single out one or two for these pages.

I must mention one thing that is important. Quite a few people asked for the young woman's address in order that they might write to her directly, and several said that if they knew who she was and where she lived, they would make an effort to go and see her in person and offer their help. All of these requests were made with the best intentions in the world, but we protect the identity of every person who writes to us and could not reveal to anyone her name and address. I'm sure you understand the reasons for this.

Thank you, each and everyone, for taking time to write and offer your suggestions. I am hopeful that the young woman will be helped to find the answer to her grave problem through your kindly help.

—Leanna

Dear Leanna:

My heart goes out to the unhappy young wife who is being treated so badly by her husband's 'people'.

Sometimes the older sisters of an only brother can be really cruel, especially if they are frustrated and develop a sort of possessive love for their brother. They might not realize it themselves, but they don't want him to love anyone else so they resent *any* wife he might choose. I think it no doubt would have been the same (or they might have tried it) with even a local girl of his choosing.

There must be some reason for three young women still to be living with their parents. Evidently they are older too, for otherwise they wouldn't be so critical of everything she does. It's so strange that one out of the three sisters couldn't be her friend. Supposing none attended college; that just might create jealousy enough to cause them to flaunt their knowledge of housework and gardening, etc., in such an unkind way. They plainly don't want her to be happy because I feel they aren't — hence their continual fault finding.

It is a problem that has many factors to consider. I'm afraid I'm not wise enough to solve it, but wanted to help in *some* way as her letter is surely full of despair.

If she could possibly find out the reason (aside from plain oneriness) for their constant heckling, then perhaps she would know better how to handle it.

She might muster up her sense of humor in regard to the washing. Try



This is Wayne and Abigail's home in Denver. (Mother and Dad are on the porch.) After a big old-fashioned house in Shenandoah, Abigail finds daily work much different in a brand new ranch style house.

putting cotton in her ears when out hanging up her clothes, and singing at the top of her voice; then she can't hear what they are saying. After all, if she stops and thinks, that sort of thing is rather childish and for his mother to be a part of it too is worse.

I imagine the poor girl is timid and a mite sensitive, and therefore is trying all together too hard to please them. She didn't promise at the altar to obey her husband's parents and sisters. She should concentrate on pleasing her husband and of course I realize she is trying to by struggling to get along, living so close. She must try to take a different attitude towards them, if possible. It's easy to let hurts and slights warp one's very being until one is always looking for and waiting for something to be said, or attaching a double meaning to every remark.

With the aid of sincere prayer for guidance and wisdom perhaps a solution will be shown to her. I wish so very much she could pour it all out to her minister and perhaps he could talk alone with her husband and open his eyes to what may be a genuine threat to an otherwise happy marriage. Young husbands can oftentimes be so blind where their doting mother (of an only son) and in this case, sisters, are concerned.

It's entirely possible that these women have formed the ugly habit of being nagging and fault finding and that the young husband is so used to it, along with being engrossed with the work of managing a large farm, that it doesn't affect him in the least and probably truly doesn't realize what a devastating affect it's having on his young wife. He would have no idea how day after day the hurt grows deeper and after awhile she most naturally would look for displeasure in all she tried to do.

It might help to grow good and angry once. She must remember that Jesus showed righteous anger when He threw the money changers and their wares out of the Temple. So it behooves her never to let divorce enter her mind but to realize that if to save her home it might take a little spunk, shall we say? — then try that.

Tell them firmly when they come in her house spluttering over what she paid for groceries that her grocery buying is her's and her hus-

bands's own private affair. Whenever he feels she is not buying wisely, he is the *only* one to tell her. Tell them they have no more right to come into her home and criticize her groceries or clothing than she has to go into their home for the same purpose.

Surprise them once with a little spirit, and I hope and pray for this fine girl's sake (who won't go crying home to mother) that they will see the Light and respect her. Personally, I'm afraid three years of it have cowed her and they know it. Some people get real pleasure out of trampling on those who always take meekly what is handed out. They will continue to trample until they realize that "the worm has turned" and that no more of it will be tolerated.

I hesitated to write, but as I read and reread her dilemma I concluded that if every reader just read it and thought, "My, that's too bad" and let it go at that, you wouldn't have much cooperation from your readers and no help whatsoever forthcoming for the troubled wife. So I have tried even though I feel inadequate to be of genuine help." — Mrs. R. M.

Dear Leanna:

As I read the letter in your October Kitchen-Klatter Magazine from Mrs. L. G., my mind immediately went back to the many times when situations seemed almost overwhelming to me also.

Being married to a minister and having lived in a parsonage for ten years, I have had some experience with moving into unfamiliar communities away from home and family. You would not be surprised to learn that we have even had some experience with "criticism" also.

It seems to me that the first thing we need to do when criticism is directed at us is to ask ourselves: "Do I deserve this? Did I have it coming?" Many times we feel that people are being critical when actually we know ourselves that we aren't living up to our best. Especially I think this is true when we deal with our husband's relatives. Perhaps much of this criticism is only imagined and reflects the writer's own feeling of not being a good homemaker.

Certainly these days intelligent women have no excuse for not being informed on such things as laundry,

(Continued on page 18)

THIS CHURCH ACTIVITY SOUNDS VERY INTERESTING

Dear Friends:

My kitchen smells good right now for I just took some cinnamon rolls out of the oven. Oliver will be coming in the house in a few minutes for a cup of coffee and I thought cinnamon rolls would hit the spot. He has been putting up the storm windows this afternoon. I know it is late, but he has been out of town on business for several weeks so the storm windows just had to wait for his return.

In the den Martin is cuddled up on the davenport with the steamer at his side. He, like so many others, has had his bout with the flu and when the doctor came today to check on him he suggested that we run the steamer. He is sleeping now and when he wakes up Oliver promised to read some more from "Huckleberry Finn".

Martin has been worrying about making up his school work, but there are so many absent in his class that I told him he wouldn't be alone with this problem. That eased his mind some. I think in a day or so we can have a few books brought home from school. What bothered him as much as missing school was missing out on "Tricks or Treats"! His Halloween activities consisted of cutting out Jack o'Lanterns to put at the windows. As youngsters came to the door for their treats I described their costumes and he tried to guess who the children were by the sounds of their voices.

We've had such lovely fall meetings. In one club our first meeting was a salad luncheon. Everyone brought a favorite salad and we certainly had a wide variety — I believe there was only one duplicate in over twenty salads. We were seated at small tables. Hot butterhorns and butter were on each table and we helped ourselves buffet style to the salads. The committee served cake and coffee. I'm collecting recipes and will share them with you in a future issue of the magazine.

At our first church meeting of the year the circles met together in the church parlors. The committee members each brought a different dessert. These were all arranged nicely on the tea table and the members could choose their own dessert, or a taste of each if they desired. We thought this was a very successful idea and nice for a change.

One of the games was original with the game chairman and so much fun that I thought I would pass it on to you. There was a list of phrases, each written so that it described the name of one of the ladies of our church; then you had to guess the name.

Some of them were:

1. To give permission. May
2. A bird and having to do with corn. Jacobs
3. To welcome you and to cut. Matthews

Look over your church list and see if you could make up enough names and phrases to supply the game for your next meeting.



Martin practices faithfully on his clarinet every morning before school and never misses a band rehearsal unless he is sick.

In our church we are being urged to read more religious books. I don't think there ever was a time when there have been more new religious books on the market than right now. We have printed the list for each member and at each meeting as we call the roll the secretary will keep track of the books read. Looking over the list I see that I have already read a number of them so I have a head start on the year. If you are interested in this reading project I'm sure your local librarian will assist you in making out a list for your group if your denomination doesn't provide you with one.

Instead of having a large Christmas bazaar at our church this year, we are having a "Pig Dinner". The meat, of course, will be pork, although another meat will be offered for those who don't eat pork. All the decorations will be centered around pigs, and there have been some clever suggestions for invitations, centerpieces and such. I wish I could go into detail, but the committee is attempting to keep these facts secret. They are planning entertainment for all age groups.

This is a money-raising project, but instead of making and selling bazaar items we are having a silent bazaar, giving whatever amount of money we would ordinarily spend on the bazaar. We have other projects planned — in fact, something has been planned for every month in the year. At a later date the men of the church are serving a Mexican Dinner, and the young people have planned a Chili Supper. There will also be a Birthday Dinner, and I'll give you details on these dinners as they occur.

This year the Women's Society of Christian Service of the Shenandoah Methodist Church is having a Christmas Bazaar Tour of Homes. It will be held Wednesday, December 4th from 10:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. They are selling tickets for \$1.00 each, and this will entitle you to visit nine homes, plus a tea at the church. It is too late

for you to arrange such a bazaar this year, but in case you are looking ahead to next year I will give you the details. The ticket folders were printed in advance and sold, with the exception of a few which will be sold to out-of-towners at the church the day of the bazaar.

Each home on the list will be very gaily decorated with a definite theme and items will be for sale. As you visit the homes the ticket is punched. You can go to one or all at any time during that day.

"Joy to The World"

The Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Crandall, 505 Fifth Avenue.

The parsonage will be decorated in keeping with the blessed season. Aprons will be offered.

"Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"

The Forrest Klepingers, 1607 Maple St.

A home featuring a beautiful family room. Christmas decorations will be the bazaar items.

"Deck The Halls With Boughs of Holly"

The Donovan Stevens, 1609 Maple.

A contemporary home, designed with youth in mind. The M.Y.F. will have teen-age treats and temptations in the recreation room.

"Silver Bells"

Dr. and Mrs. Dwaine Mason, 3 Mayridge Drive.

Split-level house in a new addition. The bazaar sewing booth.

"Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming"

The Win Browns, 1104 South Elm St.

Here is a home revealing the pleasure of an expandable living room. Cameos will be displayed. Other pieces of jewelry and some antiques for sale.

"Happy, Happy Holiday"

Mrs. Doris Murphy, 709 Church St.

This older home will show some lovely new features including a beautiful stairway. The pantry will tempt you with some home-canned foods and other things for your Christmas table.

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (and Women)"

Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Gottsch, 308 Irwin Court.

The gracious entrance sets the feelings of warmth found in this home. Arts, crafts and candles invite your purchasing.

"Twas the Night Before Christmas"

The Carroll Johnsons, 103 Southview Circle Drive.

Comfortable home designed by owner for family living. Here you will find freshly baked holiday breads, cookies and other goodies.

"I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas"

Mrs. Harold Welch, 309 East Clarinda Ave.

This large home will entice you with all-white decorations. In contrast, Christmas greens and home decorations will be ready for you to buy for your own home.

The president told me to be sure to tell you that this idea for a bazaar was not conceived by them but that they first heard of it by way of a large church in Omaha, Nebraska.

I have written down these details

(Continued on page 16)

CHRISTMAS ACROSTIC MEDITATIONS

For those who need a short worship service for a December meeting this acrostic meditation will prove most adaptable. To the brief outline suggested here, each speaker (one for each letter) can add any favorite poem, or appropriate music can be woven in. In this way the program can be lengthened or shortened according to the needs of the committee.

Setting

Gold letters spelling the word "Christmas" might be arranged in a semi-circle on a table immediately in front of a madonna arrangement. Or you may prefer to hang a piece of inexpensive sky blue material on the wall and pin to it gold letters.

"C" — "The *creche* symbolizes the true meaning of Christmas, Love." (Speaker might carry a miniature creche and read the words of "Away in the Manger" as pianist plays it softly. Or some small child might sing this.)

"H" — "The *home* is the heart of Christmas. Let us read the Christmas story as a family." (Speaker opens a small Bible and reads from St. Luke.) "We can work together making decorations that will become beloved traditions in our home. We can teach our families to share with those who are shut in, the aged and the discouraged." (*Music*: "There's a Song in the Air".)

"R" — "Religion becomes predominant at this season as each seeks the fellowship of his own church. But why do we limit this only to Christmas? Why can't we promote this brotherly love and fellowship all the year through?" (Speaker carries a lighted candle. *Music*: "From Every Spire on Christmas Eve".)

"I" — "The invitation to spread Christmas to others—to our neighbors, to the orphans, to the old and to the tragically underprivileged—this is one of the big joys and privileges of the Christmas season. (Carries a basket spilling over with packages and bundles. *Music*: "As With Gladness Men of Old".)

"S" — "The singing of the Christmas carols is certainly one of the great joys of this season. It brings the spirit of Christmas right into every meeting, into the home, into the church." (Carries hymnal and carol books. *Music*: "Oh Come All Ye Faithful".)

"T" — "The tree-lighting has become a beloved tradition in our homes, and by reading together the Christmas Story, by singing carols, this ceremony can become deeply meaningful." (Speaker carries a tiny tree decorated with small-size birthday candles that have been lighted. *Music*: "Deck the Halls".)

"M" — "Myrrh was one of the gifts the Wisemen brought to the Babe on that first Christmas—they brought their choicest offerings. So do we give gifts. And so should we remember that they are given in His name. It is not how costly the gift but how much of our love we give with it, that



We dipped a thorny branch in white paint and then sprinkled it with silver glitter to serve as the base for our Christmas sugar plum tree.

matters." (Carries one large box and one small box, both attractively wrapped. *Music*: "We Three Kings".)

"A" — "Awe-inspiring worship can be ours if we take part in the church worship services, in family devotions, and in all the sacred observances that make Christmas take on a deeper spiritual meaning for those who participate and share." (Carries books and programs suitable for this purpose. *Music*: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear".)

"S" — "The *Star* still seems to hold all the Hope of the world within its beams at this season of the year. May we all become enfolded in its heavenly glow this Christmastide." (Carries a large star. *Music*: "Star of the East".)

All who had spoken stand in a semi-circle and repeat together:

"Have you heard the wondrous story of the Babe, or Savior, King? Of the angels who in heaven Did in adoration sing? If you have, join in the spirit Of goodwill to men on earth, That all races and all homes May rejoice in Jesus' birth."

Group Singing: "Joy to the World".

CHRISTMAS IS MANY THINGS

"CHRISTMAS IS A TIME —

a time when the very young are filled with awe and wonder at the magnificence of it all

a time when the very old reminisce and are both sad and happy with the memories of Christmas past

a time when the in-betweeners, the middle-aged, direct all their energies toward bringing happiness to the very young and the very old and so are perhaps the really happiest of all.

"CHRISTMAS IS A PLACE —

a place where stands a green tree sparkling with brilliant lights and surrounded with toys and noise — for the very young

a place of a silver tree whose boughs hold some dim blue lights and artificial snow — for the very old

a place of hustle and bustle and turkey with stuffing, and holly and mistletoe, and boxes and ribbon, and cranberry sauce and

mince pie, and so ad infinitum — for the in-betweeners, the middle-aged

a place where many people of all the nations of the world hold their own traditional customs.

"CHRISTMAS IS A SOUND —

a sound of toy horns blaring unharmoniously and choo-choo trains and sleigh bells

a sound of fragrant boughs crackling in a fireplace casting red and gold and blue

a sound of footsteps crunching in a new fallen snow and pine needles rustling

a sound of silence and peace, and then the soft, low, thrilling strains of Silent Night, Holy Night.

"CHRISTMAS IS AN ANNIVERSARY —

A birthday anniversary of a baby who grew to be a man and became known as the Son of God

who spoke simply and wisely saying such things as

'Love thy neighbor as thyself.'

"CHRISTMAS IS MANY THINGS."

—May Virginia Valencik

THE MESSAGE OF THE BELLS

Christmas bells, ringing clear,
Bless this season of the year;
Ringing loud, ringing low
Over fields all white with snow;
Ringing low, ringing loud
Where gay flowers bloom in a crowd.
Christmas bells everywhere
Peace and sweet good-will declare.

COVER PICTURE

Christmas belongs to everyone, of course, but perhaps it has special meaning for homes where the old, old verse can be quoted:

"Hang up the baby's stocking,
Be sure you don't forget,
For the dear little dimpled darling
Has never seen Christmas yet!"

This will be the first Christmas for little Jeffrey Kieser, the brand new son of Mr. and Mrs. George Kieser, Omaha, Nebraska. His adoring brother and sister, Ricky and Gretchen, are two of the most lovable children we have ever seen.

For many, many years the Kiesers and the Driftmiers have been close family friends. Mother and Dad enjoyed and admired Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kieser, pioneer residents of Omaha. Now they have both passed away, but the friendship continues with this generation and we trust will continue for another generation!

Henry Kieser established the oldest and finest book store in our section of the country and avid readers will always remember him gratefully for being able to turn up *anything* they requested. It would have been a genuine loss had this wonderful old store passed out of the family when death removed its founder, so all of us are grateful that George returned from World War II and put his shoulder to the wheel in order that his father's life work could be continued.—Lucile.

CHRISTMAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

By

Evelyn Corrie Birkby

Whether we are ready for it or not, you and I are living in one world.

So what better time could there be to begin living on an international level than Christmas time? In fact, if we eliminate the Christmas traditions brought from other countries, ours would be a bare holiday indeed.

What fun to have a real Christmas from around the world! Stories of the holidays in other countries will probably be all your children need to send them into flights of creative ideas on their own. Libraries and schools and magazines abound with this type of story, and the Christmas annuals provide many stories of other lands.

Start with the Christmas tree in your planning. Oh, what beautiful ideas come from the various countries for decorations! Lithuanian children make wonderful ornaments of straw, windmills, birdcages, crosses, balls, etc. If honest-to-goodness farm straw is not available use the bright colored drinking straws to string with a heavy thread and see how many interesting shapes the children can fashion from them.

Swiss children gild nuts and pine cones to tie on their trees. The Japanese tree is decorated with tangerines and with rice cookies enclosing slips of paper that tell fortunes. Dutch trees are covered with little paper shoes of different colors.

Danish and Norwegian children decorate their trees with flags. Wouldn't it be fun to make flags of the different countries, paint or color them and add them to the decorations on the tree? Any modern encyclopedia has pictures of the flags of each nation for use as a guide. If you or your children feel a lack of artistry the set of seventy-seven United Nation flags are only \$1.50 (add postage). These come double faced with the glue and sticks ready to put together. If you wanted to lace them on a bright ribbon before placing on the trees the sticks could be put to other uses. The address for the UN flags is:

U S Committee for the U N
816 21st St. N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Your children could make little toy sampans from Thailand to use in holding nuts and candy on the tree. These are just little long four-sided boat shapes, easily made from milk cartons or construction paper.

A Czechoslovakian bell can be made from construction paper with a bright ball strung on the bottom. From the same country comes the idea of using pretty colored pipe cleaners and twisting them into odd-shaped "stars."

From many different countries comes the idea of a nativity scene. With a few variations, Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica and many, many other countries have a scene made and put together by the children. An excellent homemade clay which hardens nicely and can be painted is made by the following recipe.



The Birkbys decorate their Christmas tree. Bob Sr. is holding Craig, Jeffrey is watching the "goings on" and Bob Jr. is standing in front of his mother.

Homemade Clay

Combine 2 cups asbestos, 4 table-spoons wall paper paste and enough water to make it pliable. Keep it in a plastic bag until ready to use. Let it ripen twenty four hours after making before using it. The asbestos is a powdered material readily available from a hot furnace dealer.

After the characters and animals for the Christmas scene are molded, let dry for at least 24 hours. Now they are ready to be painted. This clay will take almost any kind of paint including the "poster" paints which really are heavy water colors.

Many other kinds of gifts can be made of this clay as well as creating the nativity scene. Candle holders, plaques for hand prints, etc., can be easily made. But the nativity scene made "from scratch" by the children and set up in a shadow box, on a table or a deep window sill or under the Christmas tree itself will mean a great deal of added pleasure to your holiday. Call the scene a "Persabe" as they do in many countries and the international flavor is present.

Norwegian children remember the birds and animals at Christmas time. They tie sheaves of grain to hang in the tree for the hungry birds. If you have no grain, help the children make little seed cakes by melting bacon fat or suet and combining with seeds, nuts or corn. Pour this mixture while warm into muffin tins. When the cakes are hard, remove them and tie with a string to tree branches or on poles in a safe area.

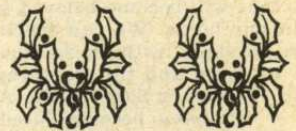
You might enjoy making a candy which is popular in India. They call it *Burfi*. They cut it into squares and cover each square with thin bright gold and silver paper. You might use bright colored sugar to "cover" the candy.

Burfi (Indian Candy)

Boil 1/2 cup sugar and 1/2 cup water together for 10 minutes to make a syrup, then set aside. Now put 3 cups

of milk in a heavy saucepan and boil over very low heat until pale brown and a thick paste. This will take a little over an hour. Stir occasionally at first and remove the skin as needed. As it thickens stir often with a wooden spoon. Add 1/4 cup butter, bring to a boil and cook 10 more minutes over low heat. Add the hot syrup slowly, stirring. Cook until the candy is very thick, stir as often as needed to keep from sticking. Spread on a buttered plate and sprinkle with the colored sugar. Cut in squares when cool.

A Pinta from Mexico is easy to make. A large paper bag (one which holds potatoes and has handles is perfect) can be decorated into the shape of any animal. In Nicaragua the Pintas are made in the shape of a parrot. Make two big birds of construction paper and paste one on each side of the paper bag. You can, if you wish, use crepe paper or ribbon and create a fancy tail and trailing wings. Now fill the bag with candy, cookies, fruit, etc., and hang from the ceiling. Each child is blindfolded in turn and handed a stick. Twirling around makes it more difficult and the fun begins as he tries to break the paper sack. When the Pinta is broken and the goodies come tumbling down every one shares. This is especially good for a party idea for a different way of presenting the treats.



Speculoos (Belgium Cookies)

Speculoos are cookies made in Belgium at Christmas time. They are rolled out and cut into the usual Christmas shapes.

Cream together 1/2 cup butter and 1 scant cup brown sugar. Add 2 cups of sifted flour, a little at a time. (A few drops of water may be added if needed.) Form the dough into a ball and let rest overnight. Now add 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, a pinch of salt and a pinch of nutmeg. Let rest a bit longer. Roll out about 1/2 inch thick and cut into fancy shapes with cookie cutters. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 10 to 15 minutes.

Perhaps one of the best ways to celebrate an international Christmas is through music. We sing so many of the lovely carols without knowing where they originated. Many countries include singing in the homes and caroling parties as part of holiday traditions. Edith L. Thomas has a section in her book called "The Whole World Singing" of Christmas songs which are not so familiar but fun to learn. Your library or school undoubtedly have other books including holiday songs from other nations.

Christmas this year will be celebrated around the world by little boys and girls, by mothers and daddys. May yours be homemade, filled with the happy traditions from as many countries as possible. A real international holiday filled with peace and good will to all men is my wish to each one of you.

READY FOR CHRISTMAS

"Ready for Christmas," she said with a sigh.
 As she gave a last touch to the gifts piled high;
 Then wearily sat for a moment to read,
 'Til soon, very soon, she was nodding her head.
 Then quietly spoke a voice in her dream,
 "Ready for Christmas? What do you mean?"
 Ready for Christmas, when only last week
 You wouldn't acknowledge your friend on the street?
 Ready for Christmas, while holding a grudge?
 Perhaps you had better let God be the judge!
 Why, how can the Christ Child come and abide,
 In a heart that is selfish and filled so with pride?
 Ready for Christmas, when only today
 A beggar had come and you turned him away,
 Without even a smile to show that you cared?
 The little he asked, it could have been spared.
 Ready for Christmas? You've worked it is true,
 But just doing things that you WANTED to do.
 Ready for Christmas? Your circle's too small.
 Why you are not ready for Christmas at all!"
 She woke with a start and a cry of despair,
 There's so little time, and I've still to prepare!
 Oh Father, forgive me, I see what you mean,
 To be ready means more than the house swept clean.
 Yes, more than the giving of gifts and a tree.
 It's the heart swept clean that He wanted to see,
 A heart that is free from bitterness—sin.
 Ready for Christmas and ready for Him!

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THEY SAW THE STAR

The Christmas star is shining!
 And with a steady light
 Its rays beam down upon us
 As they did that Holy Night.
 If you will look more closely
 Five points you will see;
 Each one sends a message
 To folks like you and me.
 The first point speaks of faith in God.
 The second of His love;
 The third is for His saving grace,
 The fourth is guidance from above.
 But the fifth point seems the brightest —
 It can pierce the darkest sky,
 For it speaks of PEACE — of peace on earth,
 We can see it if we try!

—Mildred Cathcart



It was still pitch black last Christmas morning when little Katharine had her parents up to see what Santa Claus had left. It will be years before Donald and Mary Beth get to sleep late on December 25th!

ALL PARENTS KNOW THIS TREE!

By
 Kathleen Sexton

Three years ago our Christmas tree took on a new look and it's never been the same since. That was the year Maryann was three.

First there were paper chains made of any old thing . . . tablet paper, pieces of old envelopes, advertising circulars, old greeting cards . . . with no regard to color, shape or symmetry, and laboriously pasted together by little hands. Then came paper snails, cut round and round and round. Bells, churches with steeples and birds followed. In the next year or two, every scrap that didn't seem to have any particular use was destined to be dropped into THE BOX, accompanied by the remark, "This could be a Christmas Tree Decoration."

Last year our poor tree was so covered up and weighted down with all manner of paraphernalia that you could hardly tell what it was supposed to be until night came and the tree lights were turned on. Then, when it was time to put the decorations away for another year, my little helper told me, "There's an awful lot of stuff here that looks terrible. Let's burn it with the trash."

This year Maryann is six. She has been making decorations, intermittently, since July. They are neatly made of gold, silver, and red. Our tree will once again be a shining, colorful, beautiful symbol of the Christmas season. I'm a little sad to think that no baby-hands are making imaginative trimmings, now.

But next year it will start all over again . . . next year Sally will be three!

WRAP A GAY GIFT

By
 Elaine Derendinger

This is the time of year we wish for ways to create gift-packages that look as if they've taken lots of time and thought. I'd like to share my collection of ideas—the thinking has been done, and they take very little time!

1. Wrap a box containing a child's gift in some colored funny-papers. This not only makes a gay wrapping, but an interesting one, and is also very inexpensive!

2. If you have several small gifts, cut two big socks from assorted Christmas paper and glue the edges together, leaving the top open. Insert the gifts, seal the top with cellophane-tape and tie a bright bow on one corner. This is a good one for using up odd pieces of wrapping-paper.

3. Wrap large flat gifts in a dark, solid tissue paper. Cut a circle, using a salad plate for a guide, from plain white construction paper. Glue circle to the center of the package. Now cut two black eyes, a jaunty, black stove-pipe hat, a nose, red lips, and a crooked brown pipe. Assemble these on the circle to make a happy snow-man, and glue securely.

4. For items like lingerie, scarfs, hankies, etc., save some cardboard rolls from paper-towels, wax-paper, etc. Slip the gift into the roll and wrap in white tissue. Fasten a red ribbon to one end, then wind it around the roll in stick-candy fashion, and fasten to the other end with a bow.

5. An idea for small, flat boxes is this: wrap with plain white paper, and glue a green Christmas tree, cut from construction paper, to the top. Cut bits of bright paper and glue in scattered array to the tree—these are the ornaments.

6. A child will like this one: buy a large, red bandanna and tie up his gifts like a hobo-bag. Fasten to a smooth stick. He can use this wrapping for a plaything later.

7. Pipe-cleaners come in handy at Christmas. Wrap a box in plain blue paper, and fasten cleaners, shaped to resemble stars and moons, with cellophane-tape to the box-top. For a child's box, use white paper and fasten colored pipe-cleaners, shaped to resemble animals, parading across the front.

8. If you run out of wrapping paper, search the scrap-bag for some gay pieces of taffeta, chintz, gingham, etc.; press and proceed to wrap your packages: if you run out of ribbon, make your own by cutting strips of material with the pinking shears. Mix your colors and designs up a bit, using plain with figures, bright with dull, etc. A real saving of money!

9. You might use red and green rubber-bands on a boy's gift in place of ribbon. They consider it much more boyish!

10. Try this for an elderly person or shut-in of any age: wrap and label seven small gifts—one to be opened each day for seven days. Use a bright box or stocking as described in suggestion No. 2. There's nothing like the joy of anticipation—Christmas seems to last for days!

FREDERICK SHARES WITH US A MINISTER'S ROUTINE

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wondered how a Protestant minister spends his time? It may help you to find the answer to that question if I present just one week's schedule of activities. Here is what I did last week:

Sunday: Preached at the early service at 8:45. Preached on another subject at the 11:00 A.M. service. Took twelve college freshmen to lunch with me. Spent the afternoon calling on hospital patients. At 4:00 P.M. I attended a regional church meeting with other delegates from our church. After one hour there I left and drove 56 miles to Pittsfield where I addressed a united service of Congregational churches.

Monday: I attended an all-morning meeting of clergymen at the near-by Westover Air Force Base. I made several calls in the afternoon. In the evening I entertained 22 of my church Deacons at the house.

Tuesday: I had several office appointments and then went to a meeting at a local Jewish Temple to make plans for a special Thanksgiving service. I left there at noon to attend a luncheon for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. I made some calls and then drove 90 miles to Boston to make an address before a large women's organization.

Wednesday: I worked in the office most of the day, not even stopping for lunch. That night I was again in the office meeting with a young couple that wished to get married.

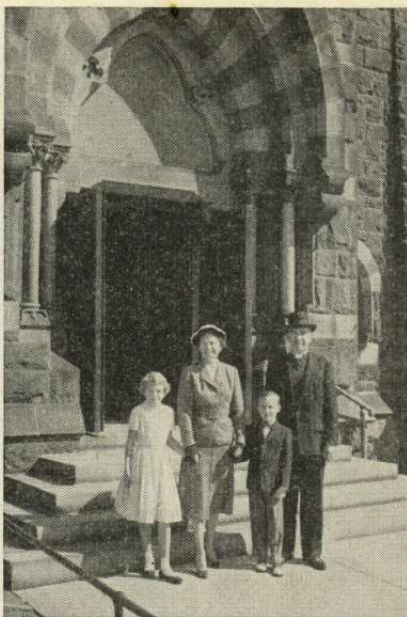
Thursday: I spent the morning at the office. At noon I gave an address at a local hotel to a large businessmen's luncheon club. I made some calls. That evening I lectured to my Adult Bible Class at the church.

Friday: I was in the office during the morning. Went to a Rotary Club luncheon at noon. Visited the local electrical generating plant in the afternoon on a special guest program. Had dinner at the church with 150 parents and Sunday School children.

Saturday: I worked at the office in the morning. In the afternoon I took Betty and the children to a near-by mountain to see the beautiful fall foliage. In the evening I studied the three sermons I had to give the next day.

I am glad we made the little trip to the mountain, for the foliage was the nicest this season that it has been in many years. In September they were saying that there would be little color in the foliage because of the drought, but it didn't work that way. The mountains were simply spectacularly beautiful.

The next day after our trip to see the foliage I asked my church people if they had any idea how much the beautiful foliage had cost them? Of course they didn't know, for they had not been thinking in terms of dollars and cents. But based on the fact that it costs approximately \$1,500 more a year for a family of four to live in the north where we have beautiful fall foliage than it does for a family the same size to live in the South



The minister and his family leave their church on a Sunday morning. This is our most recent picture of Mary Leanna, Betty, David and Frederick. They are standing in front of the South Congregational Church, Springfield, Mass.

where there is no lovely fall foliage, the view that my church people had this year cost them well over a million dollars! Is it any wonder that we speak of the view from our mountain as a million dollar view?

Most of you reading this letter live in the Middle West or the West. Here in the East we often wonder what living conditions are like out there where you are. Here there is a great deal of complaining about the high cost of living and the high taxes, and I suppose that you have the same complaints.

Springfield is an industrial city. Last year the average Springfield taxpayer, a married man with two dependents, had a gross income of \$8,125, and his net income after he had paid his income taxes was \$6,701. Of course, if the average Springfield taxpayer should discover how much he really pays each year to tax collectors who nibble at his wallet with the so-called "indirect taxes", he would be astounded. He would find that his income and property taxes are only a fraction of what he contributes as his share of the cost of federal, state and local governments. The rest of it is in indirect taxes, hidden in the price he pays for nearly everything he buys. For the average Springfield citizen it adds up to a surprising \$2,790 a year.

This morning on the way to the office I stopped off to pay a visit on a friend of mine who is in the automobile business. I told him that I couldn't afford to buy a new car now and would keep the one I had for a long time to come, and in reply he laughed and said: "Well, you certainly are a strange one! Just look at this."

And he took out an editorial he'd recently clipped from a newspaper and read to me: "The American people must continue to live luxuriously as

a means of keeping their economy sound. If the American people stop buying new cars and television sets and refrigerators we shall immediately go into a depression. Buy, buy, buy! If you are not willing to go into debt to get that new car or that new carpet for the living room, you are un-American! You are sabotaging your country's expanding economy."

Then this friend went on to tell me about the young married couples who come to his place of business to buy new cars. He said: "They want to pay on a 36-month plan when they haven't even finished paying for the car they want to give us as a down-payment. We've noticed, however, that when people are in debt they always pay for their car when they can't pay for anything else. The doctors, the dentists, the merchants who extend credit for groceries and food, and of course the church — all of these obligations they can let go, but their car payments are always made."

Yesterday I was having lunch with a friend who had just returned from a bankers' convention where one of America's leading financial experts spoke. He said that this expert came right out and expressed himself emphatically. "The thing that worries me," he said, "is that no one nowadays hears anyone say: 'I can't afford it!' People even have forgotten what that phrase means. In the old days if one didn't have money saved for such things as a new car, he then said, 'I can't afford it!' But today all that has changed."

I don't know the answers to any of these big problems, but I think that expressions of opinion from various sections of our huge country are interesting because they reflect the situations that confront us today.

This coming weekend I am going to do something interesting. I am exchanging pulpits with a minister of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Easton, Pennsylvania. I shall conduct the service in his church and he will conduct the service in my church.

This exchange was arranged by our denomination as part of a general program to acquaint the Congregationalists of New England with the Evangelical and Reformed people who have just merged with us to form the new United Church of Christ. Last year when this exchange was first tried, a terrible blizzard prevented its successful mission, and so this year we try again. I am planning to fly to Newark, New Jersey tomorrow, and there I shall rent a car and drive on over to Easton, driving back to Newark on Sunday and taking a plane back to Springfield. If the weather is no better tomorrow than it is today, I shall have a very rough trip, but I have had those before, and so it does not worry me.

Preaching in someone else's pulpit is never too difficult, but this time I shall be taking the entire service and that will be difficult for the Evangelical and Reformed service is much more liturgical than the one in my own church. Not only do I have to learn when it is that I speak, but I also have to learn when it is that I keep silent.

(Continued on page 16)

A TABLE GRACE FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Father, we thank Thee for this food and for the love we share around this table. We are glad that the spirit of Christmas can be ours, and that it means a happy time for our family. Help us to prepare for the birthday of Jesus through being kind to one another, through sharing with others, and through loving and serving Thee. Bless all Thy children everywhere. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ABIGAIL'S CANDIED GRAPEFRUIT PEEL

Remove peel from grapefruit in quarters and cover with cold water. Boil until tender. Drain. Cut into strips with scissors. Make a syrup of 1 cup sugar and 1/2 cup water. Add the grapefruit peel and cook until all the syrup is absorbed, stirring carefully with a fork. Remove peel from syrup. Roll in granulated sugar and dry on waxed paper. Orange and lemon peel may be prepared the same way. A box of candied peel makes a lovely gift.

APRICOT STARS

1/2 cup butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla
2 1/2 cups sifted flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla, beating well. Stir in sifted dry ingredients and mix well. Chill dough, then roll on lightly floured surface to 1/8 inch thickness. Cut with star-shaped cookie cutter. Take half the cookies and cut the center out with a tiny round cutter, or a thimble if you have no tiny cutter. Place other half of cookies on ungreased cookie sheets. Top each with a teaspoon of apricot filling and cover with remaining cookies. Press edges together and bake in a 375 degree oven for 8 to 10 minutes or until light brown. A date filling may be substituted for the apricot filling if desired.

Apricot Filling

1 1/3 cups chopped dried apricots
1 cup sugar
2 Tbls. flour
3 Tbls. lemon juice
6 Tbls. orange juice
3 Tbls. butter
Combine all ingredients except butter. Bring to a boil and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in butter.

Date Filling

1 cup sugar
1 pkg. dates
1 cup water
2 Tbls. orange juice
Cook the sugar, dates and water until thick. Then add the orange juice.



CRANBERRY PINWHEELS

1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup crushed pineapple
1 cup fresh cranberries
1 Tbls. cornstarch
2 Tbls. water
2 cups biscuit mix
1 Tbls. sugar
2/3 cup milk
1 Tbls. melted butter

Combine sugar, pineapple and cranberries in saucepan. Cook until berries pop (about 10 minutes). Blend cornstarch with water and stir into hot fruit mixture. Cook until it starts to thicken. Cool. Combine biscuit mixture, sugar, milk and melted butter. Mix well. Turn onto floured surface and knead lightly. Pat or roll to rectangle 12 x 18 inches. Spread with cooled filling. Dot with butter and roll up. Cut in slices and place cut side down on greased cookie sheet. Bake 15 minutes in a 425 degree oven. Makes 8 to 12 pinwheels. Nice for Christmas breakfast or luncheon.

CARAMEL CRISPIES

1/2 lb. vanilla caramels
2 Tbls. water
1 cup broken pecans
4 cups bite-size shredded rice or wheat cereal

Place caramels and water in a double boiler. Heat, stirring often, until melted and smooth. Add broken pecans. Mix. Place the shredded rice or wheat cereal in a large bowl. Pour on the nut-caramel mixture. Toss until well coated. Spread on lightly buttered cookie sheet. Let stand until the surface is dry, then pull apart into pieces.

DANISH CHRISTMAS CARDAMON COOKIES

3/4 lb. butter
1 lb. flour
1/2 lb. sugar
Rind of 1 lemon, grated
6 or 8 cardamon seeds, pulverized
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup ground almonds
1 egg

Sift flour and sugar together on bread board. Add spices and lemon rind and nuts. Make a hole in center of dough after butter has been kneaded into the flour mixture. Add one egg. Knead until soft ball. (There is no leavening agent of any kind in this.) Roll a little at a time onto pastry cloth which has a tiny bit of flour rubbed into it. Cut into small round discs about the size of a silver dollar. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Brush each cookie with the beaten yolk and white of an egg. Bake at 400 degrees for about 10 to 12 minutes. (There is no liquid in this.)

RECIPE FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Take the crisp cold of a December night, add two generous parts of snow. Stir in air so clear it tinkles. Into a generous heart, mix the wonder of a girl, the sparkle of a young boy's glance, the love of parents and set gently before the chimney side. Add the lightest touch of a reindeer's hooves, a sprig of holly, a scent of fir. Combine with a deep love of God and an abiding faith in your fellow man. Set the mixture to rise in the warmth of a dream of good will to all. It will be almost ready to serve when it bubbles with warmth and good feeling. Bedeck with the light of a star set in the East, garnish with shining balls of gold, silver and red. Serve to the tune of an ancient carol. This recipe for a Merry Christmas is tested and is sufficient for everyone.

SWEDISH CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Cook 6 egg yolks by dropping one at a time in boiling salted water. Sift together:
2 cups flour
1/2 tsp. salt
Cream:
3/4 cup butter
3/4 cup sugar
Add cooked egg yolks which have been put through a fine sieve. Add:
1/2 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter lemon flavoring
3 Tbls. sweet cream
Add sifted dry ingredients.

Roll dough to 1/8 inch thickness and cut into fancy shapes. Sprinkle with colored sugar. This recipe is also good for a cookie press cookie. *Please note that there is no soda or baking powder in this recipe.* Bake for 6 to 8 minutes in a 375 degree oven.

UNCOOKED CREAM MINTS

2 Tbls. butter
2 Tbls. vegetable shortening
2 Tbls. warm water
2 cups sifted confectioner's sugar, firmly packed

Butter and shortening are both needed for proper flavor and consistency of these mints. Cream them together and add warm water. Beat until creamy. Flavor and color to suit taste. Add sugar gradually and blend well into creamed mixture until a roll may be shaped. Wrap in waxed paper and chill. Slice for serving. If you prefer, you can form little bits into small balls and mash them into flat discs. Let them stand for several hours and they are delicious. Put in cool place and after standing for a day or so when they are brought into a warm room, they don't get sticky and hold their shape nicely. When they are firm they may be chocolate coated by melting 8 ozs. of semi-sweet chocolate. Add 1 Tbls. melted paraffin. Dip the patties in this, place on waxed paper on large shallow pan and chill in refrigerator.



ROCKY ROAD CANDY

2 sqs. bitter chocolate
1/2 cup cold milk
2 cups sugar
1 cup walnuts
1/3 cup corn syrup
2 Tbls. butter
1 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla
Marshmallows to cover bottom of small pan

Grate chocolate and add all ingredients except vanilla, nuts and marshmallows. Stir all together well and stir while boiling. Cook until it makes a soft ball in cold water, about 5 minutes. Remove from fire, stir in nuts and vanilla and beat until thick. Pour over marshmallows in buttered pan. (Marshmallows may be cut in halves or quarters, or the tiny ones may be used.) Chill well before cutting.

PEANUT BRITTLE

2 cups sugar
1/2 cup water
3/4 tsp. cream of tartar
2 Tbls. molasses
1/2 tsp. salt
2 Tbls. butter
1 cup salted peanuts
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda

Grease a large platter or baking sheet. Put sugar, water, cream of tartar in sauce pan and cook without stirring until a small quantity dropped in cold water separates into heavy threads. At this point add molasses, butter and salt. Cook, stirring constantly, until a little dropped in cold water becomes brittle. Add nuts and soda at once and mix quickly. Pour on platter and spread. Work very fast or it will get too hard and will not spread thin. When cool, but not cold, break into pieces.

YUMMY BUTTER TOFFEE

2 cups sugar
1 cup water
1 lb. butter or margarine
6 oz. package unblanched almonds

Boil sugar and water until it forms a thread. Add butter, a cube at a time. Use high heat; stir after adding each cube until it melts. Add almonds and cook at a temperature of 290 degrees. Stir constantly. Pour at once into a large flat pan. Coat both sides with a large milk chocolate bar. One side can be done by placing small pieces of chocolate on warm candy and spreading. Cool. Then coat other side. Break into pieces with wooden mallet or small hammer. Some of the nuts may be saved and chopped fine, then sprinkled over chocolate coating before it sets.

HOLIDAY COOKING CALLS FOR Leanna's KITCHEN-KLATTER FLAVORING

Vanilla

Lemon

Maple

Almond

If your local grocer doesn't carry it, send \$1.25 for any 3 flavors, 3 oz. bottles, pp. to Kitchen-Klatter, Dept. 96, Shenandoah, Ia. (Please send us your grocer's name.)

HURRY! OFFER LIMITED!

6 exceptionally fine quality plastic bowl covers. Assorted pastel colors in sizes ranging from 7" to 17 1/2". Send 3 bottom lines from our new labels, or 3 black stars from our former labels, plus ONLY 30¢ to Kitchen-Klatter, Shenandoah, Ia. for this terrific bargain that you can't find anyplace else.

PEPPERMINT CHRISTMAS PIE

1 Tbls. gelatin
1/4 cup cold water
1 cup whipped cream
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup crushed peppermint candy
3 stiffly beaten egg whites
1 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla flavoring
1/4 tsp. peppermint flavoring
Soften gelatin in cold water. Dissolve over hot water. Cool. Stir slowly into whipped cream. Beat sugar into egg whites. Fold into gelatin and cream mixture. Fold in flavorings and candy. Put in a Chocolate Crumb Crust, made by combining 1 1/2 cups crushed chocolate wafers, 6 Tbls. melted butter and 2 Tbls. sugar. Press into pie pan. Chill well before adding peppermint filling.

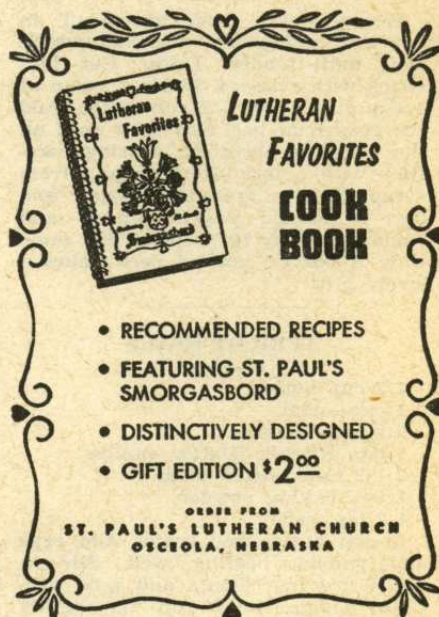
THUMB PRINT COOKIES

1/2 cup soft shortening
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 egg yolk
1 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla
1 cup sifted flour
1/4 tsp. salt
Mix well. Roll in small balls the size of a walnut. Then combine 1 egg white, slightly beaten and 3/4 cup chopped nuts.

Roll cookie balls in egg white, then in nuts. Place on a cookie sheet and bake for 5 minutes. Remove from oven and make a "thumb print" in each cookie using the bowl of a spoon. Return to oven and continue baking for 8 minutes. Fill indentation with jelly.

WHITE FUDGE

3 cups sugar
1 cup coffee cream
1/2 cup white corn syrup
4 Tbls. butter
8 quartered marshmallows
Cook sugar, cream, syrup and butter over low heat until soft ball stage is reached. Remove from fire and add cut up marshmallows and beat until stiff. Flavor with vanilla, or flavor with Kitchen-Klatter maple flavoring; add nut meats if you like.



PRALINES

2 cups brown sugar
2 cups pecans
1/3 cup cold water
1/4 cup butter
1 tsp. Kitchen-Klatter vanilla
Put all ingredients, except vanilla, in saucepan. Cook until hard ball stage. Remove from fire, add vanilla and beat until consistency of very soft fudge. Watch that it doesn't set as fudge will do. Drop from spoon on buttered cookie sheet. Should it get too stiff, put pan over hot water.

DATE ROLL CANDY

1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup white corn syrup
1 cup thin cream
Boil until it forms a soft ball. Add 1 pkg. dates cut up. Boil until it makes a path behind the spoon. Take from stove and add 1/2 cup coconut and 1/2 cup nuts. Beat until it is stiff enough to roll in a damp cloth. Chill and slice as used from roll.

DOROTHY'S REPORT FROM THE FARM

Dear Friends:

Frank has just been in and had a sandwich and a cup of coffee before going to the field. This is another beautiful day for working outdoors, and how much there is to do on a farm at this time of year.

Last week we got the potatoes dug and safely into the cave before a hard freeze. Some of the turnips have been pulled, but Frank planted so many turnips this year that I sometimes wonder if we will ever get them all into the cave. Fortunately we have many friends who like turnips and we are very happy to keep them well supplied.

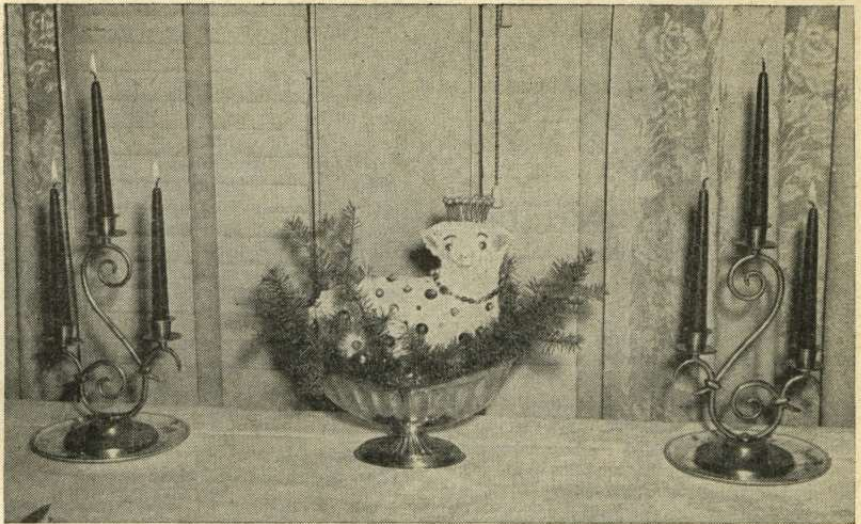
We finally got our beans combined. They were planted late, and on bottom ground it always takes beans longer to mature. When they were ready to combine we had a lot of rain and by the time the ground was dry enough to get over, it would rain again. For the last two days Frank has been burning the bean stubble so that he could fall plow it. Yesterday was such a beautiful day that I went out with him all afternoon and helped him burn. The way he does it doesn't take too long. He fastens a long wire onto an old tire and after he gets the tire to burning real well he just drags it down the bean row and the straw catches afire. He didn't used to burn the straw before he plowed, but it was forever getting packed in around the plow and he would have to get down off the tractor and pull it out, so he can make better time plowing if he burns the straw first.

I took advantage of this beautiful weather by picking up walnuts. Some years we don't have many walnuts and when we do have a good year I try to pick up all I can find so that I won't ever be without. I always try to get at least a half-bushel hulled and dried for Dad for his birthday. He loves black walnuts and it is something I have I can give him that I know he really enjoys.

We spent a couple of days last week at Edna and Raymond Hall's farm near Allerton. Raymond had several acres of silage cane this year and Frank had told him that when he was ready to shock it he would come down and help him. I went along and had a good visit with Edna.

It is getting cold enough now that we have to start thinking about the wood pile. We have already used up all we had left over from last winter, and Frank has a pile ready to saw so I imagine if he can get some help they will saw it this afternoon. That means I'm going to have to make either cookies, doughnuts, or pies right after dinner so I will have something to serve with coffee when they get done.

The folks have spent one Sunday with us since they came home from Denver. Juliana came along and brought me a big box of tulip bulbs, crocus and scilla which I hope to get planted this afternoon. She had planned to get Kristin to help her and



Mother and Dad entertained all of the people who help with Kitchen-Klatter at a buffet supper in their home last Christmas. Juliana helped her Grandmother fix up the dining room table with brilliant red candles and the Christmas lamb. Here he rests peacefully, crown and all, in a silver bowl that is filled with evergreens.

plant them all for me while she was here, but Kristin was sick in bed with the flu and so they didn't get it done. Another job Kristin and I are going to have to get done this weekend is rake up leaves. I noticed yesterday that all the leaves are off the trees in the yard so I just hope we have a nice day Saturday while Kristin is home from school so I can have some help.

The Christmas season will soon be here and it is the time of year I like to entertain. To me it is such fun to fix refreshments for a Christmas party because there are so many attractive things you can fix. Since you will be reading this letter before the Christmas parties start, I thought I would pass along to you some of the ways that I decorated cakes for 4-H meetings, Sunday School parties, and for holiday parties at school.

I almost always serve cake decorated in some attractive way because two long flat cakes can go a long way when cut into squares and frosted. Using two small candy canes for runners put a square of white frosted cake on top of them and you have a darling little sleigh. Put a little peanut pixie on the cake with two pieces of red cord wrapped around his hands and fasten these to the curved ends of the canes.

You could give each of your guests a little package on her plate. Frost your cake squares on all sides with white, red or green frosting, whichever you prefer. With a contrasting color in your cake decorator and using the writing tip, make a ribbon both ways across the top of the cake and down the sides. Where the frosting crosses on top make a little bow.

There are several things you can do with cup cakes. Frost the whole cake and roll it in coconut. Put a little sprig of evergreen on top with a red birthday candle in the center. Light the candles just before you serve. Or leave off the coconut and put a small candy cane on the top with point sticking down into the cake. Here again you could use a

peanut pixie. He can be hanging from the top of one, climbing up the cane on another, or just sitting on the cake with his arms and legs wrapped around the cane. Your peanut pixie is a wonderful conversation piece no matter how you use him.

Cup cakes frosted all over and decorated either with colored candies or frosting to look like Christmas tree ornaments are attractive. I have some individual Christmas tree gelatine molds that I have used many times both for salad and cakes. When the cakes were frosted I accented the shape of the tree with the writing tip of the cake decorator and used red hots and silver balls for the ornaments. If you use gelatine in your molds you can outline your tree with cream cheese. Serve decorated cookies with these attractive and delicious "trees".

If you have the 4-H Christmas meeting at your house this year why don't you do what we did last year? I baked a large batch of Christmas cookies and the girls decorated them after their meeting. Then we put them in a large box and delivered them to the County Home. The girls had fun doing it, and it made another item in their record books under 4-H Services.

For the past four years I have been a 4-H club leader, but this year I decided to step out and let someone else take over. I have enjoyed working with the girls and have learned a lot myself, but right now I felt I had "too many irons in the fire" and since there was a much more competent person to take my place I decided to rest from it this year. If they ever need me, I'll be available.

It's time to stop and think about dinner, so until next month

Sincerely,
Dorothy

Heap on more wood! The wind is chill,
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas merry still!



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM KRISTIN

Dear Friends:

Winter is here again. I wonder if you are like my mother and prefer summer? She doesn't like cold weather at all but my father and I just love winter. I suppose my reason is because of Christmas — the beautiful carols, the tree, church services, family gatherings on Christmas Eve, all the excitement of shopping tours, decorating cookies, wrapping presents, decorating the house and all the other wonderful things associated with this time of year.

Ever since I can remember about two weeks before Christmas Daddy and I go into the timber to find our Christmas tree. If there is snow on the ground we take the sled and bring it home; if no snow, we bring it home in the jeep or the wagon. Daddy is very particular about our tree. It must be tall enough to almost touch our ten-foot ceiling, and as nearly perfect in shape as possible. I never get tired of looking at the finished product when the star, tinsel, balls, candy canes, peanut pixies, and lights are all in place.

Another family custom that Mother and I established a few years ago is that of candle-making. This is not only easy but lots of fun as well. We get a big sheet of wax at our creamery and melt it over hot water. For coloring we use crayons melted right with the wax. You can use anything you want to for molds but Mother and I generally use milk and cream cartons, also quart ice cream cartons because they are easy to tear off after the wax has hardened.

The first year we made candles we had a terrible time getting the wicks into them. Someone had told us to put the wick in after the wax had hardened by heating an ice pick, then making the hole and putting the wick into it. The next year Mother figured out a way to anchor the wick and pour the melted wax around it — real simple. She made a little hole in the center of the bottom of the carton and pushed the wick up through this, tying a knot in the end so it wouldn't go all the way through. She tied the top end to a piece of wire drawing it up tight enough so that when the wire was laid across the top of the carton it would stay centered and wouldn't slip around. Pour in your wax. After the wax has hardened cut off the knot on the bottom, take the carton off and you are ready to frost it if you want to. The frosting is just wax that has been whipped to look like foam. When you start to put this on you really have to work fast because it doesn't take it very long to get too hard to spread.

If you want your candles to be real

fancy, you can decorate them with tiny colored balls, sequins, or just shake on glitter which comes in different colors. We gave some of our neighbors candles last year as Christmas gifts and they really appreciated them. We use our own for different Christmas arrangements on the table, coffee table, piano, book case, etc. Lots of people just use their candles for decoration and never light them. Not us — we love candles and burn them every night during the holiday season. We can always make more next year.

It is a family tradition of the Johnson family to spend Christmas Eve at our house. Everyone comes in time for a delicious oyster stew supper and after supper we open the presents. Mother generally serves another lunch before they all go home.

Next Sunday our church group is having a hayride. In all the years I have lived on the farm I have, of course, ridden many, many times on the hayrack while Daddy was putting up hay, but I have never attended a real hayride party. All my friends say they are lots of fun and I can hardly wait.

On Wednesday the Y-Teen girls are having a World Fellowship supper in the high school cafeteria. We freshmen are representing China. We are to take any Chinese articles we have at home for a table display, and for the dinner we are to furnish Chinese food. Other classes will represent other countries.

Juli was here for Thanksgiving. We had lots of fun as usual. The Johnson family all came to our house for dinner. I also had a little party with some of my friends and some of the girls Juli knows pretty well here.

Last Saturday our 4-H club invited five other clubs and other guests to a big party from 8:00 to 11:00. We played games, danced and had refreshments. Everyone had a lot of fun. We didn't have as big a crowd as we had expected because so many young people were sick with the flu.

The Chariton Homecoming was really exciting. We had a pep assembly in the afternoon at which time the queen was crowned and her attendants were introduced. The queen and attendants are chosen by a vote of the entire student body and are all members of the senior class. Following the assembly there was a big parade. The different classes and organizations had been working on their floats for a week and they were really beautiful. To make the day complete Chariton won the football game against Indianola. There was a dance at the high school gymnasium after the game and all in all the Homecoming was really a great success.

Looking into the future I have many plans already for Christmas. Besides activities at home an organization I belong to is going to have a big formal dance during the holidays, there are two caroling parties, a Y-Teen party, and a 4-H party.

My greatest wish is that you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy, Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Kristin



LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

It is just a tiny candle

But it sends a cheery ray
To gladden hearts of travelers
Who chance to pass this way.

Dear God, may I, though humble
Reflect Thy light divine,
So lonely souls in darkness
May glimpse sweet faith sublime.
—Mildred Cathcart

THIS LETTER WARMED OUR HEARTS

"In our town we have a home for the aged, and it is staffed by the most wonderful and considerate people. However, there are so many, many things to be done in every day that some of the tasks they'd like to do just cannot be accomplished.

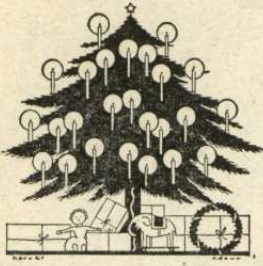
"About the second week of December I was there, and some of the old people were worried as to how they would get their cards and letters written. This is usually taken care of by one of the office girls, but at the holiday season it is too much for her along with her regular duties. So I volunteered to do their cards for them.

"When they found out they could have someone help select cards and do the writing, they came up with names of old friends whom they hadn't been able to send cards to before. I spent ten afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 with them and their cards and letters. I made trips uptown to get what was needed and just went right through the whole process from beginning to end.

"On the night of December 21st, five of us volunteered to look after the patients from 7:00 to 9:30 while the staff had their party in the dining room. It was a wonderful experience for us, and we were so glad to be able to help in order that they might have a staff party.

"My house was somewhat neglected during that time, but I just forgot the dusting and did what I thought was more worthy. Last week I made 22 dozen cookies, three kinds and they all went to sick people, shutins, etc.

"I hope people will take time to look around and see if there isn't someone who needs a little help now and then. I have a neighbor who is not well and for more than a year I have hung her washing on the line for her — a little thing, but it helped her so much. I know the world is full of people doing these things, but there is much to be done and the laborers are few."



CREATIVE CHRISTMASING

By

Laura James

There is just no questioning the fact that the best Christmas is the one in which you put the most of *yourself*. I have always maintained that when it comes to decorations, Christmas gifts and arrangements, the best ones are at your fingertips, and the ones which you make as a family or with close friends. They may not be perfect in detail nor have a professional look. But what matters is that they have the "made with love" look!

Try some of these suggestions and then think of others to make this a creative Christmas for you and yours.

ANGEL to use as favors or in arrangements.

Fold a lace paper doily (one approximately 6" in diameter is a nice size) in half. Bring to cone shape and staple or tape together. Cut wings from another doily. A good way to describe the shape of these wings is to say that they are almost the shape of a butterfly. Fasten to back. On a 1/4" strip of heavy construction paper or cardboard, glue an angel head seal. Add a halo cut from gold paper.

For extra pretty angels, dip bottom of skirt and edges of wings in glue and then in gold glitter. Adorable angels can be made by using the tips of white hen feathers for the wings. These are truly darling as place favors or for place cards. Try using pink napkins for pink angels—with white feather wings!

Do you love to mold **CANDLES** into unusual shapes? Then try pouring the melted wax into a large mixing bowl. Sprinkle one of these big white bowl-shaped candles with pink glitter, shading to cerise. Set in a nest of evergreens and add some gold ball ornaments for accent.

Don't throw away those **TIN KEY STRIPS** when opening cans! On a mantel or low table place a large white candle in the center. Uncurl several of these key strips to form pretty spirals and let them twist up from the base of the candle on either side. Hold in place with modeling clay or stick into plastic foam. Arrange a rectangular arrangement of evergreens (spray tips with silver paint) out from the base of the candle. White deer ornaments might be used for interesting accents with this.

A CLEVER KITCHEN CENTER-PIECE: Fill the top and bottom of a glass coffemaker with Christmas balls or wrapped Christmas candies (brightly colored foil wrappings). Tie a big red bow on the handle.

HAVE A PRETTY, BRIGHT ALUMINUM SKILLET? Fill it with greens, surrounding a fat red candle in the center. Add a red ribbon bow on the handle, or perch a row of peanut pixies along the handle.

A DIFFERENT DOOR SWAG. Using the usual evergreens as the base, tie on small cellophane bags which you have filled with little Christmas cookies, candies, apples, etc. Perhaps you would like to invite young guests to pick a sack treat and then keep it replenished during the holidays.

READ TOGETHER AND REAP TOGETHER

By

Mildred Cathcart

One of the things we enjoy most as a family pastime is reading together. Even when our children were very, very young—too small really to understand stories—we read little poems to them. These poems had oft-repeated phrases or melodious lines which appealed to a child.

Then, as the youngsters grew a little older, we went through the regular nursery rhyme routine that all parents know.

But our reading did not stop there. As the children learned to read, we listened attentively to them as they read the little primer stories aloud. Just this week our six year old Jean Marie is offering as her contribution, "The Story of the Little Lost Puppy."

We have shared the well-known classics with our children. What adventure to drift lazily down the Mississippi River with Huckleberry Finn, to admire the loyalty and devotion of Kipling's mongoose, or to live in a fairy world with Cinderella! And what a privilege to read aloud the magnificent Psalms with our children and give them inspiration and courage to meet their daily problems.

But we have found that reading together reaps even greater rewards than mere enjoyment found in the printed words alone. For example, our reading of the Jungle Book led to an interest in the land of India. The children read geographies and encyclopedias to learn more of the country. They were interested in talks by missionaries who had returned from that country. And with their study they learned a new respect for the people of that crowded land. And they also learned a deeper love for the freedom they enjoy in this great country where they were privileged to have been born.

By selecting books dealing with various historical years in our country and with various sections of the United States, we are implanting a knowledge and respect for our land. By reading books of other lands we can encourage our young children to become better acquainted with people in other lands. It is a wonderful way to break down those barriers which tend to make us biased and prejudiced. We can, through reading aloud with our children, help them to become better citizens for our world of tomorrow.



Mildred Cathcart and her two charming daughters, Kerry Lee and Jean Marie.

I feel sure that the family who reads together will reap together. The pleasure that results is plain to be seen. But we shall reap even further. Perhaps the full harvest cannot be known today, but I am sure the harvest will be bountiful.

OUR BIRD PIE

By

Kerry Lee Cathcart

The birds help us so much in the summer time that we can repay them a little bit by feeding them in the winter. I have read several books to find out just what would be best to give the birds that stay around our house.

I have found that birds aren't nearly so finicky about their food as most of us. They enjoy many of the table scraps such as bread crusts, cracker crumbs, bits of fresh vegetables or fruit peelings. For special treats birds like wheat, oats, barley, millet, sunflower seeds, cracked corn and nut meats. When we do not have these grains, we take some of our allowance and buy bird seed at our local store. I read that the seed and grain provide body heat and energy but the berries and fruit are more like a tonic for them. These compare to our salads.

Suet is very good for birds because it seems to supply the energy that the birds get from insects in summer.

We used to put the bird food in a shallow lid but much of it blew away or was scattered over the ground. Then we decided to make our **BIRD PIE** and the birds like this very much.

First we melted some fat in a shallow pan. Before the fat hardened, we dropped in various kinds of the bird food I have named. Then when the fat was cooled and set we put this out. The birds seemed to enjoy picking the grain and bits of chopped food out of the fat. Some books say you may use melted paraffin instead of the fat. One book suggested that grit be put out in the winter time so we got this at our store and put it in our bird pie, too.

Our birds like their **BIRD PIES** and we like the funny little tricks of our birds. They provide us with a lot of fun when we have to stay in the house. Our Bird Pie is our little "thank you" to the birds who helped us keep our flower garden rid of pests last summer.

GOOD BOOKS

The Lasting Gift

Good books have long been the choice of thousands of people as the gift they would prefer to receive.

It would take pages to list the many fine books that are available, so we have chosen a few top-appeal books and listed them on PAGE 14 of the NOVEMBER KITCHEN-KLATTER. Turn to this listing in your last month's issue of this magazine and select the books you will need for your Christmas gift list. A handy order coupon is there for your convenience in ordering.

A New cook book that has come to our attention could well fit into your gift list: **COOKING AMERICAN by Sidney W. Dean.


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RETROSPECT

I am fully aware
That my youth has been spent,
That my Qet-Up-And-Go
Has got up and went!
But I really don't mind,
When I think with a grin
Of the many grand places
My Get-Up has been.

FAMILY LETTERS—Concluded

FREDERICK

It reminds me of the time a young man went to the Greek Philosopher, Socrates, in order to learn conversation. In the opening commonplaces he talked so incessantly that Socrates said he could not accept him as a pupil without a double fee.

"Why charge me double?" asked the loquacious student.

"Because," Socrates answered, "I must teach you two things. The one, how to hold your tongue, and the other how to speak!"

Soon we will be deep into the annual activities that culminate with our observance of the birth of Christ. There has never been a year when Man hasn't needed to reflect upon the profound meaning of this event, but in 1957 it seems of overwhelming importance to think long and prayerfully upon the true significance of Christ's birth. May all of us dedicate ourselves anew in these coming weeks to the genuine spirit of Brotherhood and Peace.

Betty, Mary Leanna and David join me in sending Christmas greetings to all of you family friends near and far.

—Frederick

LUCILE

but it's in such bad shape that it would have been sheer extravagance to touch a paint brush to it, so we're hoping that next year we can put in one of those new block ceilings and bring it down to a reasonable height. After all, you don't need a 10 ft. ceiling in a kitchen so small that we've yet to sit down and have a meal in it!

You'll be getting ready for Thanksgiving just at the time this reaches you or, if you live at a distance, Thanksgiving will be over. Mother and I have always said that we wished we could wave a magic wand when it comes time to get out the holiday issues—then we could give you full details on everything we've done. But until such a magic wand is invented we can only say that we wish you and the people whom you love, the very happiest holiday imaginable . . . may only peace and contentment be yours.

Always your friend—Lucile

MARGERY

so completely in order that you who are interested in such a bazaar next year will have something to go on. You could change this outline to suit your own church members' homes of course. As this group plans, you could also serve a cafeteria style luncheon at the church for which you would make an additional charge, and a Christmas tea in the afternoon; or serve the tea at one of the decorated homes.

There are beginning to be a few whispered secrets around our house as I imagine there are around yours. We are entertaining the Stroms at our house this year on Christmas Eve so I'm beginning to make plans for that.

Have a happy holiday season!

Margery



Mother says: "I wonder how many of you grandparents who go to visit grandchildren in Denver have a picture very much like this in your photo albums? We had a picnic high in the mountains, and Clark is clutching a sack of cookies. Emily and Alison are beside him."

GOD GAVE US

God gave us hills,
white hills in the moonlight,
And lacy gray shadows
that quiver and run;
And light, fluffy snowflakes
That sift in the dusklight,
To a world veiled in stillness
as night is begun.

God gave us waters,
ice-bound and frozen;
God gave us little white
tracks in the snow;
And little fat sparrows
that sleep in the church-tops,
And bells that peal out
to the stillness below.

God gave us Christmas
and bright wreaths of holly;
Taught us, like Jesus,
to bless and forgive;
Filled all our hearts
with that peace universal;
And God gave us love
and the spirit to give.

—Unknown

THE ROAD TO CHRISTMAS

By a beautiful road our Christmas comes,

A road full twelve months long,
And every mile is as warm as a smile,
And every hour is a song.
Flower and flake and cloud and sun,
And the winds that riot and sigh,
Have their way to do ere the dreams come true

And Christmas glows in the sky,
The holly and cedar and mistletoe,
They thrilled when the nights were chill,
For the maiden's glance and the mad-cap dance

And the lover's foot on the sill.
For the Christmas mirth the brave pine grew,
Serene and straight and tall,
The deep woods knew in their hush and dew

When the dearest of days would fall!

GOOD NEIGHBORS

By

Gertrude Hayzlett

Where has this year gone? Here it is almost Christmas, and I feel that I haven't accomplished a third of the things I planned to do. Is it that way with you? Have any of us done as much as we should for the shutins around us? Here are some who need what we can do.

Miss Grace Sarsfield, 612 West 6 St., Atlantic, Iowa has a birthday coming up the 30th of December. She has not been well for a long time and this summer suffered a broken hip. The last I heard she was still in the hospital. I am sure she would enjoy hearing from you.

Mrs. Harriett Roberts, 32 S. Vale, Sheridan, Wyo. was 88 this fall. She is not able to write but likes to get mail.

Linda Birkey, Delavan, Ill. is only six and is bedfast with rheumatic fever. It may be some time before she will be able to get up, so do send cards or playthings.

Mrs. Gertrude Roebuck, Rt. 2 Box

180, Buford, Ga. has been in bed for many years. She tells me she hasn't eaten solid food for 3 years. She loves to do jigsaws and likes mail, too.

Miss Marie Greiner, 3 Lincoln Way East, Jeannette, Pa. has arthritis and heart trouble and has been bedfast a long time. She is also nearly blind. Her mother, who takes all the care of her, is not well. She reads the mail to Marie but hasn't time to answer. Both love to get mail. Marie is 59.

Mr. and Mrs. K. D. McMasters, 162 Sutherlin Ave., Danville, Va. are both shutins. He is 90, and totally helpless—even has to be fed. She cares for him the best she can, but she too is ill. Please send cards and she will answer as she can, if postage is available.

Mrs. Lily F. Rye, Hill Top Acres Room 262, 1098 Davenport Rd., Toronto, Ontario, Canada has been sick all this year. She has diabetes and heart trouble. She loves to get mail.

Mrs. Fannie Hampshire, c/o Mrs. Kenneth Danford, North 22 St., Bethany, Mo. fell and broke her hip three years ago and is still in bed most of the time. Once in a while she can be put in a wheel chair. She is quite

elderly and would appreciate cards.

Mrs. Pearl Scott, 275 East 6 St., Pomona, Calif. is alone and lonely. She likes to knit and wants yarn and quilt pieces. Would like to correspond with shutins and others.

Mrs. Elvina Kadolph, Forest City, Iowa was 80 in November. She is alone, not well and would enjoy mail.

Mrs. Blanche Loveless, Bldg. C, Fairmont Hosp., San Leandro, Calif. is an Iowa woman who came to California not long after we did. She is a long time shutin and has been in this hospital for a couple of years. Recently she has been critically ill, so please write to her.

Phyllis Butcher, 321 Budd St., Fairmont, Minn. is 33 and has been a shutin for a long time. She enjoys mail.

Mrs. P. M. Gerry, Box 45, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc. is another long time shutin. She is diabetic and suffers a great deal. Let's send her a shower of cards even though she probably cannot answer.

Miss Opha Hinshaw, Bois D'Arc, Mo. has been a wheel chair invalid for years. She had surgery this summer and has been in bed most of the time since then. She loves to get mail.

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M. D. ANDERSEN

Dept. K Valley, Nebraska

FROM MY DESK—Concluded

gardening, etc. Helps are available from Home Extension offices, County Agents, government bulletins, magazine articles, radio programs and the good old system of just observing how successful homemakers around us are doing things.

After examining the situation and making an honest effort to eliminate all the deserved criticism, I would forget this feeling of inadequacy and the unpleasant experiences of the past and begin over again. I would stop depending upon these relatives for advice, unpack my groceries in private and begin to stand upright as the mistress of my own home with a right to operate that home as I chose.

It bothered me that Mrs. L. G. feels she is unable to discuss this with her minister. He may be a person unworthy of trust, but I know that my husband feels one of his greatest privileges is to be a friend to people in their daily, small troubles. Could it possibly be that she knows she deserves some of the criticism and therefore doesn't want any outsider's advice?

After we have evaluated the hard things which are sometimes said to us, we often have to make up our minds that we are just going to forget the rest. These women in her husband's life need help to find friends and interests outside their home and outside HER home. I can't imagine that busy people with outside interests would have much time to watch someone's clothesline or check up on what groceries were purchased.

It is a comfort to me to remember that God doesn't ever waste. Every experience which comes to us can be used by us with God's help to make us bigger people with a bigger understanding of problems that others face, and a more lovely character and poise in being a more worthwhile person. Things that hurt us the most are often the things which teach us the most valuable lessons, and certainly they are the experiences which make us grow if we let them.

Good luck to you, Mrs. L. G. What an exciting winter you can have ahead of you! You are intelligent and with your background of a loving family, what a contribution you can bring to your husband and later to your own children. Hold your head up, know your own worth, and remembering that "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me" you can make the Winter of 1957-58 the Year of the Big Change in your life!" —Mrs. E. A. P.

Dear Leanna:

Thirty years ago I went through almost exactly the experience described by Mrs. L. G. It left scars in my heart, but it taught me a kindness and sympathy for other people that might never have been learned in any other way.

In my discouragement and misery I just sat at home brooding and thinking — and perhaps that is what Mrs. L. G. is doing right now. One



day (I'll never forget that day!) I suddenly realized that I was getting into a deeper and deeper hole and that I must change my ways drastically while there was still time to change.

I made myself join a neighborhood club that hadn't appealed to me formerly. I offered to teach a Sunday School primary class and my services were gladly accepted. I volunteered to work in our small library that was open only in the afternoons four days a week. I was the first person in our community to offer my time as a "helper" in a local hospital. I had to learn to drive to get around, but believe me, I did.

I made up my mind to pay no attention to my husband's family. This is hard to do when you live so close, but I just went on my own way, was always polite and cheerful, never answered any questions that definitely were none of their business (I simply changed the subject instantly and if they persisted, laughed and said: "I don't know" even though I did know), and never mentioned any of it to my husband. Eventually he came to respect me for my activities and independence and even said to his mother and sisters one day when they came running in to see what I'd bought, "You get what you need and we'll get what we need."

None of this happened overnight, of course, but over a period of time my changed attitude bore results. I prayed for understanding and patience. Once when I felt at the end of the road I went to talk to my minister and found great comfort and relief in pouring out my troubles to someone who held my confidence in sacred trust. His viewpoint as an "outsider" opened my mind to things I hadn't seen before.

I learned to bake the finest chocolate cake in our community! I carried away many blue ribbons for my canned goods and handiwork. I was so determined to make a go of my marriage and not just show my husband's people that their son hadn't done so badly in selecting a wife, that I actually did become a person who rose up over a situation as bad, if not worse, than the situation Mrs. L. G. is in today.

Inspect your own heart. Make up your mind to forget the past. *Get busy with outside interests.* Put your husband FIRST in your life — not as a person tagging along at the end of a long line of griefs and resentments. Pray. And then pray some more. This is your life, Mrs. L. G., and you can make it a rich, rewarding experience, or an ever-continuing, ever-deepening misery." — Mrs. A. O.

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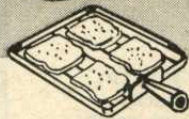
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CHRISTMAS SURPRISE PACKAGE GAME

By
Evelyn Witter

A fun game for a Christmas party has as its main equipment beautifully wrapped Christmas packages. Inside these packages are items which the players must guess from hints written on a gift card on each one.

For example:

Package number one . . . Hint, **THE FOUR SEASONS.** The gift is two sets of salt and pepper shakers.

Package number two . . . Hint, **IN CASE OF ERROR.** The gift is an eraser.

Package number three . . . Hint, **THE LIFE OF CHINA.** The gift is a package of rice.

Package number four . . . Hint, **GIRLS ADORE THEM.** The gift is a package of dates.

Package number five . . . Hint, **MAN'S BEST FRIEND.** The gift is a little china dog.

Package number six . . . Hint, **A SOUND IDEA.** The gift is a horn.

Package number seven . . . Hint, **A COUPLE OF TIRED KIDS.** The gift is a pair of old gloves.

After the packages are passed around and each player has had a chance to read the hint and rattle and heft the packages, they are given a piece of paper on which to write their answers.

The first one to turn in the correct guess is given the package he guessed correctly as his prize, and then he cannot guess on the others so that no one player can win more than one prize. The game goes on until all the packages have been identified and all the prizes awarded.

Be merry all, be merry all,
With holly dress the festive hall,
Prepare the song, the feast, the ball,
To welcome Merry Christmas!

"I WISH YOU CHRISTMAS"

How strangely, thoughtlessly unnecessary,
It often seems to me, that we should say,
"I wish you merry Christmas." How can "merry"
Or any other adjective convey
A wish for greater gladness for our friends
Than does the one word "Christmas" all alone,
The singing, shining word that comprehends
The utmost grace and glory men have known?
I wish you more, much more, than merriment;
All faith and hope and love and holy peace,
All quietness and radiant content
With blessings that continually increase,
And when I say the simple words and small,
"I wish you Christmas," I have wished you all.

—Jane Merchant

MAKE ROOM

A crowded inn
No room could make
For Christ the Saviour's birth;
In lowly stable he was born
Who brought God's will to earth.

A crowded heart
Neglects its Lord,
Leaves no room for Christ its King;
A crowded life gets out of tune,
And hears no angels sing.

Make room today
In heart and life,
For Christ, Immanuel;
Join in the heavenly angels' song,
His love and wonder tell!

—Hoover Rupert

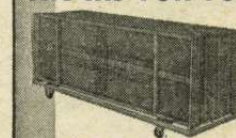
CHRISTMAS BELLS

Why do the bells of Christmas ring?
Why do little children sing?
Once a lovely shining star,
Seen by shepherds from afar,
Gently moved until its light
Made a manger's cradle bright,
There a darling baby lay,
Pillowed soft upon the hay;
And its mother sang and smiled:
"This is Christ, the holy Child."
Therefore bells for Christmas ring!
Therefore little children sing!

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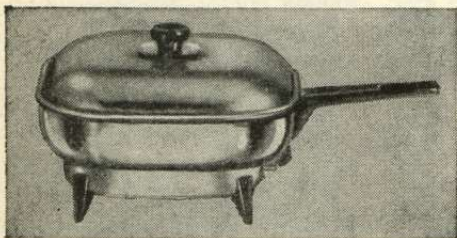
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