

CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM

by Gwendoline P. Clarke

At this season of the year one's thoughts have a way of turning back to the days of childhood, back to the Christmases one used to know. I remember, about this time, it used to be a special treat to take a long walk into the country and bring back holly and mistletoe for decorating. All summer we kept our eyes open so that we knew just where to go for the best holly, where the berries were the reddest and the leaves the greenest. Mistletoe was harder to find but if we went to Rye's Lane, a walk of about eight miles, we knew there was one holly tree there that was always thickly entwined with the parasite mistletoe. And what was worse, it was sturdy, energetic youngsters? At least it was nothing to my brothers and sister but I was considerably younger and the end of the walk would find me dragging wearily behind. But take mother's advice and stay at home! . . . Oh, no! That was a treat I wouldn't miss for anything. I can remember that walk even yet—down to Ballington, through Middleton Park and on to Henry Rye's Lane—a narrow, mossy road, and primroses and sweet-scented lilies about three miles long, where the holly trees were so thick that violets bloomed in the spring. The lane came out through Col. Rammadist's estate, and thence to the main road on top of a steep hill. From there it was down-hill all the way. The names are only names to many readers but yet, quite often, I get a letter saying—"I remember so well those places you mentioned in your column a few weeks ago." So you see, you never can tell. It's a small world—and the older one gets, the smaller the world.

Right here, may I say "Thank you." "Eighty-five Years Young" for your nice letter. It, and when I am 85 years old I hope I shall be able to write as well and as brightly as you do now.

But back to Christmas preparations in the long, long ago.

For weeks before Christmas we used to save our pennies and half-pennies, and with our combined small fund—do believe me, it was small, we bought rolls of colored paper, mostly red and green. After tea mother let us use the dining-room table and we cut strips of paper one inch wide and four inches long, pasting them together to form links, one to another, in alternate colors. In our home very few decorations were bought—we made them all ourselves, and we spent many happy hours in the process. Then a day or two before Christmas we draped the rooms with paper chains; we trimmed the pictures and mantel with holly; we hung mistletoe in the hall and in each doorway; but we always saved a piece of each with the choicest berries to stick in the middle of the Christmas pudding. And I remember mother always got someone to fetch her sixpenny worth of brandy—not to mix but to light up the Christmas pudding. I loved to watch the pudding being brought in. Then mother would pour the brandy over the pudding, set a match to it, and we watched ecstatically as the dancing flames leaped up and around the steaming pudding with its topping of holly and mistletoe. The pudding was never cut until the last of the brandy had burnt itself out. I also remember mother had cut my piece of pudding well from the inside because I wouldn't touch it if I got one taste of the brandy. So lighting the Christmas pudding didn't quite demoralize me! I didn't like spirit stirs and I don't like them now.

In all my childhood there was only one Christmas when we had a tree. They were not as common in

England then as they are in Canada now—mainly, I suppose, because they had to be bought. We didn't have cars then to bring home trees plundered from somebody's woodland.

And to us, the gay old fellow in the red coat and long white whiskers was not Santa Claus but Father Christmas. But he used to come down the chimney just the same, only he didn't find our stockings hung from the mantel. He had to visit the bedrooms and at the head of each sleeping child he found a stocking hopefully pinned to the bedrail.

Caution the early morn, and the first child awake would get the others together and we would congregate in one or other of the bedrooms. When mother heard whispering and rattling of mysterious parcels she would come in too—and we never uttered a parcel until she appeared. Then when the parcels were unwrapped mother went downstairs and presently we heard her playing carols on the old table piano. We raced down, dressed or undressed, and we stood around the piano and sang hymns as long as mother would permit them. And thus began our Christmas!

Children today, with their Santa Claus parades, and all kinds of presents, cannot possibly be any happier than was our little fatherless family with their home-made gifts and simple pleasures. And another thing I remember—we always had sausage-rolls for breakfast Christmas morning!

Such thrill! ONE 98-lb. feedback, or ONE yard plus a little contrast for this apron! Easiest sewing ever! Cut ONE piece—as seems just slashes, add shoulder straps and ties. WONDERS! Apron Pattern 4904 comes in one size, small (14 to 16).

Send TWENTY-FIVE CENTS (25c) in coins (stamps cannot be accepted) for this pattern. Print plainly SIZE, NAME, ADDRESS, STYLE NUMBER.

Send order to Box 1, 123 Eighth Street St., New Toronto

Orange Cream Cake
4 eggs
1 cup sugar
3 tablespoons cold water
1 cup cake flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt

Grated rind of one orange
Method: Beat egg yolks until thick and lemon colored. Add sugar gradually, beating all the while with the egg beater. Add cold water and grated orange rind. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together, and add to first mixture. Stir well. Add well-beaten egg whites.

Bake in two layers in a greased pan in a 325-degree oven for 30 minutes. When cool, spread with orange cream filling.

Orange Cream Filling
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons flour
¾ cup sugar
¾ cup boiling water
1 tablespoon butter
2 egg yolks

Grated rind of one orange
3 tablespoons orange juice
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon gelatin
1 tablespoon water
¾ cup whipping cream

Method: Sift flour, cornstarch and sugar together. Add to boiling water in top of double boiler, stirring constantly. Cook 20 minutes. Add butter. Beat this mixture into egg yolks. Return to double

boiler. Cook three minutes. Add orange rind and fruit juices. Stir in gelatin, dissolved in one tablespoon water. Cool. Ice with orange icing.

Now, something for those with that sweet tooth; and, by the way, did you ever wonder why we always say "tooth" instead of "teeth" in that connection?

With without taking time to try and solve such a deep mystery, although I suppose it's like speaking of a good gardener having a "green thumb"—there are some candy recipes that take little time to make, and yet furnish a heap of good eating.

Divinity Puffs
Makes 24 pieces
Beat 2 eggs whites until stiff
Combine 2½ cups sugar, ½ cup water, ½ cup light corn syrup
Cook to thin stage or to 234° on candy thermometer
Pour ½ cup syrup mixture over egg whites

Stir constantly while pouring
Cook remaining half of syrup mixture to 260°
Pour over egg whites, beating constantly
Beat until mixture holds shape when dropped from spoon
Add ¼ cup chopped nuts, ½ teaspoon vanilla
Swirl from teaspoon onto waxed paper

Yummy Nut Candy
Makes 24 pieces
Beat 1 cup egg white until stiff
Add 1 cup ground peanuts, 1 cup brown sugar
½ cup sour milk
1 cup banana pulp
1 teaspoon baking powder

Method: Thoroughly cream the shortening and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla. Beat until fluffy. Add the sifted dry ingredients alternately with milk and banana pulp, beating well after each addition. Bake in wax paper-lined 6½x10½-inch cake pan in a 350° oven for 50 minutes.



Famous Cure (1) For Tuberculosis

Until the discovery of the tubercle bacillus by Robert Koch, many strange cures and superstitious rituals were tried in a vain attempt to cure tuberculosis. Not the least remarkable of these one used at his mother's insistence by the famous General Wolfe:

"Take a peck of green garden snails, wash in beer, put them in an oven and let them stay until they are done crying; then with a knife and fork pick the snails from their shells and all in a stone mortar. Then take a quart of earth worms, wash them through the middle and strew them with salt; then wash them and beat them, the pot first being put into the still with two handfuls of angelica, a quart of rosemary flowers, then a quart of wild worm, agrimony, bear's feet, dock roots, barberry, brake, hillyberry, wormwood, of each two handfuls; one handful of rue, tansy, and one ounce of salifum, well dried and beaten. Then pour in three gallons of milk. Wash 'em morning and then put in three ounces of cloves (well beaten), Hartshorn, grated. Keep the still covered all night. This done, stir it not. Distill with a moderate fire. The patient must take two spoonfuls at a time."

Just as public education now is one of the most important factors in the effective control of tuberculosis, public ignorance and fear for many years retarded progress. It remained, however, for scientists to show the way and win the belief and confidence of the people.

From "Repeating Progress," published by National Sanatorium Association.

Personalizing Christmas Cards—With Christmas fast approaching, artist Corinne Calvet got a few pointers from artist Albert Kramer on how to personalize Christmas cards. She might have done better by mailing pictures of herself.

TABLE TALKS

by Jane Andrews

When you think of fruit cake, it's generally the rich, dark Christmas kind that comes to mind. But there are plenty of other sorts of fruit cakes good at almost any season of the year.

Some of the latter are feather-light, with fine, even texture. Yet the fruit is still there, with the double pleasure of eating fruit and cake in one serving.

So here are three different kinds—pineapple, banana and orange, together with a simply grand fruit-ice for the last named.

Pineapple Feather Cake
1 cup shortening
2 cups sugar
4 egg yolks
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 cups flour
¾ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
¾ teaspoon soda

1 cup pineapple juice
½ cup hot water
4 stiffly beaten egg whites
Method: Thoroughly cream the shortening and sugar. Add egg whites, one at a time, in alternate colors. In our home very few decorations were bought—we made them all ourselves, and we spent many happy hours in the process. Then a day or two before Christmas we draped the rooms with paper chains; we trimmed the pictures and mantel with holly; we hung mistletoe in the hall and in each doorway; but we always saved a piece of each with the choicest berries to stick in the middle of the Christmas pudding. And I remember mother always got someone to fetch her sixpenny worth of brandy—not to mix but to light up the Christmas pudding. I loved to watch the pudding being brought in. Then mother would pour the brandy over the pudding, set a match to it, and we watched ecstatically as the dancing flames leaped up and around the steaming pudding with its topping of holly and mistletoe. The pudding was never cut until the last of the brandy had burnt itself out. I also remember mother had cut my piece of pudding well from the inside because I wouldn't touch it if I got one taste of the brandy. So lighting the Christmas pudding didn't quite demoralize me! I didn't like spirit stirs and I don't like them now.

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AMBITION

A touring actor has played the part of Abraham Lincoln so many times that he has assumed the habits of the great president, even going so far as to adopt characteristic garb.

Recently, dressed in the cape and tall hat of Lincoln's day, he added grays to another reortory actor.

Waiting until the impersonator was out of earshot, the other murmured: "That fellow will never be satisfied until he is assassinated."

Canadians made product for raising and lowering leading end of pulley-operated clotheslines. Can be attached to any wall. Pulley is aluminum, white, red, black, green, yellow, light blue. One above yard permitting clothes to clear any obstruction, dry faster, it is stated.

Enamel Sprays From Can Enamel in spray cans ready for use in being distributed in Canada. Sprays right from can. No mixing required. It is claimed, Comes in chrome finish aluminum, white, red, black, green, yellow, light blue. One can said to cover 150 square feet.

De-icing Fluid De-icing fluid in non-breakable aluminum assists in clearing sleet and frost from windshields and car windows. Both atomizer head and winged cap are molded of the same plastic in a single piece, preventing loss of cap or contents of bottle. Fluid, when sprayed on, turns sleet or frost into slush, which can be wiped clear by windshield wiper, wiper blades.

Waterproof Cloth Tape All-purpose waterproof cloth tape holds tight to practically any surface and may be painted or plastered over. Canadian paper states. Sticks by itself without moistening. Available in six colors.

Handing Accessory Purse-size plastic cases that hold small, but efficient clothes and music brushes are announced. Case either a metal fiber brush for suede or a bristle brush for clothes.

Prevents Auto Rust New salt product will tend to prevent rusting of car fenders and underbodies when used to de-ice streets and highways, maker states. Uses a rust-inhibiting chemical, claimed to form colorless, invisible, yet protective film on metal surfaces when street slush is splashed against fenders and auto underbodies.

Restores Chrome Surfaces "Auto Chrome Finish," manufactured by Toronto firm, is designed to restore original beauty and polish to rusted and dulled chrome surfaces. Described as a fine quality aluminum enamel that dries quickly.

Automatic Iron British-made iron being introduced to the Canadian market is said to be the first fully automatic iron.

Merry Menagerie—By Walt Disney

SOME SHRIMPING Miami, Fla., Nov. 25 (AP)—Gargantuan... the 1½-cm-old, 750-pound, six-foot-six-inch gorilla... Miami, Fla., Nov. 26 (AP)—Gargantuan... the 550-pound, five-foot-six-inch gorilla.

Life Magazine, Dec. 5—Gargantuan weighed only 312 pounds... Sounds like what happens to a fish story when the rest of the party start showing up.

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Large Griddle Griddle covers two burners on top of any stove and will cook twice as much food as ordinary frying pan, maker states. Only one minute of preheating required to operate with maximum efficiency, it is stated.

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No Fame For Us Blue-Eyed Boys?

It may be possible to tell a professor by the shape of his cranium, but the Madame Tussaud's waxworks officials are inclined to the belief that it is the green-eyed and green-blue-eyed people who achieve fame—or notoriety.

During the last two years, eight men out of every 10 models added to the waxworks have needed green-gray eyes. And many people whom it is planned to model will have to wait until some more of these particular colored glass eyes are available.

Before the war, Madame Tussaud's obtained their supplies of glass eyes from the continent, but their main source in Germany and Czechoslovakia are no longer in the trade. Even the new plastic eyes, which are used to great effect in the film studios, will not satisfy the waxworks.

"Why doesn't some blue-eyed boy spring into fame?" lamented an official. "Most of our latest additions have used almost all of our scanty supply of the other colors."

Recent modelities on display in Madame Tussaud's include Sir Laurence Olivier, Freddie Mills and John George Haigh of the Crawley Field murders. These models, all ready-made glass eyes.

Q. How can I prevent slipping of overboots?
A. If the rubber overboots persist in slipping at the heels, cut two strips of chamois and glue them inside, up the backs of the heels.

Q. How should oil paintings be cleaned?
A. They can be washed with warm milk and water, rubbing very gently, then drying without rinsing.

Q. How can I overcome insomnia?
A. Deep breathing exercises before an open window often help greatly if one has difficulty in getting to sleep. Always be sure the feet are warm. Don't read or study to try to produce sleep; this only makes the brain more alert. A glass of hot milk just before retiring has a soothing effect on the nerves.

Q. How can I clean a suede jacket?
A. By rubbing thoroughly with a mixture made of equal parts of talcum powder, salt, pepper, powdered sage, bread crumbs, and mixed onion. Rub in a moderate

Q. How can I make mock goose?
A. Parboil a leg of pork and remove the skin. Then rub with butter and sprinkle with salt, pepper, powdered sage, bread crumbs, and mixed onion. Roast in a moderate

Q. How can I make a pine needle pillow when the Christmas tree is ready to be discarded?
A. Strip the tree of its needles. Then make a pillow-top of bright colored material and fill it with needles. If the pillow is held over steam at intervals, its fragrance will be renewed.

Q. How can I keep plants healthy in the winter?
A. Cold tea or milk will make plants blossom in the winter time. Alternate with water every other day.

Q. How can I avoid buying shoes that are too tight?
A. It is better to buy shoes in the afternoon, as by that time the feet will have spread from being on them, and the shoes will always be comfortable.

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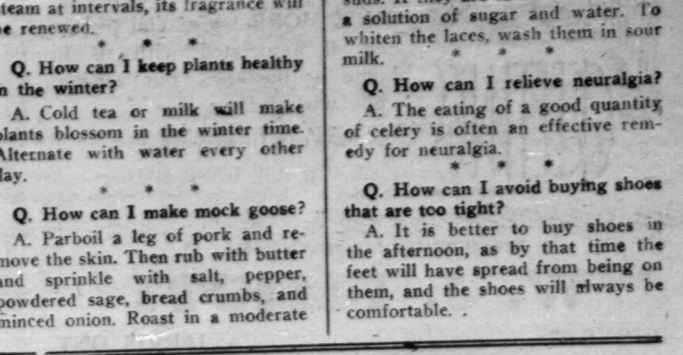
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