The American Home
She's expecting something nice!

Give her Cannon Towels

SO LITTLE IN PRICE—AND USEFUL AND NICE!
For $1 or less you can be Bright and Original. Give the Snow Flower Box, for instance . . . such a pretty Christmasy name! Or the trim, tasteful Colonial Box. Or cater to the kitchen with gypsy-striped towels and dish-cloths in the Pantry Box. It's fun, too, to make up gift sets with individual Cannon towels, 25¢ to $2.

FOR A DOLLAR OR MORE—PRESENTS GALORE!
At $1.95 to $2.95 the choice widens, Cannon matched sets grow more luxurious, and the boxes are so pretty that she'll love them as much as she loves the towels! The sassy little Hat Box makes you famous for finding "such clever things." And the Plumed Box is an aristocrat . . . send it anywhere with your engraved card!

ILLUSTRATED ABOVE, BEGINNING WITH THE BASKET AND READING CLOCKWISE: THE FLORAL SQUARE • THE COLONIAL BOX • THE HAT BOX • GOLD TREASURE CHEST • PANTRY BOX • SNOW FLOWER BOX • THE PINK LADY • A GROUP OF NEW AMERICAN CANNON TOWELS

FIT FOR A QUEEN—IN A BEAUTY-BATH SCENE!
With $3.95 to $4.95 you can give gifts in the grand manner! Look for magnificent matched sets of Cannon towels, bath mats and wash-cloths in the American series. Look for the festive Floral Square and rich Gold Treasure Chest. There's a bow-tied Wicker Basket, too, that you'll buy and never give away . . . it's that appealing!

BLOSSOM OVAL BOX • SNOW FLOWER BOX • PANTRY BOX • ROYAL PLUMES BOX • AND THE GLAMOUR BOX
"I DROVE THE NEW PLYMOUTH
and that LUXURY RIDE
is Simply Marvelous!"

People by the thousands are getting really excited about Plymouth's great Luxury Ride...and about its stunning new 1940 beauty and spaciousness! This new Plymouth is longer, wider, roomier...10 cubic feet more interior space!

Notice the luxurious new feel in Plymouth's big Floating Power engine...learn what Superfinishing of vital engine parts does to power smoothness.

See this great car...and take Plymouth's Luxury Ride today! Find out how much more low price buys this year!

EASY TO BUY. Your present car probably covers a large part of Plymouth's low delivered price...balance in low monthly instalments.

NEW LUXURY EVERYWHERE
1. MAGNIFICENT STYLING: new grace, luxury, distinction.
2. BIGGER CAR throughout—117" wheelbase—wider seats.
3. INCREASED VISION through the new, larger safety glass windows and windshield.
5. SUPERFINISH of vital engine parts assures new smoothness, longer life.
6. STEERING POST GEAR SHIFT standard on all models.

1940 PLYMOUTH The Low-Priced Beauty with the LUXURY RIDE
I'd heard a lot about Masonite Tempered Presdwood, but never saw it until I went to buy a chair. All the store's display rooms were made of it. The manager said they use Tempered Presdwood because it's a clean, dry board ... easy to install ... and they can get really beautiful walls and ceilings with it. What's more, it costs very little.

I suddenly realized Tempered Presdwood might enable Larry and me to have our whole bedroom done over, so I made some pencil sketches of those smart model rooms. Sure enough, we found that Tempered Presdwood could go on right over the old walls. It's grainless and moisture-resisting too. It won't warp, chip, split or crack. And it can be painted.

You'd never know the old bedroom now. Our walls are Tempered Presdwood, scored vertically and painted deep blue. The ceiling is light grey. We have a built-in chest of drawers along one wall — Tempered Presdwood, of course. And a handy built-in shelf over our bed for radio and books. P. S.—Larry was so pleased.

I WENT TO BUY A CHAIR—and came home with a new bedroom in my handbag

* MASONITE TEMPERED PRESDWOOD is the ideal, economical material for new building and remodeling. Mail the coupon below for free sample and full information.

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THE AMERICAN HOME, December, 1939.
"We Know the Value of Storm Sash...my husband's a builder!"

Window Conditioning saved them 25% on fuel...now they sit by the windows in comfort

"When the wind howls, the curtains don't blow any more," says Mrs. Lewis Peters, the wife of a building contractor in Marlton, N.J. "We can sit by the windows and be as warm and comfortable as we would be in any part of the room.

"Our house now is free of drafts. The windows no longer steam and fog up. With Storm Sash we can see out no matter how cold it gets.

"Our coal bills used to run around $132 a season and last year it cost us less than $100 to heat our 10-room house. My husband is a builder by trade and he always recommends Storm Sash."

Thousands have had similar experiences. They've saved as much as 30% on fuel; and are no longer bothered with condensation, fogged windows and drafts. They've saved in other ways, too. Moisture that formerly condensed on the windows and ran down and ruined the wallpaper and woodwork finish has been eliminated.

See your local Lumber Dealer. He will give you an estimate and handle the entire job, including F.H.A. financing with No Down Payment. Call him today.

Since you look through two panes of glass instead of one, the quality of the glass becomes doubly important. It costs you no more to get L.O.F. Quality Glass—each light bears the L.O.F. label. Mail the coupon today for this handsomely illustrated book that tells how Window Conditioning will make your house a better home to live in.

Mrs. Lewis Peters and her two sons who assist Mr. Peters in his contracting business.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
"The fuel savings paid for the Storm Sash in less than three years and now it's all profit."—James Sinclair, Springfield, Mass.

LINCOLN, NEB.
"Ever since we installed Storm Sash our fuel bills have been much lower than any of our neighbors who haven't this protection."—A. E. Perry, Lincoln, Neb.

BUFFALO, N.Y.
"I can't remember a time since we had Storm Sash when moisture has formed on the windows. It's our best investment."—John A. Martin, Buffalo, N. Y.

MITCHELL, S. D.
"Since we installed Storm Sash we are free of drafts and we have recommended them to friends and they are delighted."—Robert W. Edehase, Mitchell, S. D.

This book is free!
LIBBEY-OWENS-FORD GLASS COMPANY...TOLEDO, OHIO
Please send me your free booklet which shows typical examples of economics effected with Window Conditioning and interesting window treatments.

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Mail today for your copy at no cost.

LIBBEY-OWENS-FORD GLASS
QUALITY GLASS

Look for the label

THE AMERICAN HOME, DECEMBER, 1939
"Our Setter's coat was dull and ragged until we started PARD diet"

A certified statement from the B. A. Crouch family, Waukesha, Wisconsin

"Our Irish Setter Tipperary's Terry" hasn't always been so beautiful. At eight weeks she was in terrible condition—thin, listless, with coat ragged and dull. But when we tried an exclusive PARD diet, she improved right away. Her coat became full and silky, and she quickly regained normal weight. As for healthy vigor—last July she had 13 fine pups and has raised all of them healthy...as can be seen in the photograph! The facts of this case history were sworn to before me on August 18, 1939—Rud. F. Thomann, Notary Public.

The everyday things of field and garden are most decorative: they are also unusual, because they have not come into wide use as yet for general house decoration. The plumed heads of corn tassels, the bearded grain of wheat and barley, golden ears of corn, quaint scalloped dried squashes and the crook-neck variety, the immense thistlelike seed receptacles of artichoke, to mention only a few, all lend themselves admirably to fall house decoration.

KARSKS OF POPCORN are amusing, and being in miniature, may fit in with your decorating plans better than the larger ones of field corn. In any event, try to get the corn with the husks on. Use these just as the European peasants do in braiding the pendants. Place heads of other grains, wheat, barley, and small sections of milo maize or other similar types, in among the corn while braiding. Barley and wheat stems should be placed in water for a while before making up the decorations, to soften them and make them pliable. Failing to find corn with the husks on, a good substitute is to drill fair sized holes at the upper, or stalk, end of the cob, and thread natural-colored raffia through to simulate husks. This works very well. Stems of dry vegetables often come off, so that it may be necessary to drill pairs of small holes in the gourds and vegetables at the stem end through which fine wires may be passed to join them onto the strong cord which forms the "backbone" of the swag.

To hasten the drying out of the squashes and gourds, drill small holes in either end to allow for the rapid evaporation of moisture. This will do much to prevent the mildew which tends to attack these apparently dry vegetables. To obtain a shiny surface it is necessary only to wax lightly with a liquid wax, and polish after an hour or so. If the gourds have lost their gay color and present a drab uninteresting monotone of tan and dirty blotches, they can be made into colorful with a little care and patience.

Thanksgiving ushers in the CHRISTMAS SEASON

MARGARET TIPTON WHEATLY

THANKSGIVING begins for us the eventful month leading to one of the greatest festivals of both the calendar and church year. It is a time for merrymaking as well as for thanksgiving. It is the end of a year of toil, the season of rest for the creatures of the earth—and the earth itself.

Thanksgiving to many city dwellers has lost much of its harvest significance, but we are still sufficiently linked to the earth and growing things in this country to appreciate the meaning of harvest. So here are some "truly rural" decorations for the Thanksgiving season.

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(Please turn to page 88)
This is the Life
and it's yours!

**You can tell** by the long, flashing lines of it... by the way it bursts ahead of traffic... this 1940 Nash does something to you!

Thank your stars—that isn't figured in the price—or a Nash would cost you a cool million.

You can't even sit in it without your chin going up... and a trip's as gay as a midnight sailing to Havana!

First, you take off coats, hats, gloves—for the Nash Weather Eye has more wizardry than ever to change winter into May.

You take the wheel (or it takes you—for it seems to read your mind), and home fades far behind.

Don't expect your Nash to keep its dignity on the highway.

For there's a new thrill in the throttle... a brand-new Fourth Speed Forward that gives you not only a floating, gliding speed, but also terrific power with an Automatic Overtake!

Take a short-cut? Sure this is the car with that Arrow-Flight ride! On slippery gravel—or straight across a cow-pasture—you can steer with a finger, and hardly know bumps exist beneath your dancing wheels!

So you breathe in deep the fresh, clean air that other drivers don't get—chat and sing in the silence others never know—watch the crazy-quilt of Autumn other eyes are too busy to see.

Then you'll know why some of these new Nash owners have not yet turned back home—why that convertible bed in back is necessary.

No fooling—it gets you! Makes any other car pretty dull business.

After all, you're only going to live about another 90 years. So see your dealer, and start having your fun in a long-life Nash!

**Fresh Air** without rain, without cold! New Weather Eye magic brings in more June-fresh air—automatically foils changing weather. No stuffy air, dust, drafts, or bugs bother you at any time.

**Overnight trips** are easy with your convertible bed. Cost less with the engine that won in the Gilmore-Yosemite Run (21.25 miles per gallon). Over 1000 dealers to serve you.
You may conspire to hide your Fostoria gifts deep beneath the tree for a Christmas climax, but chances are you'll give them first, impatient to share the thrill that giving brings. For last or first, Fostoria is always an invitation to lasting thanks. Of all selections, none are more exquisite than the newest handcrafted pieces... frosty morning-glories deep laid beneath a smooth lucent surface... or a brocade design that stirs the worldliest heart... or a polished laurel motif gilding the simple beauty of a lustrous crystal vase. These three are but significant of the many. You must see them all. Get them and give them. Or, happy thought, collect them for yourself.


Christmas Crystal by Fostoria

The title above is the author's own, but we submit parents who trimmed a tree in glittering array and over their own disappointment at its effect on their children were still keen enough to understand that festivities must be shared to be really enjoyed and promptly inaugurated "family foolishness and the play-spirit because they are so much needed in a world like ours... because foolishness helps so very much in binding family affections."... Orthodox parents who can play "pirate" and eat Christmas breakfast in burnt cork, their orange juice in gingerale bottles... Who around their own hearth hold Christmas Eve services, sing carols and on a happy impulse

MARY DICKERSON BANGHAM

We once trimmed a Christmas tree with lights and colored balls, with small frosted houses and glass birds, with silver rain and spun-wire icicles and candy canes. Beneath its branches we placed gaily painted wooden animals, soft fuzzy animals, dolls, blocks, picture books, a toy piano, and a circus outfit. We thought of our child, and of how she would clap her hands with joy, of how she would laugh and shout. Our child, next morning, glanced briefly at the glittering array and then spent hours—or so it seemed to us—on a dime-store toy.

Many parents, we found, suffer similar experiences. We finally figured it out—Some children are shy, and shy children, like grown-ups when surprise parties pounce down upon them, are dumb because they are embarrassed.

Our unorthodox Christmases, therefore, began with the idea that festivities must unfold themselves gradually. We bought a tree from a farmer and took our child along for the ceremony of cutting it down and hauling it home. We trimmed it together. [Please turn to page 89]

Wrap a blanket around their "ready-for-bed" child and go out-of-doors to look at a starlit sky then, rather than break the spell, each carries a lighted candle up the stairway to bed. ... Here is a deep understanding of the spirit of Christmas—anything but "funny."
Tinsel and trinkets surely have their place in the scheme of Christmas. But to practical people this joyous day calls for gifts of lasting worth that better express one's deepest sentiments. So again this year General Electric has provided a rich array of gifts that bestow happiness throughout the year.

What could the lady of your heart cherish more than a gift to preserve youth? These magic servants do just that. They bring her freedom from household drudgery that wears away youth. Yet they consume electricity sparingly, and that itself is cheap—the more of it used the less it costs per unit.

There are more than 150 G-E youth-saving appliances from which to choose. Your General Electric dealer is now featuring a "Treasure Island" display to make selection easy. Prices begin at $1 and the higher-priced gifts are available on G-E's easy payment plan.

Remember—It's So Easy To Stay Young Electrically

SEE THIS

G-E Christmas Special Six!

- Never before has G-E offered a fully equipped 6 cubic foot refrigerator at such a surprisingly low price!

6.1 cu. ft. storage space
11.7 sq. ft. shell area
All-steel cabinet
Sealed-in steel Thrift Unit
9 lb. ice freezing capacity
Interior light
Fruit and vegetable containers
Set of storage dishes

15 other G-E Triple-Thrift Refrigerator models—up to 16 cu. ft. capacity—at lowest prices in G-E history. See G-E—the refrigerator buy of your life!
NEW MIRRO
ServOrole

COMBINATION
BUN WARMER, CASSEROLE, FOOD CRISPER

You'll find this MIRRO ServOrole handy for many other uses!

Here's the newest, most practical aluminum utensil you've seen for a long time. A combination utensil that can be used as a casserole and take its place on the table directly from the oven. Or you can use it as a bun and biscuit warmer and server; or for mixing and serving salads; crispy cereals, crackers, potato chips; or for dozens of other uses. The striking new shape and lustrous streamlined no-burn handles bring a new conception of beauty to so practical a utensil. As a gift, or for yourself, you will find the new MIRRO ServOrole just what you have been wishing for. See it at department, house furnishing, or hardware stores. Diameter, 10 1/4 in.

INTRODUCTORY PRICE $1.95
Extreme South and West, $2.15

NEW MIRRO EASY-GRIP
COOKY PRESS

SO EASY TO MAKE DAINTY COOKIES

A twist of the wrist gives you masterpieces in fancy cookies

It's not only easy to make different shapes of cookies with the MIRRO Easy-Grip Cooky Press, but it is quick as well. This is the only cooky press that makes 80 cookies at one filling. Results are always uniform. It has 12 forming plates, for 12 different, distinctive designs, including the new camel, scottie, pinwheel and four-leaf clover. The new Easy-Grip side and top handles add immesurably to the convenience of making cookies the MIRRO way. Finish is stain-resisting Aluminite (process patented). Put this useful aluminum utensil on your gift list when you get your own and solve part of your Christmas shopping problem.

PRICE $1.25
Extreme South and West, $1.35

MAIL THIS COUPON IF YOUR DEALER CANNOT SUPPLY YOU

Aluminum Goods Manufacturing Co., Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Enclosed find $__________ Please send me, postpaid:

____MIRRO ServOrole, $1.95 each (in Extreme South and West, $2.15)
____MIRRO Easy-Grip Cooky Press, $1.25 each (in Extreme South and West, $1.35)

Name__________
Street or R.F.D. No.__________
City__________ State__________

Good only in U.S.A. Offer expires Feb. 1st, 1940.
In this Christmas Issue:

Alkalizer
Aluminum Goods Manufacturing Co.
American Gas Association
American Insurance Group
American Landscape School
American Telephone
Armstrong-Pump
Armstrong's Linoleum Floors
Arnold Fireproofing Company
Bacigalupo-Sanford Carpet Co., Inc.
Ben Ami Cakes
Benzel Rabbit Cooking Molasses
Brenn Holly Floor Coverings
Bessemer Company, W. A., ...A. P., ...B. & P. E.
Beyoncé Lips Cigarettes
Back Cover Camellia
Cannon Mills (Towels)
Camsi Mattress Co.
C&r. S. Coburn Company
Casket Company
Chase Brass & Copper Company
Church & Dwight Company
Clemm Cigarettes
Columbia Mills Company
Communist Organization
Constructive Home Publishing Corp.
Cooper Company, John (Steel Gages)
Corning Glass Works (Silicones)
Courtaulds, Ltd
Cranes Pavilion
Dano (The Drackett Company)
Dartmouth College
Detco Company
Dunham Brothers Company
Eddington Mfg. Co.
Egbert, James, Inc.
Eichler & Co., Inc.
Edward's & Sons
Elliot & Sons
Ernst Looms
Estes Company
Evanston-Mann, Inc.
Evesham (The Drackett Company)
Ewing-Golding Company
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F & K Knit...
three little maids from school are we—
We know our sheets from A to Z!

—some sheets are

comfortable

—some sheets are

serviceable

Lady Pepperells
are both

Yes, and the “Double Value” of Lady Pepperell Sheets is proven... by rigid laboratory examinations, by a Good Housekeeping Guarantee and by every standard of the American Institute of Laundering. It is my wonder that both Lady Pepperell and Pepperell Percales are exceptional sheets. Yet, with all these sheets may be enjoyed for as little as $1.29* to $1.49*.

Germant Seed & Plant Company
Gibson-Bolens Mfg. Company
H. Clay Glover Company
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Hollander-Van Time Company
Graves Studios
C. H. Hycote Mfg. Company
N. Griffin
B. R. Guthrie & Co.
Hammond Paint & Chemical Company
Handicraft Shops
Harding Uniform & Regalia Company
Harley's Marmalade
Hastings Canvas Company
Harkins Mfg. Company
H. J. Heins Company
Helmer Brothers Company
Hellmann's Mayonnaise
Peter Henderson & Company
Hercber Machine & Foundry Company
M. E. Henk
Hoywood-Wakefield Company
Robert Mfg. Company
E. F. Hodgson Company
Holland Bulb Company
Holland Bulb Industry
Holland Furnace Company
Archbold Holmes & Son
Holmes Seed Company
Honeymoon Company
The Howell Company
Horn Company
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Karo
Kellogg Company
E. M. Kellogg Company
Robert W. Kellogg Company
Kemp Brothers Packing Corp.
David I. Kennedy, Inc.
Kenton Mills
Kerr Glass Mfg. Corporation
Kerrville Boiler Corporation
Kimberty-Clark Corporation
Kindel Furniture Company
Kitchen Maid Corporation
The L. H. Kibert Rubber Co.
George Koch Sons, Inc.
Kohler-Kold Sales Company
The Kohler Company
Kodak, Inc.
Kroehler Mfg. Company
A. E. Kunder, Inc.
Landers, Frary & Clark
Lawer
Les & Perrins
Lead Industries Association
Lebanon Gardens
Lewis Mfg. Company
Libby-McNeill & Libby
Litten
Littler
Literary Guild of America
Luna's Gift Shop
Logielield Iris Farms
Daniel Low & Company
Lucky Strike Cigarettes
Lodin-Bricher Mfg. Company
Lovel
McCombs Sales Company
McLaughlin, Gormley, King Co., Inc.
Macklin-Dunstan Company
Maggi Company, Inc.
Maine Development Commission
The Majestic Company
Malleable Steel Range Mfg. Co.
Maloney Brothers Nursery Co., Inc.
Manistee Iron & King & Company
March Automatic Irrigation Company
Master Metal Products, Inc.
Master Reproductions, Inc.
William Henry Maule Company
Mac's Photo Shop
Mead-A-Need Mfg. Company
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Merkle Broom Company
Merrill Art Embroidery Company
The Merchywood Company
Michell's Seed House
Mitchell Mfg. Company
F. B. Mills Seed Grower
Mingus-Honeymoon Weirregulator Company
Monette Yarns
Minute Tastee
Miracle Whip
Montgomery Mailing Distributing Company
The Moto-Mower Company
L. J. Mueller Furnace Company
Munsell-Kremer Candle Co.
The Naraula Company
Musser Forests, Inc.
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National Association of Ice Industries
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National Lead Company
National Mower Company
Nels Nurseries
New Jersey Council
Norman Steel Shower Bath Company
Northern Gardens
The Nutts Press
The Furniture Companies, Inc.
O-Cedar Corporation
Old Dutch Cleanser
L. L. Olds Seed Company
Olsen Roofing Company
O'lin Rug Company
One Spot Flea Killer
G. V. Pope Cotton Company
Outeroom & Company
Ottawa Recreation Company
Owen Silent Spring Co., Inc.
The Precedent Insurance Co. of America
Penny Paper Mills
Pequot Mills
H. R. Perkins Company
Personalized Model House Company
Phillips' Milk of Magnesia
Plewick Yarns
S. W. Pills Seedsmen, Inc.
Pilbury's Flour
Plasticwood Company
Pineapple Products Cooperative Assn.
Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Company
Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company
Pittsburgh Steel Company
Plastic Wood
Plummer, Ltd.
Pulm Miller Products Corporation
The Prudential Insurance Co. of America
L. J. Mueller Furnace Company
Rain King Sprinkler
Rayored Specialties, Inc.
Red Cherry Shingle Bureau
Red Heart Dog Food
Reflecto Letters Company
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Howard R. Rich
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Rock of Ages Corporation
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Royal Baking Powder
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Carl Salbach
Salt-Equip Company
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Schall Chemical Company
Schaaff's
Schroeder's Iris Gardens
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O. M. Scott & Sons Company
Scranton Lace Company
The Served Electrolyte Gas Refrigerator
Semper Products, Inc.
R. H. Shinnway Seedsmen
Silver Swan Studios
Simmons Company
Singer Sewing Machine Company
Siriell Laboratories
Sisal, Incorporated
W. & J. Shone
Adrian Smith
Seymour Smith & Sons, Inc.
Snug rug Company
Solovay Sales Corporation
Southerns Pacific
The Spool Cotton Company
The Springle-Air Refrgerator
Springhill Nurseries
Standard Coated Products Corp.
Standard Engine Company
Stans Floral Gardens
E. C. States & Co.
Stearns & Foster Company
Steen Products Corporation
B. N. Stephenson
Sterling Craft Company
Surrs & Harrison Company
Stroumbor Carlson Telephone Mfg. Co.
Strong Mfg. Company
Stumbo & Walker Company
Sunny Ridge Nursery
Sunset Magazine
Sutton & Sons, Ltd.
Swed Premium Ham
Syracuse Tooted Mfg. Corp.
Tampax, Inc.
Three-In-One Oil
Three Springs Fishery
The Manufacturers' Assn.
Tobacco Products, Inc.
Tomlinson of High Point
Tobin Trading Company
William Tricker, Incorporated
Two-In-One Shelf Company
Wm. Underwood Company
Union Fork & Hoe Company
Universal Lawn Tool Company
Ultros & Mohawk Potting Mill, Inc.
Vanderly Brothers, Inc.
N. Van Hooien
Vaughn's Seed Store
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Virginia-Lincoln Furniture Company
Waverly Mills
William R. Warner Company
Warren Shade Company
Washington State Apple Commission
Wayide Gardens
Webb Mfg. Company
Webster Electric Company
West's National Iris Gardens
Henry Wels Mfg. Company
Whitehead Mfg. Company
Wellington Sears Company
Western Electric Company
Western Maine Forest Nursery
Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Company
Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Company
W. F. Whitney Company
Western Auto Store
Andrew Wilson, Inc.
Western Floral Company
William H. Wise Company
Whitney, Inc. & Company
Wm. F. Wittel & Company
Woodenware Company
Woodside Gardens
The Wooler Rubber Company
The Walsh Woolen Company
The American Home, December, 1939
Of course there are people who claim that the Christmas spirit is nothing but foolish sentiment: people to whom the day is just another date printed in red upon their calendars. They shrug their well-groomed shoulders and scoff at the sentimentality of Yule logs and bayberry candles, of messed-up kitchens and finger-smudged notes to Santa Claus. They declare that Christmas has become commercialized—a bore. And after they have mailed their conventional greeting cards in a duty-bound manner, fastened a holly wreath to the front door just because all the other smart-looking houses on the block have one, they gingerly hand the janitor and postman crisp one dollar bills—to insure good service for the next year. Then they sit down to a meticulously served dinner in a swanky hotel and sigh that they would simply live and work and die—like millions of others, I suppose. I was dissatisfied. I longed for security. I longed for the sentimentalism of Yule logs. And who can say when the day is just another foolish sentiment: people to whom the day is just another date printed in red upon their calendars. They shrug their well-groomed shoulders and scoff at the sentimentality of Yule logs and bayberry candles, of messed-up kitchens and finger-smudged notes to Santa Claus. They declare that Christmas has become commercialized—a bore. And after they have mailed their conventional greeting cards in a duty-bound manner, fastened a holly wreath to the front door just because all the other smart-looking houses on the block have one, they gingerly hand the janitor and postman crisp one dollar bills—to insure good service for the next year. Then they sit down to a meticulously served dinner in a swanky hotel and sigh that they are glad Christmas is almost over.

LOUISE PRICE BELL

THE AMERICAN HOME, DECEMBER, 1959

How I retired on a Life Income of $150 a month

To men of 40 who want to retire in 15 years

Fifteen years ago I made a discovery that changed my life. I believe it will interest you.

"When I was 40, I was worried about myself and my future. I wasn't getting ahead, I didn't have much money. I seemed to be living in a circle, and I was dissatisfied. I used to dream of being able to relax, forget money worries and enjoy life. I longed for security.

"But dreams like that seemed hopeless. I wasn't rich. I probably never would be. Like millions of others, I would simply live and work and die—spend a lifetime trying to make both ends meet.

You don't have to be rich

"But that was 15 years ago. Now I have retired on a life income. I have no business worries—my security is guaranteed. I can work or play, as I like. Each month the postman hands me a check for $150 and I know that I will receive another $150 every month as long as I live.

"My friends are envious. They want to know how it was possible. How, without earning a princely salary, did I ever manage to retire on a life income? The answer is simple: When I was 40, I discovered the Phoenix Mutual Retirement Income Plan.

The minute I saw this Plan I realized it was just what I needed. It showed me how to get an income for life beginning in 15 years. It showed me how to get immediate protection for my family in case I didn't live until then. And it even included a disability income for me in case I was disabled before I reached 55 and couldn't earn a living.

"Best of all, this Plan showed how I could do all this with only a fraction of my income. The Plan actually called for far less money than ordinary investment methods require.

"Today, at the comparatively early age of 55, I have the things I want—life-long security, the opportunity to travel, to hunt and fish, to play, to live fully and well. I can laugh at the worries that used to haunt me. I can be sure of comfort and happiness in the years ahead—with a guaranteed income of $150 a month for life."

This story is typical. Wouldn't you like to make sure of your own future? Wouldn't you like to find out, for yourself, how the Phoenix Mutual Plan works? You can get the facts, without obligation, by sending for the free booklet offered below.

Send for Free Booklet

Send the coupon below and you will receive, by mail and without charge, a booklet which tells all about the Phoenix Mutual Plan. In a simple, illustrated way, this booklet explains how to get a life income of $10 to $200 a month or more, starting at age 55, 60, 65 or 70. It shows how the Plan can protect you against emergencies, and how you can fit the Plan to your own needs, large or small. Don't delay. Don't put it off. Send the coupon for your copy now.

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"cleverly "done up"

HAZEL SWAYZE

Next to decorating the house I think I get more real pleasure out of wrapping packages than anything else. It may be an awful blow to open a beautiful package only to find it's just another necktie—but what is Christmas without a necktie?

I've come across some little tricks in wrapping that are both time-saving and artistic. For instance, I use different colored crayon pencils to write the names or messages. I don't know exactly why, but ink always seems to be so messy, apt to get mixed up with the wrapping materials. And I always put up card tables in the guest room or on the third floor, if I'm having guests, and there I keep all the materials and equipment until the last package is wrapped. In that way I accomplish a lot in spare moments when otherwise it would be too much trouble to get everything out and put it away again.

Another efficiency idea is to have a number of large cartons which can be used for wastepaper. A carton is not so hard to hit as a small basket, and when it's filled just shoot it down cellar and start to fill up another carton. You'd be amazed at the time saved by not having to pick up little snips of this and bigger snips of that.

Pretty packages can be made with inexpensive artificial flowers. One of the smartest packages I made last year was wrapped in red cellophane paper, tied with white velvet ribbon. In the bow I tied a cluster of tiny frosted white Christmas tree balls. An artificial gardenia would have been just as attractive. I never can make up my mind whether or not the wrapping should suggest the contents or whether it's too much of a giveaway. It so happened that that package contained a box of dusting powder.

Sometimes when I have a largish box of squarish shape that would serve later as a utility box for buttons or something. I decorate the box instead of wrapping it in paper and just tie it with ribbon. Avoid, of course, placing any stickers or scotch tape in such a way as to deface the box when it is opened.

The various metal papers make glittering wrappings, but if one can't afford them, it's always possible to get a sheet or two and put bands of it under the ribbon, or run bands one way and ribbon the other—with attractive results.

This year I made vanilla which I bottled in a dozen charming little bottles, purchased from a wholesale chemist's supply house. When I filled the bottles I sealed them with paraffine dyed different Christmas colors (using regular food coloring) and tied the stopper around the neck of the bottle with a ribbon to match. I packed them in boxes lined with cotton which lent a Christmasy touch and at the same time provided protection against breakage.
Floors of your own design are easy to have today, as demonstrated by this guest room. Here the field is Armstrong's Rose Taupe Jaspé, No. 14, with feature strips of jade and eggplant linoleum. Cemented over felt, the only approved method, this floor should never require refinishing. List of furnishings sent free. Just write.

"Ted, have you ever been in a more perfect guest room?.. This linoleum floor has given me ideas. Want to hear them?"

Remember this guest room the last time we were here? It was nice, but now it's—oh, so glamorous! And I know the magic Bess used to change it! It's right under our feet! Now don't look so puzzled—I mean the Armstrong's Linoleum. Ted, can't you just see a floor like this in our own spare room? It would literally transform it!"

And Armstrong's Linoleum is transforming rooms, may we add, in thousands of homes the country over! For even an "ugly duckling" room takes on new beauty when Armstrong's Linoleum brings smart color and design to that largest single area, the floor.

The fashion-setting designs you will see today are a far cry from the linoleum patterns of even a few years ago. Why, you can even design your own special floor—as was done in the room above—with the help of Armstrong's Linolstrip and Custom-Craft Motifs.

So, by all means, visit your local linoleum merchant and see the new Armstrong Floor creations before you decorate. And learn anew their practical advantages of easy cleaning, long wear, and cushioning comfort underfoot.

Be sure to look for the name Armstrong's on the back of the goods you buy.

"Beauty Hints for the Home Decorator" brings you a bookful of smart room ideas illustrated in full, natural color. Write for it, enclosing 10¢ to cover postage (outside U.S.A., 40¢). Armstrong Cork Company, Floor Division, 3912 Pine Street, Lancaster, Pa. (Makers of cork products since 1860)

ARMSTRONG'S LINOLEUM FLOORS
for every room in the house

PLAIN • INLAID • EMBOSSED • MARBELLE • JASPÉ • MONOBELLE • PRINTED • ARMSTRONG'S QUAKER RUGS and LINOWALL
Here is our American version of an old Italian tradition—a Florentine counterpart of our Christmas tree.

Inspired by Rosauro A. Galanti's article in this issue and painted by Harris Wood. Details on page 66.

A Merry Christmas to you all!
CHRISTMAS again! "The most joyous, the tenderest, and the most significant of all Christian festivals. Mistletoe and holly, Christmas carols and blazing hearths within, cheery candles for those without. Christmas greetings and Christmas presents, but best of all—the Christmas tree . . . Because it is the focal point of the season's festivities, the tree should receive more attention than it does. It isn't enough that one should jump into the car a night or two before Christmas Eve and pick up a tree at the nearest filling station or grocery store, and then dash into the five-and-ten just before closing time and take what is left in the way of ornaments. The Christmas tree should be a matter of more moment. It should be planned with care, a co-operative family enterprise in which the oldest and the youngest have a part . . ." So writes Hazel Cederborg, and so write we, adding, that all the house should be "hung with holly." The Christmas spirit rampant throughout. On these pages are ideas for—well, everything but the furnace we guess. However, if your furnace is one of those handsome shiny red jobs, you can hang some holly on that too! You'll find nothing very "smart" herein, because quite honestly we are just a little tired of "smart" Christmases! Put us down as "old timers," but to us Christmas is red and green. We don't tackle kindly to blue and silver for Christmas. So here's our red-and-green Christmas issue brimming over with sincerity and genuineness in the good old-fashioned way—and the same to you! Get off to a good start by reading Mrs. Cederborg's jolly ideas on families and Christmas trees—page 87. Read, too, what Mary Dickerson Bangham has to say about "sharing" the fun and gaiety of a Christmas tree with children—page 8.
To make this elegant Regency wreath you need only simple materials and very limited artistic ability. Cut gold corrugated paper into two-inch squares, then shape like leaves. Fasten them to a cardboard circle base and put a Venetian paper silver bow at the bottom. To make cherub children cut table croquet balls in half for heads, split a small dowel lengthwise for necks, add silver paper wings and white corrugated paper waists. One of Ellen Sheridan's designs. See page 70.

Did you ever say, early in December, "Well, this year we won't do anything at Christmas," and then on Christmas Eve with a sinking heart and dull feeling, wish oh so terribly that you'd bought a tree and lurking, wish oh so terribly that you'd bought a tree and asked someone for supper or eggnog by the fire? ... Recipe for this sort of panic by Lucia Moore, page 85.

"We, as first-generation Americans, had adopted in one fell swoop all the English and American 'Christmasisms,'" says Rosalye Galanti, "and of the simple, sincere Christmas customs our parents brought from Italy, not one remained that our children would always associate with Christmas." Read on page 49 how, by turning to the beautiful story of Christmas, Mrs. Galanti found a way of celebration that combines the best features of old-world and new-world Christmases.
Glittering tree is made of shiny gold and silver paper pasted to fan-folded wrapping paper. Paint the wood base and trunk gold. Mrs. Sheridan gives details on page 79.

We're all children under the skin especially at Holiday season. Then the child-who-used-to-be-creep-snack in all of us. Sophisticated women hang sheer hose beside youngsters' woolen socks. Raid bankers play with new electric trains. Grandparents help prepare for Santa Claus—Louise Price Bell.

The things that you and the children can make for your tree to give it the special air of grace that makes it a family tree. Paper cut-outs that you haven't done since the year one, and strings of popcorn, and ribbons of cranberries, decorated cookies and huge plates of popcorn balls to pass to the admiring neighbors who come to see your tree.

Great sprays of pine with big cones are lovely on the gold frames of paintings. Decoration by Helen Perry Curtis.

Decoration in the entrance hall of Mrs. Harry L. Miller. Pine with rocks, mountain ash berries, and various types of small brown cones in a flat brass tray.

Wooden bowls come out of the kitchen to make a tree laden with fruit.

Kneeling angels by David Wood.

Karl Gilbert.
Two huge stovepipe candles in brake-drum sticks painted red and wound with holly, they throw a fine bright holiday light.
DESIGNING and landscaping a snow village in his own fireplace was fourteen-year-old William C. Mayer, Jr.'s, contribution to the Christmas decorations last year. The base was crumpled newspaper, piled high for snowbanks. Houses were placed in position and colored tree lights installed. Over all was placed non-inflammable cotton. Then fir trees in various sizes, a mirror lake with deer beside it, a skier and his friend, all found natural places. A red light under a few Christmas tree sprigs provided a miniature bonfire. The final touch was the generous sprinkling of glistening white snow.

Poinsettias make a window garden. Read about it page 84

The Nativity Scene, a homemade reproduction described in the article on page 49

Shining Christmas tree ball and pine for a door basket
High Tea—for serving large crowds formally yet inexpensively. Here, a table we set in our best "company" manner for McCutcheon's. Details on page 56

Naturally the Christmas festivities center around the family dinner. Magazines are filled with suggestions for sumptuous menus, recipes to round out the feast, even directions for appropriate table decorations. There's just one thing missing—the stunts and games that add so much jollity to family gatherings of mixed ages, that fill in those necessarily long stretches between courses if the family banquet is a long one." And so, on page 52 Clifford Parcher begins fun and stunts at the family table even before the turkey is carved and thinks of things to keep the fun rolling when dinner's over and everybody is lingering by the table, either loath or completely unable to move as the case may be.

A large pumpkin or a banana squash makes a colorful, unusual table centerpiece. Margaret Tipton Wheatly tells you how. Page 6

Old St. Nick, this time made of a rice ball, funnels and such, holds popcorn. How to make it? Turn to page 79
In the days of old a Florentine sculptor met a royal emergency by carving a table decoration out of butter to the delight of his sovereign. We may not have as talented an Italian artist nor can we carve lions out of butter as he did. But given a plain loaf of bread, a good sharp knife and one small hour, anyone can have a gorgeous time and produce a centerpiece that for uniqueness and charm would easily equal the butter lion of the middle ages, cause the gingerbread abode of Hansel and Gretel to pale, melt and dissolve with envy!

Turn, don't run, to page 59 for more about this idea.

"... somehow my Christmas meant more to me because of candlelight and fog, and because I hadn't struggled and hurried, and been modern."—Lucia Moore. Read page 85.
For the Christmas tree buffet table white wire trees on blue cloth and snowy wooden sleigh filled with gilded fruit

It just isn't Christmas without children, and if you have none of your own this Christmas, borrow one or two suggests Louise Price Bell on page 15

Table setting, Hughes Company, Cleveland

Your guests cannot eat the golden apples, but read what Elsa Conners will give them to eat on page 54

Mrs. J. Fred Essary and Mrs. Francis H. Fannon at one of the Sunday morning breakfasts. Right, Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Lee Miller

I was brought up on the theory that "it costs money to entertain," and when I was a young matron nothing happened to dispel this illusion. My husband was active in local politics and eventually became governor of the state in which we lived. Then he was elected to the United States Senate, and for nearly two decades I followed the prescribed pattern for giving parties in Washington: large luncheons, large dinners, and receptions which were largest of all. Apparently these were successful, for I received very few 'regrets' when I issued invitations. But they were not marked by much originality, and they certainly cost money. In my house the guests saw the same kind of decorations and ate the same kind of food that they did in dozens of other houses; and the monthly bills from my grocer and my florist were calculated to cause a family scene or a nervous breakdown, in fact very often did.

Then suddenly my whole scheme of life was changed. My husband decided to retire from public office; my own career, on the contrary, became increasingly absorbing. I had written for years but now I began to write at a pace which I had never reached before. There was every indication that my existence should be modified. I moved from a pretentious house to a simple apartment and carefully considered both my time and my income. These were alike so limited that I decided to cut corners in every possible way and one method seemed obvious—I would stop having company until the new novel was entirely finished and the very badly battered budget balanced at last.

But force of habit was too strong for me. I am a gregarious person, and I missed gathering congenial groups around me. I missed it so much that I decided to keep on doing it, even though this might mean working later at night or economizing in some other direction. Then for the first time I seriously asked myself the questions which should have been answered long before: 'Does it really need to take so much time and cost so much money to have company? Couldn't I give parties that people would enjoy just as much even if they weren't like everybody else's—perhaps because they weren't like everybody else's?'

So writes FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES.

So chimes THE AMERICAN HOME! Mrs. Keyes is perhaps Washington's most popular hostess and she concludes her inspiring, practical article on page 63 with the simple,
sincere statement that she has "written this article with the hope of helping some other woman to find out sooner than I did how outmoded is the old theory that it costs money to entertain." And we have used her article in this Christmas issue of ours because we believe that of all times of the year, the Christmas season is the one when to have our friends around us makes us happiest. That we can have large crowds, without heavy expense to take all the fun out of it, we have proved on many pages herein. Mrs. Keyes' ideas seem to us particularly adaptable for high school or college boys and girls, by whom large crowds and simple food are preferred far above fancy "fixins." And we suggest, too, that you try a breakfast party for your own adult crowd. First, because it is easy on yourself and your purse, at a time when there are so many calls —on both! Secondly, because an invitation to breakfast will be more of a treat to the women you know than just another evening party. And last, but not least, the rest of your day and evening is free. Page 63, please.

Mrs. Keyes, who dressed green salad better than anyone I have ever known, used to remark: 

"This takes a sage for salt, a cowpea for pepper, 
a splash of oil, a spicy for vinegar, and a 
spoonful to mix them altogether. This is as 
crazy man to mix them altogether. This is .


FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES
**doughnuts**

Mix and sift flour, baking powder, salt, spices. Add sugar to eggs, beat until light, add melted butter. Lightly stir in flour and milk, mix until all ingredients are combined. Turn out on floured board. Roll out about ½ inch thick, cut with floured doughnut cutter. Fry in deep fat (365°F.). Turn with fork as they rise to top. When brown drain on unglazed paper. Makes 2 dozen.

*Recipe submitted by Frances Parkinson Keyes*  
*Tested in The American Home Kitchen*

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**chipped beef and mushrooms**

**Melt** in frying pan 4 tablespoons butter or margarine  
Add and stir until frizzled 7 oz. chopped beef

**Blend** 3/4 cup butter or margarine  
with 3/4 cup flour

Add gradually and cook until thickened 4 cups whole milk

Combine with chipped beef and add 1 4-oz. can (1/2 cup) sliced mushrooms, drained  
2 tablespoons chopped pimiento

Serve on hot buttered toast or toasted English muffins.

Serves 10

*Tested in The American Home Kitchen*

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**codfish balls**

Soak codfish overnight in cold water. In the morning, drain and cover with cold water and boil until tender. Boil potatoes and mash as for mashed potatoes, adding salt, pepper, and piece butter size of an egg. Add cream and whip until light and fluffy. Mince codfish and add to potatoes (there should be at least 2 1/2 cups mashed potatoes) and then yolks of eggs well beaten. Shape into balls. Fry in deep fat (300°F.) until a golden brown. Drain on unglazed paper. Makes about 27 balls.

*Recipe submitted by Frances Parkinson Keyes*  
*Tested in The American Home Kitchen*

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**Boston brown bread**

Mix dry ingredients. Add molasses and milk. Fill greased 2-lb. brown bread tin or two 1-lb. tins. Cover closely and steam 3 1/2 hours.

*Note: 1 cup floured raisins may be added to batter if desired. Fill molds only 2/3 full and use an additional one.*

*Recipe submitted by Frances Parkinson Keyes*  
*Tested in The American Home Kitchen*

---

**woodsman’s delight**

**Sift** into a bowl 4 1/2 cups flour  
10 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
6 tablespoons sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt

Beat slightly 3 eggs

Add 4 1/2 cups milk  
3 tablespoons melted shortening

Add to dry ingredients, mixing just enough to moisten. Bake large pancakes on a hot griddle. This recipe will make enough for 2 large (about 10") cakes.

Brown in frying pan 3 lbs. sausage meat  
Arrange sausage and pancakes in layers. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

*Tested in The American Home Kitchen*

---

**baked beans**

Pick over and wash beans. Cover with cold water and let stand over night. In the morning, drain, put in large kettle, cover with water and add soda. Bring slowly to boil and cook until the skin loosens and turns back when a few are taken up on a spoon and gently blown upon. Drain and blanch by letting cold water run over them. Place in bean pots. Wash salt pork, score rind, cut in half and bury in beans. Combine salt, mustard and molasses in small bowl and fill up with boiling water. Pour over beans dividing evenly between pots if more than one is used.

Fill pots with boiling water until it just shows at top. Cover and bake slowly 6 hours in a moderate oven (350°F.). Add more water if necessary. Remove cover last half hour to brown. Serves 10.

*Recipe submitted by Frances Parkinson Keyes*  
*Tested in The American Home Kitchen*
Jocose Mr. Eggplant rides to the feast on a sturdy but handsome pumpkin cart drawn by three strutting turkeys. More about him on page 77.
Some smart tea people once proved to us that tea for eight (including milk or lemon) cost exactly eighteen cents! But even the addition of dainty sandwiches and fancy cakes for a beautiful tea party won't bring the cost very high. Or serve tea things all on one tray without fuss and feathers and sip it before the fire. Think about a tea as a way of entertaining around Christmas.

Tea food, page 56; etiquette, page 51.
The things we have for Christmas dinners are traditions with which we do not approve of tampering. Perhaps your home is in the South and to you Christmas means fireworks, the curious scent of long leaf pine, magnolia leaves and boxwood too, and the crusty smell of suckling pig on his bed of apples and sweet potatoes. Or if it's on the wide plains of the Middle West there must be a wide fat goose in the oven fairly bulging with sausage and chestnuts, and sharp apple sauce as icy cold as the north wind. And for the Far West, roses and a bouncing turkey with a wonderful fruit and olive and chestnut dressing. Or perhaps, as it does to me, the sight of snowflakes means a golden turkey with oyster stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed golden turnips, and the luscious plum pudding of old New England!
Southern and Southwestern Style

Heated biscuits

- 4 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons shortening
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 cup milk

Roll dough 1/2 to 1 inch thick. Cut 1/2 inches diameter. Prick 3 times with a fork. Bake in a preheated oven at 425°F for 10 minutes. Makes 12 biscuits.

Butter sauce

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Mix together. Stir into melted butter until well mixed. Add rich cream and mix together thoroughly. Place in sauce dish. Makes enough to serve 6 people.

Roast turkey

- 1 1/2 cups turkey
- 1 1/2 cups broth
- 1 cup dry rice
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Place in pot. Cover with water. Bake in oven at 350°F for 2 hours. Makes 6 servings.

Roast oyster stuffing

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup cream
- 1/2 cup milk

Mix together thoroughly. Place in sauce dish. Makes enough to serve 8 people.

Plan pudding

- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine

Mix together. Stir into melted butter until well mixed. Add sugar and mix together thoroughly. Place in sauce dish. Makes enough to serve 6 people.

Note: This recipe is part of the American Home Kitchen series.
CHRISTMAS, like some other gentle thing we've heard of, starts at home so wherever we may be, let's do it in the grand old way. We like to think that we have found three traditional menus that will please the largest groups. Much as we would have enjoyed it, we could not indulge in small sectional specialties, but these come from genuine people with real old-time habits and because they know why we wanted them, just as a little extra gift to tuck in the toe of your stocking, they have let us have treasured old recipes. Your health on Christmas and for the coming year, and for mercy's sake, carve!
pickled beets

Boil together for 15 minutes... 3/4 cup cider vinegar
1/4 cup tarragon vinegar
3/4 cups beet juice (from can)
1 two in. stick cinnamon
15 whole cloves
3 table spoons brown sugar
3/2 teaspoon salt
Strain over... 2 #2 cans whole beets
Let stand overnight or pour into jars and seal. Drain
beets; serve hot or cold. Makes 10 to 12 servings.
Tested in The American Home Kitchen

roast goose

Have goose cleaned and dressed.
Singe well. Rinse out cavity, dry thoroughly, and rub with salt blended with
ginger. Lightly pack goose with stuffing.
Fasten skin over neck with skewer. Close
cavity and tie legs close to the body. Rub
skin with garlic; prick skin well with
fork. Place on rack in uncoated roasting
pan and cook in a moderate oven.
Temp: 350°F.

12 lb. goose
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground ginger
cut clove of garlic

stuffing
2 x recipe for water- chestnut sausage stuffing
(A.H. recipe, Nov. '39)

Time: about 25 min. per lb.
(weight goose, dressed)

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

fried apples

Do not peel or core apples, but cut in 1/4 to 1/2 inch slices. Melt a small
amount of the butter and shortening at a
time in a frying pan. When hot add some of
the apple slices and cook slowly until
nearly tender; sprinkle with brown sugar
and brown on both sides. Serves 10.
An interesting variation: Melt fat in
frying pan; when hot, add layers of
sliced apples (skins left on) and sliced
onions. Cook slowly until both onions
and apples are done.

12 firm red skinned apples
Equal parts butter (or margarine) and other shortening,
for frying
Brown sugar

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

mincemeat for pies

Boil meat until tender. Reserve 1/2 cups
stock. Put meat, suet, apples, and raisins through
food chopper. Add the 1/2 cups stock and all
other ingredients except liquor. Simmer 1/2 hours.
Add liquor and cook about 5 minutes longer.
Pour into sterilized jars. Seal. Makes 7 quarts.
Mincemeat Pie. Make pastry for 2 crust 9-inch pie and fill with 1 1/2 cups
mincemeat. Bake in a hot oven (425°F) for 30 to 40 minutes.

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

two-tone fruit cocktail

Chill in refrigerator... 1 14 oz. can pineapple gems
1 #21/2 can black cherries
1 #21/2 can apricots

Drain pineapple gems and let stand
for 30 minutes in... juice, 1 lemon

Drain all fruit well and arrange in fruit cocktail cups for serving as shown in the
picture on reverse side. Line the bottom of each cup with 4 apricot halves.
Just before serving pour on... 1 small bottle gingerale, chilled
Serves six.

Tested in The American Home Kitchen

routine preparation

2 days before
Have market order made out ahead and do all buying early, especially if
Christmas comes on Monday.
Check all linen, dishes, and silver etc. for condition and number.
Day before
Make stuffing and prepare goose, ready for roasting.
Make the pickled beets, put into jars. Chill, if planning to serve cold.
Since the refrigerator is probably full and the oven will be in use tomorrow,
bake the rolls of your choice and reheat for serving.
The mincemeat has probably been made weeks in advance and so bake the
pie. It can be reheated for serving warm.
Put cans fruit for fruit cup in refrigerator for
thorough chilling.
Make pastry for pumpkin pie and keep in
refrigerator overnight.
Eligette of Christmas cards? Follow the rules of common sense and you will remain within the boundaries of good taste in this as in all other social intercourse, but if you do want to check up just in case, read page 90.

Last year's supply of "rain," a sheet of Cellophane, two silver candlesticks, and candles plus one half hour's work for two beautiful table trees... Popcorn balls heaped on a mirror looking ready for a snowball fight but really for dessert... A pot of beans, canned brown bread and pale, frosty blue in cloth and china—that's how Lucia Moore, just back from the hospital, managed Christmas guests and a Christmas Eve that was NOT dreary... The story's on page 81.
**Christmas Eve buffet table:**

The night before Christmas, you've invited your friends in to help trim the Christmas tree. You'll want something to eat at midnight, but your guests cannot eat the golden apples and gilded walnuts! The answer—sugar cookie stars, Christmas tree sandwiches, and coffee. On your Christmas tree buffet table—a smooth linen cloth of midnight blue. At each end of the table—sparkling candlelight, enhanced by hurricane chimneys with white wire Christmas tree frames, gold ball tipped. In the center of the table at the back, casting shadows on the wall, a snowy wooden sleigh, gold decorated and filled with gilded fruit, banked on a bed of snowy pine branches—the same snowy pine branches which fill the wire receptacle bases of the Christmas hurricane candles. The sleigh was designed by Elsa Comners. The gilded walnuts have had Christmas fortunes, written in gold ink on tiny white scrolls, substituted for the original nut meats—and are the surprise feature of your Christmas tree buffet supper!
Cookie tree and table cloth have red ribbon trimmed pantie ruffles. Ellen Sheridan tells you how to make them. Just turn to page 70.

Fred R. Dapprich

"If I had to choose between a dozen candles and a dozen roses, I would take the candles every time!"—FRANCES PARKINSON KEYES

As many a sad debutante has discovered too late, it's possible to spend $5,000 on a party and still have the season's outstanding dud... try locking up your bank account and opening up your idea-fund." So writes Julietta K. Arthur in her article on Beulah Kuh, who "gives" more than a thousand parties a year and did the gay Harvest table for us above. For parties that click and a description of this table, turn to page 65.

Wreath of balsam with silver ribbon and silver walnuts for a Regency room.
Our state flower prints

You don't have to be an artist to make The American Home flower prints into gifts nice enough to go under the most glittering tree. We know because we tried it! The whole editorial staff got to work with paste pot and scissors and turned out the array of gifts you see above. These suggestions should get you off to a fine start on making all kinds of original things. And don't for a minute make the mistake of thinking that our gifts reflect extravagant ideas. They cost next to nothing, for everything from a Quaker Oats box to paper doilies was used for the handsome effects you see here. Even the portfolio and the seed file are in the limited budget class, but they show that you started thinking about your friends long before Christmas Eve. You might start right now by reading the directions given on page 39.

Here's another timely idea—the flower prints opposite would make charming Christmas cards
Children's eagerness to "help with Christmas" is almost unlimited and even though at times it would be quicker to do certain tasks oneself, let them help. Any child will hurry home from school if he knows that he can cut up the fruit for fruit cake to be sent Grandmother and for the plum pudding to be served on Christmas day. Even self-important high school girls and boys will fairly revel in making taffy and popcorn balls. They will thoroughly enjoy making scores of crisp fat gingerbread men to be taken to the Crippled Children's Hospital on Christmas Eve, and they will pinch their allowances unmercifully so as to do their share in packing the basket for the family across the tracks. These are the things that have a meaning at Yuletide, that are invaluable to the recipients, but even more to the young folk who offer them... for they help to inculcate the real significance of Christmas. Even small youngsters understand that giving has been an integral part of Christmas ever since the Three Wise Men took their gifts to Bethlehem. And so they can not learn too early that giving must be of oneself and for others if it is to ring true.—Louise Price Bell
These are the kinds of things one hopes to receive!
—and there's no safer way of gauging a gift. If you give it away reluctantly, wishing secretly you were receiving it—it's a fine gift!

Gifts that really add up are the gifts we all like to get. Sheets and towels and clocks prosaic? Not this kind, Sir!

These are things everyone likes; sparkling new Christmas candle holders, towels and sheets to match for the “master suite,” a de luxe coffee maker to replace the antique long ago entitled to an old age pension.

How straight can you saw? A good aim is about all that's needed to make your little girl that doll house she's always wanted, but which is so extravagantly high-priced in the shops. Hi Sibley tells you how—page 61. Above is a real playhouse.
A really unique gift is a handmade Indian rug, perfect for modern room or log cabin. If she sets her table with old Sandwich glass, we suggest a reproduction for the centerpiece. Also for her table, an urn-shaped vase becoming to most flowers and a sterling "pineapple" for jams and jellies.

Either doll house is very easy to build, the cost of materials negligible. Start now so you'll have time to plant some green sponge rubber trees, put in a bird bath and pergola and, of course, a barbecue!

Turn to page 61 and, saw in hand—
Everybody loves
a GADGET!

And there is a different gadget to
delight every single person on your
gift list. Here's just everything from
fireproof gloves to fireside stools

Winter evenings—the time when the garden
lover fondles his tools in anticipation of
the spring onslaught. Give him new ones

Candlelight goes with Christmas, and all
the more so when the candles themselves
are such realistic symbols of Christmas

A glass mail box is
At preparedness for
those Xmas greetings

Beautiful silence, not clatter, when
dishes are washed, if you wrap these
gay rubber mats with a large red bow

A big "little" gift; a clip-
on rack for those folk who
can't "build in" conveniences

A fine sod spiker
for the man who
wants one (lawn)

Give away the secret of well-kept
hands for gardener or home worker
—these gloves in a Xmas package

Really four-in-one, and a handy gadget to
own. Combines corkscrew, bottle opener, ice
hammer and jigger. Could you ask for more?

There are so many "little things" that make
thoughtful gifts: witness a picnic tray that
attaches to your car, a lap table, and a holder
for the always indispensable paper towels
That's our Christmas resolution
— we hope it's yours!

TABLES AND CHAIRS,
That's our Christmas resolution
— we hope it's yours!

TABLES AND CHAIRS,

SHE SHALL HAVE PLENTY
HOWEVER SHE FARES!

You don't need even the proverbial clever fingers to make these! All you do need is a few pennies worth of crepe paper, cardboard from your husband's shirts, a dime for a "twister," an eye for color, and a little time. Turn to page 85 for the details.

No one ever had too many mirrors! Two handsome ones for downstairs and upstairs, respectively.

Is her house done in maple?
Here's a sturdy beauty

Did you postpone sending a wedding gift until they were settled? A love seat is handsome, practical. Two of these turn into beds when occasion demands.

A pull-up chair is always handy, rarely so handsome

For solid comfort without bulk—this fine wing chair

If her room is quaint, she'll like this spool sewing table

Hall, dining or living room would welcome this piece

She's crazy about Swedish Modern? Here's her chair!

Happy solution for lamp, books, etc.—all in one place!
It's impossible to hurt a homemaker's feelings by giving her something practical for the home. So, we've managed to combine usefulness and beauty and there isn't a thing here ANY homemaker wouldn't love getting.

Even if they seem to "have everything," a musical door chime is liable to be missing. It's subtle flattery to give her fine sheets, and here's the most stylish "twin" we've set eyes upon, a waffle iron that doubles in chrome and walnut.

Even if they don't like to get up in the morning anyway, this blanket won't make them eager risers—you know, the warm but not heavy kind.

Why not give a formal lace dinner cloth—the luxury kind she might not buy for herself? It comes in this handsome gift box.

If they don't like to get up in the morning anyway, this blanket won't make them eager risers—you know, the warm but not heavy kind.

Why not give a formal lace dinner cloth—the luxury kind she might not buy for herself? It comes in this handsome gift box.

And here's another lace dinner cloth to help make the holiday parties more festive. It's handsome and dignified.

We can suggest nothing more exciting for a young hostess than this Crystolite bowl and four candlesticks.

She has a table? Not this delicately beautiful sewing table, we'll wager!

This is NOT a table, it's a radio that's a good looking piece of living room furniture.

And here you see what to our mind is a grand solution for a radio in a child's room.
Sheer Luxury!

We're ardent members of the Society for the Prevention of Useless Giving. But at the same time it kindles our heartstrings to send as a gift something that the recipient would not indulge in of his own accord, something that represents an added luxury, an added pleasure, or convenience. And so we have gathered together those extras which are not strictly necessities, but because of just that will be all the more welcome at Christmas time.

The Garden Encyclopedia, a fascinating new book on decoration, not needed, but what really lovely gifts.

Music in the home, a fitting token of the real Christmas spirit.

There'll be tremendous joy in these tiny pianos in many homes this Christmas. We hope you'll sing your carols around one too.

The true warmth of your regard goes with your gift of these truly luxurious warm blankets.

And how about luxuries for Dad, too? He can use a 98¢ dictionary, wind his own desk clock and struggle over a crude rock stone for his grill—but look these over carefully, boys. They are DAD'S idea of sheer luxury—and complete joy!

The waffles will be as good on any old waffle iron. But there IS this "whole set" for waffle making with pomp and ceremony—and is it swank!

The Garden Encyclopedia, a fascinating new book on decoration, not needed, but what really lovely gifts.

You CAN take it with you, if it's a portable radio. And is this a super-duper case! The recipient will think so, we're sure of that.

Fortunate are you if someone on your list is a collector of pitchers! Here's a charmer that she'll love.

A gay gift box of fine, fine linen, as the ads would say, to give her that cherished feeling so dear to a woman.

All of us like to be pampered. So why not this soft woolly electric hot pad to make one cozy these frosty winter nights?

No one really NEEDS sandwich tongs—but how it would set up a little hostess if Santa should remember to bring her a fine pair.

Pampering again—one can get along without an electric coffee mill of course—but gosh!

To toast at breakfast, toast at tea, toast to taste. AND always in the grand manner with this beautiful and streamlined job!
Want to Spend a Dollar?

We, ourselves, were surprised to find out how many really desirable things there are for one silver dollar, or less! We're really proud of the collection on this page and hope it will help stretch the Christmas budget so that each and every friend can be included on your gift list this merry Christmas.

Little things such as these can be both useful and ornamental!

For your "hobby" friend we suggest one of the newest games. It will give all the thrills of the real turf!

When the electricity fails, they'll be grateful for this hurricane candle stand.

No one ever has enough of these little "extra" dishes, for candy, jam, salted nuts, olives—all the things served at holiday parties.

If she loves a pretty kitchen, she'll appreciate these oilcloth helps. Practical, but also very gay with their various colorful patterns.

Don't make them wait for their crystal anniversary! Give them this bit of elegance here and now!

If you've a friend in a hotel room or non-housekeeping suite, he'll enjoy a one-cup coffee maker.

Lots of people love to do their own decorating. Give them decalcomanias to put on furniture, pottery. Very gay on canisters.

Everyone likes miniatures. Here's a new one for either a child or collector.

Another nice gift for bridge friends. The next time the Bridge Club meets at her home, she'll use this smart bridge table cover.

Take your choice of metals; for him, aluminum Hot plate; for her, and make a hit.

The child just learning to write will adore "private" stationery, packed in little animal bookends—a deer maybe.

Consider driveway markers, please, both guest and host! For bridge friends, paper doilies in Christmas colors. Monogrammed crystal ash trays are also grand.

Columbia Coated Fabrics
Chase Brass & Copper
Duncan & Miller
Columbus Bradley
Cataracl Sharp
West Bend Aluminum
Meyerord
Daniel Low & Co.
I. B. Kleinert Rubber

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West Bend Aluminum
Meyerord
Daniel Low & Co.
I. B. Kleinert Rubber
And now on these nine pages of gift suggestions you simply must have got ideas for all "your sisters and your cousins and your aunts." We have searched and shopped for many months and in many parts of the country and have culled out the things we thought you'd like best. We're sorry we cannot buy them for you, but we know you'll find them in the various leading stores in your particular city.

It's the thoughtful gifts we make ourselves that often please most. For directions for making the marmalade jar, right, turn to page 51.


Silver and gold tinsel on the Christmas tree, and silver and gold lace paper doilies underneath.

For those occasions when refreshments require just a small plate, but a dainty one, American history occasional plates with lovely colored borders, are the thing.

If it's a combination anniversary and Christmas gift, nothing could be lovelier than a sterling silver coffee service, and, of course, so very perfect for holiday entertaining.

Really permanent gifts carry Christmas greetings over the years. Mirrors and extra tables are two of the best.

It's the thoughtful gifts we make ourselves that often please most. For directions for making the marmalade jar, right, turn to page 51.

First silver is important. Start the baby off right with "a silver spoon in his mouth"—and a fork.

Every day in the year one can appreciate the gift of stationery with printed name and address, ideal for semi-business notes.

Let the children write their Christmas thank-you notes on their very own "Ducky Doodle" stationery. 10 white sheets, 10 blue, with envelopes.
Here's how people use—and enjoy—Campbell's Tomato Soup

A word to the wives: With Campbell's Tomato Soup aplenty on your pantry shelf, the unexpected guest is never a problem, women tell us. And what a dinner-beginner it is! Bright. Bracing. Easy to prepare, delicious to eat...and a joy to serve!

To a can of Campbell's Tomato Soup, add an equal amount of milk for smooth, delightful cream of tomato. Ideal for the children's lunch, it provides the extra nourishment of milk as well as the sound health-benefits of tomatoes.

Cream of tomato, prepared by adding milk instead of water, has a festive look, an unequalled flavor making it an excellent soup to serve guests at lunch. It's smooth, creamy, and utterly delicious. Serve them Campbell's Tomato Soup—and serve them "right"!

In the homes of countless people clear across this country of ours, Campbell's Tomato Soup is almost as much a standby as sugar and salt and pepper. It, too, is a definite and important adjunct to meal-planning, and has its own place on the pantry shelf. Americans use—and enjoy—this soup often, and in many ways.

Why do so many thousands like Campbell's Tomato Soup? Briefly, it is because of its rich, racy flavor—the flavor of ripe tomatoes, blended with golden butter of table-quality, seasoned just so—neither too much nor too little. It's a soup that doesn't wear out its welcome. Why not serve it frequently as suggested on this page?
How to please a lady

with gifts of beauty — distinction
—and very moderate cost

by West Bend

With the "Serving Humidator she can prepare sandwiches hours ahead — serve later deliciously fresh. Also keeps cakes fresh. Humidifier prevents drying out. "Spun" aluminum finish. Without cover, Serving Humidator is serving tray.

$1.95* each

"Serving Oven — Heats and crisps rolls, muffins, crackers on stove, then serves them piping hot at table. New all-aluminum basket, base and cover in attractive "spun" aluminum. Bake-lite handles. Unique vent regulates moisture.

$1.95* each

Complete with Tray $3.25

Easy-Out Ring Mold for beautiful molds every time. New removal feature prevents breaks and flaws. Won't flex or shatter. Polished aluminum exterior, satin finish interior.

$1.50* each

"Trade mark

*Prices slightly higher from Denver west.

Be a success as Santa —
Look for West Bend name and W&B trade mark on merchandise and give these popular gifts. Colorful Christmas wrappings. If your dealer cannot supply you, order direct from West Bend Aluminum Co., Dept. 4512, West Bend, Wisconsin.
What a heterogeneous collection of observances our Christmas celebrations have become! Jean Austin's Christmas editorial of last year made us realize that in the hodgepodge of Christmas customs that we had adopted, there was no one predominating idea that our children would always associate with Christmas. We, as first-generation Americans, had adopted in one fell swoop all the English and American "Christmasisms"—from the burning of the Yulelog to the blazing plum pudding and even the more ubiquitous habit of exchanging gifts with friends and family.

1. Kathryn Potts, with the strength of a horse, lifts pianos and trunks as a matter of course.

2. But one household duty that soon makes her sag, is washing the windows with bucket and rag.

3. While young Janet Hurd, you can readily see, has scarcely the strength of a feminine flea...

4. But she uses Windex and ends up the day feeling perfectly fine!

5. For with Windex there's nothing to do but to spray. And then wipe with a cloth. It's the easiest way...

6. To make windows sparkle like never before, get Windex today at your neighborhood store!

Recipe printed on back of photograph

Recipe: Windex

1 cup water

1 tablespoon vinegar

1 tablespoon ammonia

Wipe with a cloth and let air dry.

The Easy Way to Make Glass Sparkle!

WINDEX

FOR WINDOWS, MIRRORS, PICTURE GLASS, ETC.

NO OTHER GLASS CLEANER IS MADE BY THE SECRET WINDEX FORMULA! YET AN AVERAGE YEAR'S SUPPLY OF WINDEX COSTS NO MORE THAN A PAIR OF SILK STOCKINGS!

Copyright 1939, The Drackett Co.
acquaintances. There had been no gradual transition from the simple, sincere Christmas practices our parents brought here from the old world to the elaborate observances common to this, their adopted country. It was the reading of The American Home's Christmas editorial, then, that revealed to us the wealth and beauty of traditions we were ignoring in our completely modernizing childhood Christmas celebrations.

With this thought in mind, we harked back to our childhood Christmases. The first vision that came to mind was not the mad rush of activity outside the home that precedes Christmas Week in our scheme of life today, but rather the extra excitement and preparation within the home that made us almost breathless before the great morning dawned. Besides the special house cleaning and the finishing of the handmade family Christmas presents, there were also (and best of all) the Christmas smells—especially on the day we baked the fig-filled pastry (cut into the shapes of fantastic fish and birds and baskets of flowers) without which no Italian Christmas could be complete. On Christmas Eve layer upon layer of these pastries (called "Cuccidati") would be heaped high on special trays ready for the many friends and relatives who never failed to call to bring to us not costly gifts but rather their sincere wishes that our Christmas would be a happy, peaceful one. Surely if there were a place on our American Christmas table for a plum pudding so should each Christmas in the future see on our table a tray of Cuccidati, the ingredients of which (figs, nuts, and coarse flour) reflect the geographic and climatic conditions of the southern Italian countryside, where they originated, to as great a degree as the plum pudding indicates its English origin.

And so, we decided that this sweet old-world Christmas memory should become a Christmas memory for our children too. In

 Photograph printed on back of recipe

If you're not already enjoying the comfort of clean, filtered air from your warm-air furnace, get in touch with your furnace man and find how inexpensively an air-filtering attachment can be installed. Write for Booklet A—It's free!

FIBERGLAS DUSTOP AIR FILTERS
BY M. MAC U.S. PAT. OFF.
Manufactured by Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation, Toledo, Ohio

If you're not already enjoying the comfort of clean, filtered air from your warm-air furnace, get in touch with your furnace man and find how inexpensively an air-filtering attachment can be installed. Write for Booklet A—It's free!

FIBERGLAS DUSTOP AIR FILTERS
BY M. MAC U.S. PAT. OFF.
Manufactured by Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation, Toledo, Ohio
Afternoon Tea

There are few etiquette rules to bother about, and these few so simple anyone can master them. Suppose, for instance, a hostess wishes to invite several friends for tea. She may do so quite informally—by word of mouth or by a brief note, asking them if they would care to "drop in for a cup of tea."

The generally accepted hour for tea is four or four-thirty but the hostess has great leeway here and may, as a matter of fact, set the hour at her own convenience and the convenience of her guests. Such tea parties are scarcely any more formal than "drop in for a cup of tea."

A hostess wishes to invite her two or three best friends to "pour". (They may alternate.) Wearing a gown and tea gown the "pourer" sits at one end of a large table with the tea service directly in front of her, and the cups, saucers, spoons, and napkins to one side. The hostess in a long semi-formal gown stands near the door where it is convenient for her to greet guests and introduce them to others. If she feels that the number of her guests may prove unwieldy, she may ask one or two of her other friends to "stand" with her. They, like the "pourer" wear hats and tea gowns.

At a large tea the hostess is called upon for much more in the way of food than at a small one. Generally speaking she should have at least one hot dish, besides sandwiches, cakes, candies and nuts. These are laid out on the table with plates and forks. If convenient, it is nice to have chairs along the wall close to the table so that guests who wish to sit can sit there. Or, they may take their tea and side plate to another part of the room.

Among the foods considered as usual in large teas are potted meat, buttered bread, cinnamon toast, thin sandwiches, slices of layered cake, apples, cookies, nuts, and a variety of salted nuts. The hostess, however, in food for teas is more definite and in this issue we've given you many really good ideas.

The large tea table should be your special care. Be very particular to see that there is a lovely centerpiece, of flowers and candles of some of the beautiful and healthful woven wares we've given you through your Christmas issue.
at the
Family Table
CLIFFORD PARCHER

O DAY in the modern calendar has as much family significance as Christmas. There may be family reunions at other times of the year, but Christmas invariably calls for a gathering of all members of the clan who are within possible traveling distance.

Naturally the Christmas festivities center around the family dinner, and magazines are filled with suggestions for sumptuous menus, recipes to round out the feast, and even directions for appropriate table decorations. There's just one thing missing—the stunts and games that can add so much to the jollity of the occasion, can "fill in" those necessarily long stretches between courses if the family clan is a large one.

The first items on the entertainment program should be for use at the table, starting with a series of riddles on the place cards. These can be bought ready made, although it's really more fun to fix your own. Write your questions on the front of the cards, as the back or bottom is to be reserved for something else. Of course the conundrums should be appropriate to the occasion, and it is well to have them simple enough so that most of them can be answered. The guests can read them aloud, in turn, soon after arrival at the table. Each one tries to guess his answer, but if unsuccessful, this is supplied by the hostess before the next question is read. The following list will be of help if you decide to make your own:

1. What part of a turkey assists my lady in her toilet? (Comb)
2. What happens when a salesman fat, sits down on someone else's hat? (Squash)
3. What vegetable is a slang term for acquiring? (Cabbage)
4. What part of a turkey will appear the day after New Year's? (The bill)
5. A kind of pie that means to chop up? (Mince)
6. A fish that is "collected on delivery"? (Cod)
7. What part of the turkey is watched by Mr. Wallace? (Crap)
8. A word that means "to elevate": A preposition for its mate? (Raisin)
9. What part of the turkey is a story? (Tail)
10. What fruit is a kind of shot? (Grape)
11. Why should the one who will eat the most at this table wear a plaid vest? (To keep a check on his stomach)
12. What part of the turkey is found in every parade? (Drumstick)
13. What fruit did they specialize in on the ark? (Pears)

The American Home, December, 1939

HOW LONG SINCE you've tasted Heinz Chicken Noodle Soup? Here's an old Creole favorite folks relish! It's chock-full of tender chicken, pearly rice, okra and other luscious, top-grade vegetables—skillfully seasoned to mouth-watering perfection!
14. What pie is related to a well? (Pumpkin)

15. How do you tell the age of a turkey? (By the teeth—your own, of course!)

WHILE THE TURKEY'S BEING CARVED. There's always a little spare time while the turkey is being carved. Introduce a Turkey Race, with the people sitting on one side of the table competing against those sitting across the board. Each player has found at his own place a gay colored soda straw, and the captains, sitting at the right and left of the host, also have a turkey cut out of paper. Each captain picks up his turkey on the end of his straw by inhaling. He then passes it to the next player by exhaling at the moment the number two man inhales on his straw. The side which first passes its turkey down the length of the table and back again to the original player is the winner and is entitled to the first servings of the real turkey. If a turkey falls, it must be picked up by inhaling through the straw. Only the player from whose straw it fell may pick it up.

AFTER THE MAIN COURSE. After the main course these two teams again compete in a Toothpick and Raisin Race, using the colored toothpicks which are found at each place. The players at the end of the table away from the original captains are each given a saucer of raisins. In rotation, the players spear three raisins with their toothpicks, one at a time, and feed these to their next-door neighbors. The side that finishes first is the winner.

LINGER AT THE TABLE. And now, with the meal finished and a general desire to linger at the table, let's take a look at the bottom of the place-cards. Oh—ho! a different stunt for each person! Let one of the older children act as master of ceremonies for the stunt period and have full responsibility for supplying the simple properties needed. The master of ceremonies decides how long should be allowed in each instance, as the feasters tackle their assignments one by one, and provides the solution where necessary. If you wish, you can impose certain forfeits on everyone who fails to carry out his stunt.

And here's a good assortment of messages to put on the place-cards. The solutions are given for the benefit of the master of ceremonies, and of course, do not appear on the place-cards.

1. Float a needle on your glass of water. (Can be carefully floated off the times of a fork or rested on a small piece of tissue paper which eventually sinks, leaving the needle on the surface of the water.)

2. Add 5 toothpicks to 6 to make nine. (Put the 5 down in a well-spaced row, then use the 6 to make the letters, "NINE.")

3. Make 2 straight lines of 4 each with 6 coins. (Arrange 5 coins in a right angle and put the 6th coin on top of corner coin.)

4. Put one penny under another placed on the table, without touching the second. (Hold under table.)

5. Lift 5 toothpicks by touching only 1. (Cross 2 diagonally: lay 3rd on top, at right angles to edge of table: put 4th and 5th horizontally under ends of diagonals and over ends of middle one.)

6. In the Brown family, each daughter has the same number of brothers as she has sisters, and each son has twice as many sisters as brothers. How many daughters and sons are there in the Brown family? (4 daughters and 3 sons.)

7. In a certain word of 8 letters, KST is in the middle, in the beginning, and at the end. There is only one K, one S and one T in the word. What is the word? (The word is INKSTAND, KST is in the middle, IN is at the beginning—and AND is at the end—AND at the end.)

8. Read a complete phrase from the following: Bed (A little darkey—dark e—bed with nothing over him."

9. With 6 toothpicks make 11. (Roman numeral XI, 2 toothpicks high.)

10. Arrange the numbers from 1 to 16 in a square so that the sum of the figures in any row, vertical, horizontal or diagonal, will be 34. (Starting at top, the four rows, reading left to right, are: 16-3-2-13; 5-10-11-8; 9-4-7-12; and 4-15-1-6.)

11. Place 3 toothpicks in a row. Then remove the middle toothpick from its central position without touching it. (Move the 1st toothpick to the far side of the 3rd, thus changing the position of the original middle toothpick to 1st place.)

12. Guess within 5 the number of grapes in the fruit dish. (The actual count can be ascertained in advance.)

And now it’s time to adjourn from the table and allow a little intermission before the entertainment program is resumed in the living room.

INTERMISSION

[Part II follows on page 54 in half an hour]

HOLIDAY TREATS FOR DIETERS!

A NEW TASTE SENSATION

MRS. KNOX’S

PLUM PUDDING

1 envelope Knox Gelatine (6 grams)
3/4 cup cold water
1 cup milk
1/2 cup seeded raisins
1/4 cup brown sugar
2 teaspoons chocolate or cocoa
2 tablespoons flour
3/4 teaspoon salt
2 square pieces of 1/4 teaspoonful vanilla

Cook milk with chopped fruit slightly in double boiler. Add chocolate or cocoa, melted and mixed with part of sugar and a little milk to a smooth paste. Soften gelatine in cold water. Add to hot chocolate mixture; stir until dissolved. Add sugar, salt, stir thoroughly. Remove from fire, when mixture thickens, add vanilla and fold in egg whites. Chopped nuts may be added. Chilled in serving dish. Serve with 1/4 cup whipped cream.

NOTE: Don’t confuse Knox Gelatine with factory-flavored gelatine desserts which are about 85% sugar. Be sure to use pure Knox Gelatine.

DELICIOUS DISHES—LOW IN CALORIES

Only 272 calories per serving in this festive Knox Plum Pudding. One serving of ordinary plum pudding reaches the staggering total of 674 calories. That’s a grand example of the way these unusual treats—both desserts and salads—have cut calories to fit streamlined requirements. Amazing low-calorie butter and mayonnaise are included in an interesting, helpful new booklet. Send for it today.

KNOX GELATINE

IS PLAIN UNFLAVORED GELATINE—NO SUGAR

LES (0 MINUS

Although 1 envelope (4.5 grams) Knox Gelatine yields 1 cup liquid—serves 4— it contains only 28 calories.

Special FREE Offer. Discover how to keep fit and avoid fat—with this new diet principle. It is fully described in a booklet which has been printed in a limited edition. Contents include the newest streamline recipes. You can get a copy absolutely free. Send this coupon today Knox Gelatine Company, Box 712, Johnstown, N.Y.

Name

Address

THE AMERICAN HOME, DECEMBER, 1939

53
MR. HUNT GETS A LESSON!

1. "Welcome home, honey" beams Mr. Hunt. "Everything's fine—except the kitchen drain got clogged, and I haven't washed the dishes for a week!"

2. "A clogged drain—with Drano in the house?" explodes Mrs. Hunt. "Hand me that can of Drano in the cupboard—and watch!"

3. In the drain goes Drano—out goes the clogging muck! Drano goes down deep and digs out all the grease, grounds and stoppage.

4. "See, darling?" smiles Mrs. Hunt. "Drano cleans drains—and a teaspoonful each night helps keep them clean, free-flowing!"

P. S. After the dishes—use a teaspoonful of Drano to guard against clogged drains. Never over 2 teaspoons at grocery, drug, hardware stores.

Drano

CLEANS CLOGGED DRAINS

Hoffman Vacuum

THE ECONOMY MADE BY TONGUE SIPHON WHICH PERMITS EASY INSTALLATION

And the "balancing" feature of Hoffman Valves makes radiators beat 30% in fuel are common. Savings up to 30% in fuel are common. They hold heat longer—far into the night.

Hoffman Vacuum

IMPROVED HOFFMAN VACUUM VALVES

MORE HEAT FROM LESS FUEL

WORKING OFF

too much

CHRISTMAS DINNER

CLIFFORD PARCHER

BACK on page 53 we called an intermission of a half hour between games and fun at the family table and games and fun in the living room, for even though games will help work off too much dinner, it's advisable to remember the size of the meal and start off with some stunts and games that won't require too much energy.

After "Intermission" is a good time to introduce Cahoots, with two of the junior members mystifying the rest of the family. One person is blindfolded and seated in a chair. His confederate stands behind him and asks if he is in cahoots. As soon as the blindfolded person recognizes the voice of anyone in the room who is speaking, he agrees that he is in cahoots. Then the confederate points at various persons and asks the blindfolded "mystic" if each of these is "in cahoots." The blindfolded person answers, "Yes," and gives that person's name. The answer is no, until the confederate, pointing at the person whose voice was recognized, says, "Is he in cahoots with me?" The blindfolded player answers, "Yes," and gives that person's name. It's a good trick and not easily guessed.

A ROUND OF Gossip: A round of Gossip is always amusing, especially at a family party. One player whispers to the next a brief message, probably bringing in personalities, which has been written down on a piece of paper. The second player whispers it to the third, and so on around the circle. The final player tells the group what the message was as it reached him, and then the original is read. The changes are almost unbelievable.

Or why not pass out paper and pencils for a game of Word Squares. Each player draws a square on his paper and subdivides this into 25 smaller squares. Each player in rotation names one letter and everyone puts this down in any one of his squares. The point is to make as many and as long words as possible, reading both horizontally and vertically. No letter can be moved after it has been written down. When the 25 letters have been called, scores are counted up, allowing 5 points for 5-letter words, 4 points for those of 4 letters and 3 points for 3-letter words. Two-letter words do not count. For this and other competitive games, it adds to the fun to have inexpensive prizes—ten cent gadgets and mechanical toys.

THIS IS REALLY GREAT FUN! A couple of stunts will fit well into the program at this point. First, choose a victim for Photograph. Camera and other paraphernalia are brought in and the victim seated in a chair. The photographer goes out of the room and when he comes back takes considerable care in posing the subject, tilting the chin, turning the face, etc. In the meantime he has blackened his fingers and by the time the picture is taken, the subject's face is well smudged, much to the merriment of everyone. Finally, the photographer asks the victim if he would like to see the result, and hands him a mirror.

For the other stunt, bet someone that he can't sing some well-known song and at the same time balance a glass of water on the back of each hand. Of course he will succeed but the fun comes in when he finds himself helpless to remove the glasses until someone comes to his rescue.

A WALNUT RACE: now that dinner is settled, Dinners should be well enough settled by this time to permit of some mildly active games. There are always walnuts on hand at Christmas so an announce a Walnut Race. Two players compete at a time. Each is furnished three walnuts which must be pushed by the left foot only, from a starting line, down the room, around a book which marks the halfway post, and back to the line. Winners of each heat compete in a semi-final, and the eventual winner of the race is determined in a final run-off.

[Please turn to page 69]
Doctors realize better than most people that standards of cleanliness too often are taken for granted. They will tell you that no mother who takes her job seriously can afford to overlook this important part of her child's training. And she must begin it early.

Luxury Texture ScotTissue has all the qualities essential for thorough cleansing... firmness, softness, absorbency.

Even your children can easily tell the difference between the harsh or glazed texture of inferior bathroom tissue and the reassuring softness and absorbency of ScotTissue's Luxury Texture.

Teach your child now the lifelong value of proper standards of cleanliness. Keep Luxury Texture ScotTissue in your bathroom. Scott Paper Co., Chester, Pa., also makers of Waldorf Tissue and ScotTowels for home use.

Luxury Texture
GIVES YOU THE
GREATER SOFTNESS
AND GREATER ABSORBENCY YOU NEED

The American Home, December, 1939
An appreciated gift
—or for yourself

IMPERIAL Masters TABLES

For a really choice gift that's sure to be appreciated — or for the enrichment of your own home — you will naturally select one of Imperial's beautiful new MASTERS Tables. These 12 fine creations are the last word in smart practical tables. They include the most fashionable types and styles, are skillfully crafted of genuine mahogany, yet are moderately priced. See the MASTERS Tables now at your leading furniture or department store.

The ALLISON
You'll be so proud to give — or receive — this charming 19th century table, Pierced gallery, Convenient lower shelf. All mahogany with matched swirl mahogany top. $119.75

The SHELLEY
Truly an outstanding choice is this handsome Duncan Phyfe drop leaf occasional table. Richly carved cluster base. All mahogany with matched swirl mahogany drawer fronts. $34.50

The STUART
This smart Chippendale tripod occasional table serves a multitude of uses. Carved mahogany with beautiful swirl mahogany top. $34.75

How to be sure you get the best buy in Tables

Many people find it difficult to recognize the features that constitute fine furniture quality. In buying tables, follow this simple procedure. Look for the famous Green Shield trademark. It is found on the underside of every genuine Imperial Table, and is your assurance of lasting satisfaction and value. Imperial MASTERS Tables are further identified by a green-and-black display tag bearing description and price.
FREE! Color Schemes
to help you choose rugs
in just the right shades for your house

Actual Samples of rugs, wallpaper, trimmings, drapery and upholstery fabrics—cellophane wrapped.
Each planned by Clara Dudley, Alexander Smith's famous Color Scheme Consultant.

MAIL COUPON BELOW FOR COLOR SCHEME KIT ... AND
Clara Dudley's
BOOK OF COLOR SCHEMES
based on Alexander Smith Floor-Plan Rugs

OVER 175,000 women have used Alexander Smith Floor-Plan Rug color scheme kits—and you should read the enthusiastic letters they write us!

These kits are based on a decorating fundamental—your rug should be the background of your room, the most important color in it. So Clara Dudley has taken Floor-Plan Rugs and built fascinating color schemes around them ... modern and period, feminine and dignified, country and city.

The 18th Century color scheme in this living room, for instance, is based on a Berry Wine Floor-Plan Rug (No. 389). The rich coloring in the rug is the dramatic center of the room; perfect background for the grayed blues and mauves in the walls and upholsteries ... harmonious contrast to the blue Floor-Plan Rug (No. 835) in the dining room.

Floor-Plan Rugs are seamless, all-wool rugs. They come ready-made in sizes to fit any room inexpensively. (Many under $50!) Patterns and textures are up to the minute. Colors are TRU-TONE, equally lovely under all lighting conditions. Floor-Plan Rugs are made only by Alexander Smith, a name that has meant quality for nearly a century.

ALEXANDER SMITH
FLOOR-PLAN RUGS
TRADE MARK
Look for the gold label with the Good Housekeeping Guaranty

FREE Color Scheme Kit and Color Scheme Book
Alexander Smith & Sons, 205 Fifth Avenue, New York
Send me a free Floor-Plan Color Scheme Kit for a room in which the prevailing color (walls, furniture or draperies) is ........................................ Also Clara Dudley's free book, "A Guide to Rug Buying," which has many room schemes in full color.

Name: .................................................................
Street ..................................................................... City ..............................................
County .................................................................... State ..............
1. Use Aluminum House Paint for your first coat on new lumber. It strongly resists the destructive action of sunlight, moisture and air which break down ordinary primers and cause wood to weather.

2. Then apply two topcoats of a good white (or other color) paint. These topcoats will cling tightly to the Aluminum First Coater. More oil will stay in the topcoats, keeping them more elastic and durable.

1. Paint weathers away first on window sills, sash and water tables; also, on the south and west sides of your home. Often, all paint protection is gone from these vulnerable places while the rest of the surface is still fairly good. To offset this unequal rate of wear, give the weathered places, only, a first coat of Aluminum House Paint.

2. Then apply usual two topcoats all over and the paint will normally wear uniformly and keep looking the same, on vulnerable places as well as on the rest of the house. Repainting will not be needed so soon.

On new lumber, the advantage of using Aluminum House Paint for your first coat (priming) has been proved by scientific tests and by 15 years of successful use. It definitely lengthens paint life.

For repainting it offers the same advantages if the old paint is badly weathered or where extreme exposure conditions are encountered. Where the existing paint is still sound, Aluminum House Paint is unnecessary.

If you have had paint trouble, or if you are in doubt as to the need for using Aluminum House Paint, send us full details. We will be happy to give you our recommendations and send you our book "15 Years Behind the Brush". Write Paint Service Bureau, ALUMINUM COMPANY OF AMERICA, 2105 Gulf Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.
you like may be yours for the carving, and be it a house or a village it will greatly enhance the next festive occasion that looms on your horizon!

For either one house or a village this is what is needed. Gather together one bread board for the base of operations—the acreage so to speak—a couple of loaves of stale bread, a sharp bread knife, and a small sharp vegetable knife. Get a box of toothpicks for holding the different sections together and for making firm the chimneys and door sills. Two bowls of frosting are needed, one white for stuccoing the house (made of confectioner's sugar, butter, and milk) and one dark brown or red or any color you like for shingling the roof (made same way plus melted unsweetened chocolate, or coloring). Next you need a cake decorator for laying the roof and outlining things, and a plain kitchen knife for stuccoing the walls. A roll of cotton, white as it comes, supplies the snow banks around the ground outside the house. A bit of artificial snow for scattering over the finished product is also needed. This is especially nice on some tiny two to six inch evergreen trimmings.

You'll want plenty of these tiny trees for the foundation planting and shrubbery.

When you have gathered all these ingredients together, add about an hour of spare time and proceed. To build one small New England farm house first neatly slice off all crusts from both loaves of bread. See page 23. To make the knife cut wonderfully well hold it in a hot flame a few seconds before each slice. You will then have a couple of oblong blocks of bread at hand. For the main section of the house cut one piece about six inches long for the wing a piece about four inches long. Shape the roof on each one. Cut out a couple of good sturdy chimneys from what is left over, a tiny triangle to go over the front door, a couple of pillars for each side of it, and don't forget the front steps. Then comes the fun of putting the house together with toothpicks, adding chimneys, front steps, etc. Use the toothpicks as you would nails. Shove plenty in all about to make it firm, pushing the ends long. The frosting will cover any holes in the bread or slight mistakes! Cut a few long strips of crust and make them firm with toothpicks along the edge of the roof from its ridge poles down to the sides. It will look more attractive and somewhat thatched if the shingles can extend on these over each end beyond the house wall.

Next mix the bowls of frosting. The simplest kind to make for
stuccoing is mixed in the following manner. This amount is adequate for the house just described: 1 cup confectioner's sugar, 1 teaspoon butter, and a little milk.

Cream the butter and sugar. Add enough milk to make a consistency that will spread easily. This quantity will cover the house generously. For the roofing use the same amount again but add enough melted chocolate or coloring to give it a nice deep tone that would be becoming to a roof. This kind of frosting is apt to dry out if left standing for a while. More milk can always be added and if it gets too soft more sugar will stiffen it. Thus it can be easily kept a consistency best for spreading.

Use a plain knife and spread the white frosting over all outside walls and chimneys. Next put on the roof using the end on the cake decorator that sends the frosting out flat like a ribbon. Lay the ribbons of frosting across the roof from end to end. Begin at the bottom and let each ribbon overlap the one below it slightly to give the effect of rows of shingles.

Next screw on the decorator the end that sends the frosting out completely round like a string. With this, outline the chimneys and the front door and windows—crossbarring the latter for the best effect.

When the completed house is sitting neat and prim in the middle of the bread board, the next thought is landscaping. First of all unroll the cotton and put it about covering the whole board. Tuck it up as close to the house as possible. Arrange lots of tiny pieces of evergreen into a foundation planting that satisfies. Use additional clumps of taller evergreen sprigs about the lawn in groups. To make them stand up cut blocks of bread and slip them beneath the cotton. Then shave the stem of each evergreen twig down through the cotton into the bread and it will stand upright indefinitely. Cut squares or oblong pieces of crust and lay a flagstone walk starting at the front door and wandering anywhere you like. If you've an urge for it will certainly be that—in the center of the table and surrounded by all unroll the cotton and put it round it with evergreens lest odd corners of the bread board show through. And as a very final contribution let a gentle storm of Christmas snow descend on the whole scene.

A VILLAGE IS EVEN EASIER!

If you prefer a village to a house, that is even easier. Make the houses smaller. Use little square boxlike pieces of bread to start with. Don’t frost them with white frosting. The natural bread forms a stuccolike wall. Roof them with flat pieces of crust held on by toothpicks. Outline roofs, chimneys, doors, and windows with chocolate to give point and emphasis to their shape and line. Every good village must have a church with a steeple, and a steeple is fun to make. Outline all four corners of it with chocolate. There must be a school with a flag. Glue a piece of red paper to the stem of each evergreen twig and have a wild imagination, of course you can go on and on getting more and more complicated about it. You can have villages of multicolored houses—roofs any tint you like. You can surround the houses with fences of graham crackers end to end. There's no limit to the possibilities. And if you have a great desire to eat the whole scene up with your ice cream you can start with a loaf of sponge cake instead of bread!

Door Basket for Christmas

Illustrated on pages 20 and 21

A DEPARTURE from the conventional wreath on the front door is the basket filled with holly or evergreens and cones. It is just as beautiful as the wreath and oftentimes more individual. These baskets are made by the blind and may be obtained from your local Blind Exchange. Buy one this year and fill it not only with Christmas greens, but with plenty of Christmas spirit. In this way you will be helping these workers to help themselves.

—L. S. STEARNS
How wonderful—if this happened in your family

SUCH a result is not impossible. It actually did happen. 2,650 school children—in their homes and at school—were clinical subjects for 5 months—in a test of Vicks Plan, a simple home guide consisting of a few rules of hygiene and the proper use of two specialized medications. The amazing results shown above are from doctors' certified records of this clinic.

Yes, how wonderful it would be if misery and sickness from colds in your family could be cut by half—and by such a simple, easily followed plan. Of course Vicks Plan may not do as much in your home. Or it may do even more! But with such a record, it certainly deserves a trial in every home—especially where there are children.

Directions for following Vicks Plan and the story of the clinical tests come with every bottle of Vicks Va-tr-o-nol, and every jar of Vicks VapoRub.

When Colds Threaten—
To help keep colds from developing, put a few drops of Vicks Va-tr-o-nol up each nostril at the first sneeze, sniffle or nasal irritation.

This specialized medication—containing several relief-giving agents plus ephedrine—is expressly designed for the nasal passages, where most colds start. Va-tr-o-nol stimulates Nature's own defenses to help prevent the development of many colds—to throw them off in their early stages.

When you see the results, you will understand why Vicks Va-tr-o-nol is America's favorite nasal medication.

If a Cold Strikes—
To relieve discomforts and invite healing, restful sleep, rub throat, chest, and back with Vicks VapoRub at bedtime.

This specialized medication goes right to work to bring relief two ways at once. (1) It penetrates the surface skin and stimulates like a warming, comforting poultice. (2) Its medicinal vapors, released by body heat, are breathed into the cold-irritated air passages.

And when you see how distress of the cold is relieved, you will understand why Vicks VapoRub is a trusted, indispensable friend in 3 out of 5 homes.
“WESSON OIL
will make you an
Ace Waffle Maker” says
MRS. EDDIE
RICKENBACKER
WIFE OF THE FAMOUS WAR ACE

“They are so easy to
make, so crisp and
delicious. We
serve them often
at informal sup­
per parties and
luncheons.”

WESSON OIL
Waffles

2 eggs
1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup Wesson Oil
2 cups sifted flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons sugar
2 eggs
Salt and pepper

Combine corn, flour, Wesson Oil, season­
ings and onion and stir into well-beaten egg
yolks. Fold in stiffly-beaten egg whites. Drop
the mixture into hot Wesson Oil (370° F.)
or hot enough to brown a one-inch cube of
bread in 30 seconds. Fry until a golden brown.
Drain on absorbent paper and serve hot. This
makes 16 small fritters.

You will enjoy
Mrs. Rickenbacker’s
Wesson Waffle recipe. Try it.
You'll find Wesson Waffles so
good you'll want to try other
Wesson dishes, too. Wesson Oil
is a fine salad oil—an excellent
shortening for all batters—a
wholesome frying fat —a perfect
ingredient for enriching hot vege­
tables—all in one handy can.

however, a panel is hinged to
open in to the bathroom and
kitchen, which would otherwise be
inaccessible.

Note that the front wall lifts
off, together with the balcony, as
a unit. The latter is of the sim­
plest construction, with a French
door (also a dummy, though with
cellular and sash similar to the
windows), pillars, and handrail.
The small spindles are glued into
slots in upper and lower rails, as
shown. To remove the wall, simply
pull out from the bottom,
and to replace, reverse the pro­
cess. It rests on small rubber strips
at each end, preventing it from
slipping out.

A simple stairway is made by
glueing wood blocks together, each
successive block 3/4 inches shorter than
the one below. The steps
should be 2 inches wide. Sand­
paper the unit smoothly so that
joints will not be visible after
painting. The interior of the
rooms may be painted or wall­
papered. Some interesting effects
are achieved by the latter treat­
ment. On the outside paint the
tenton a rich green, same on the
shutters, and around the base ex­
cept at the front, which should
be done in slate gray, with white
markings to indicate flagging.
Red doors are having their vogue
now. You might try this color
scheme of the easy
Wesson way. No need to buy
Wesson Oil to measure, pour to add.

Wreaths
and
Decorations

Illustrated on pages 17-19

The wreaths that Helen Perry
Curtis made especially for
us (pages 17 and 18) are
each one of particular inter­
est as they have been made not only of
unusual materials, but each one
to fit the space for which it was
intended—which is one of the
great advantages of making one’s
own wreaths. The beautiful little
one that hangs in a small window
over a French chair on page 17
is made of holly and mahonia
and rose hips, rather formal, at
the same time very full and fat
and a little on the brashnish side
to fit with the color scheme of
the room. And the hanging wreath
which Mrs. Curtis made for her
own kitchen, with its gay wall
decoration and tiles, has fruits
worked in to repeat the colors
on a base of three evergreens;
sal­
bam, pine, and holly. Again
where a wreath with fruits is
wanted, you can ring any number of
changes in the fruits them­
selves, such as using the big black
grapes and white ones too, against
the dark of holly and pine. For
a very simple but effective wreath
just the gloss of washed-ivy
thickly wound around and around
makes one a beautiful interest in
green wreath, or a single spray of one
of the pines that have great long
cones, such as the Austrian pine,
is a lovely thing hanging over the
edge of a gold framed painting.

None of Mrs. Curtis’s wreaths
requires endless research of re­
sources for the material, simply
a little care and thought in the
use of just the ordinary greens
and materials at hand.
changed nothing. I offered my juice on the sideboard, where placed two large pitchers of fruit concessions to modern taste; I set fast of my childhood. I made two was refilled again and again.

Amidst clamorous enthusiasm, it at noon instead of nine, and I myself at so many buffet parties, that I try to see no one does it in my home!) At one end of the round dining table, into which I put no leaves, is an old-fashioned coffee urn which holds two quarts. One of my assistants keeps a watchful eye on this, to see that it is taken into the kitchen for refilling as often as necessary. A big pitcher of ice water, surrounded by glasses, is also placed on the sideboard. (I have gone thirsty myself at so many buffet parties, and then by glasses, is also placed on the sideboard.

The method of serving is as simple as the menu itself. The fruit juice, as I have already said, is placed on the sideboard. A pitcher of orange juice and a pitcher of loganberry juice make a good combination. The colors are effective together, and while the more conservative element sticks to orange juice, persons in quest of “something new” choose the less usual beverage. A big pitcher of ice water, surrounded by glasses, is also placed on the sideboard. (I have gone thirsty myself at so many buffet parties, that I try to see no one does it in my home!) At one end of the round dining table, into which I put no leaves, is an old-fashioned coffee urn which holds two quarts. One of my assistants keeps a watchful eye on this, to see that it is taken into the kitchen for refilling as often as necessary. Another friend pours, and encourages the guests to take their cups and saucers to the side of the table, where plates, forks and napkins are laid out for them. At the further end still another assistant serves the beans, fish balls and applesauce, and indicates the platters of brown bread and doughnuts, which are within easy reach. Fully supplied, the guests choose their own places at the little tables scattered about the double drawing-room and the small study. By careful planning and arrangement, twenty-five persons can be comfortably seated in my apartment. I never ask more than that, for there is nothing, in my opinion, less conducive to a sense of ease and enjoyment than to stand in an overcrowded room, precariously balancing a plate of food in mid-air.

My housekeeper, who has prepared all the food herself, does

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**FRANCES PARKINSON KEYS**

I decided to try, and my first experiment took the form of a Sunday morning breakfast—the typical New England breakfast of my childhood. I made two concessions to modern taste: I set it at noon instead of nine, and I placed two large pitchers of fruit juice on the sideboard, where persons who felt this form of refreshment indispensable could help themselves. Aside from this I changed nothing. I offered my guests coffee, baked beans, fish balls, brown bread, doughnuts, and apple sauce. The recipes were all tried and true. The food was all cooked in my own diminutive kitchen. Amidst clamorous enthusiasm, it disappeared from one heaped plate after another. The coffee urn was refilled again and again. Mounds of sugared doughnuts were soon reduced to the level of the platter. Dignitaries who had told me they could not look another square in the face took three helpings of beans. As the last visitor departed, the remark that many of them had had was still ringing through the rooms: "I don't know when I've had such a good time! Why don't you make a regular feature of these breakfasts?"

Much encouraged, I decided to do so. The result has invariably been satisfactory. A Sunday noon breakfast has many advantages. It is late enough to permit prospective guests either to go to church or to sleep most of the morning, according to their tastes and habits; on the other hand, it provides for a longer afternoon than a late and formal luncheon. From the viewpoint of economy, as well as convenience, it can hardly be surpassed. The dishes I have mentioned are as hearty as they are inexpensive; and there is no question of serving liquor—a sure way to send the cost of a party skyrocketing!—at breakfast-time. Six of my favorite recipes you'll find on page 25.

The method of serving is as simple as the menu itself. The fruit juice, as I have already said, is placed on the sideboard. A pitcher of orange juice and a pitcher of loganberry juice make a good combination. The colors are effective together, and while the more conservative element sticks to orange juice, persons in quest of "something new" choose the less usual beverage. A big pitcher of ice water, surrounded by glasses, is also placed on the sideboard. (I have gone thirsty myself at so many buffet parties, that I try to see no one does it in my home!) At one end of the round dining table, into which I put no leaves, is an old-fashioned coffee urn which holds two quarts. One of my assistants keeps a watchful eye on this, to see that it is taken into the kitchen for refilling as often as necessary. Another friend pours, and encourages the guests to take their cups and saucers to the side of the table, where plates, forks and napkins are laid out for them. At the further end still another assistant serves the beans, fish balls and applesauce, and indicates the platters of brown bread and doughnuts, which are within easy reach. Fully supplied, the guests choose their own places at the little tables scattered about the double drawing-room and the small study. By careful planning and arrangement, twenty-five persons can be comfortably seated in my apartment. I never ask more than that, for there is nothing, in my opinion, less conducive to a sense of ease and enjoyment than to stand in an overcrowded room, precariously balancing a plate of food in mid-air.

My housekeeper, who has prepared all the food herself, does

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**THE AMERICAN HOME, DECEMBER, 1939**

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**This Story Began on Page 24**

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**FRANCES PARKINSON KEYS**

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My housekeeper, who has prepared all the food herself, does
Church as well as

A TIME-AT OUR VROCER'S.

... So suffices for the latter; a one

well into the afternoon. One "ac­

brought to her. and continues to

baked in the making of Christmas cook­

Artificial that Wxm

ARC

centered from page 50)

the future a day for baking would be

church ritual that decided us that

Christmas for first
generation Americans

and Cow Brand

are Identical

Christmas in Christmas Gifts

IT CLEAN'S TEETH—IS SO

IT ECONOMICAL THAT WHERE

FAMILIES ARE LARGE AND

BUDGETS SMALL ITS USE

MEANS WORTHWHILE SAV­

INGS. BUT TWO PACKAGES AT

A TIME—AT YOUR GROCER’S.

ARM & HAMMER

and Cow Brand

Baking Soda

not leave the kitchen. She keeps
everything piping hot, replenishes
the empty platters that are brought
to her, and continues to
make fresh coffee as long as the guests remain, which is sometimes
well into the afternoon. One “ac­
commodating” waitress, engaged
for the occasion, circulates among
the guests after they are seated,
bringing them fresh supplies, emptying their ash trays, and
keeping a generally watchful eye
on their well-being. She comes
early enough before the breakfast
to help set the tables, get out
extra china, make butter balls,

... So suffices for the latter; a one

extra china, make butter balls,

book service, and decorations. The expense en­
tailed by employing an accom­modator varies, of course, in
different parts of the country.
Here an expert waitress receives
three dollars. In the South she
usually receives less, and in the
North and West she is apt to re­
ceive more. I buy my flowers at
the Saturday market, which is ex­
cellent in Washington, as it is in
many cities, and for two or three
dollars get an astonishing number
of them. I generally use small
chrysanthemums in the fall and
daffodils in the spring. If a wom­
an has her own garden or lives
where she has easy access to rural
greenhouses, she can reduce this
item still further.

I have only one regret—that I
did not learn long ago, how out­
moded is the old theory that “it

costs money to entertain.” I have
written this article with the hope
of helping some other woman to
find it out sooner than I did!

Christmas for first
generation Americans

(Continued from page 50)

This will be the answer of “your sisters
and your cousins and your aunts” and
all those friends for whom you selected

THE SETTLEMENT COOK BOOK

The Way to a Man’s Heart

Compiled by Mrs. Simon Kander.

It is one of the most appreciated Christmas
Gifts. Suitable for an experienced housekeeper
or a novice, for a simple household or a man­
sion. All the old good stand-bys are included
as well as the very newest in cooking and
serving. Check full of recipes for Cookies,
Tarts and Cakes so universally used during
the Holidays. Snacks, Appetizers and other
refreshments as popular with hospitable host­
esses. Infant Feeding and Diets for the Pre­
School Child, take care of the young. A
complete Cook Book. Contains over 5000
recipes tested in a home kitchen. Memos for
all occasions. Washable white cover. Festive
red and green jacket. At your Dealer or send
check or money order direct.

THE SETTLEMENT COOK BOOK CO.

715 N. Van Buren St.

Milwaukee

Wisc.
elaborate affairs for theatrical
he divided, like Gaul, into three
That an ingenious person can give
unique ideas are in demand for
who "gives" more than a thou­
of all to handle. These are the
you would accord adults, but
young people you must be careful
or girl up to twenty. These are the
the party itself.
the principal need is careful pre­
ber the others ten to one. From
children's affairs which outnum­
parts. First of all, there are the
The third group is the ea.siest
Then comes entertainment for
All parties, says Miss Kuh. can
A SUCCESSFUL children's party,
like a good business letter, should—be short and sweet. Two
hours, rather than three, is the
right time allotment, and leave
one of those two hours for the im­
portant washing-up and eating
process. Eliminate entirely com­
petitive games between children,
and substitute instead, competi­
tion between groups. All children
love to take something home, so
select simple, inexpensive prizes,
to be given for different ratings in
the games. Wrap them attractive­
lv in individual packages and dis­
tribute one to every child as a
souvenir. Keep food at your chil­
dren's party simple, but cut your
cookies in fancy animal or vege­
table shapes, and serve your ice­
cream in amusing forms that will
send the boy and girl away happy.
At the 'teen and college age, the
important question is not "Who
will my guests be, but how many
can I have?" The most engrossing
problem of this age group is "how
to meet new people." The most
popular food, Miss Kuh finds, is
hamburgers or frankfurters—but
serve them in the most elaborate
setting with the most sophisti­
cated table arrangements, else
your young people will go home
feeling cheated. There must be
music for dancing, but whatever
else you plan, begin with a mod­
ern variation of the old cotillion
idea of matching partners to get
bashful young people acquainted.
In the case of the older men and
women, whether it's a thousand
dollar or a one dollar party, it's
the novel and the quaint, rather
than the pretentious, that makes
a hit. Don't try to provide amuse­
ment for your adult guests every
minute of their stay. Leave them
alone for a while, after you've ar­
ranged something at the begin­
ting which will mix partners.
Finally, for all parties, there is
one ingredient aptly described by

A NOVEL VARIATION OF THE OLD COTILLION
MISS KUH MAKES A HIT

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
I. First of all, there are the

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
II. Then comes entertainment for

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
III. Finally, for all parties, there is

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
IV. In the case of the older men and

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
V. The third group is the easiest

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
VI. The second group is the

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
VII. The first group is the

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
VIII. Out of eleven years' experience

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
IX. In this class are the

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
X. Therefore, the rule for

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XI. In all parties, Miss Kuh finds,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XII. In Miss Kuh's parties, the

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XIII. In planning parties, Miss Kuh

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XIV. In giving parties, Miss Kuh

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XV. In preparing for parties, Miss Kuh

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XVI. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XVII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XVIII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XIX. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XX. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XXI. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XXII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

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XXXVIII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

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XXXIX. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XL. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XLI. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XLII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

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XLIII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XLIV. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

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XLV. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XLVI. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

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XLVII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
XLVIII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

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XLIX. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
L. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LI. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LIII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LIV. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LV. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LVI. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LVII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LVIII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LIX. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LX. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LXI. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LXII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,

MISS KUH'S PARTY RULES
LXIII. In Mrs. Beulah Kuh's parties,
For your "extra-nice" gifts, pack gay boxes of cookies—molasses cookies that speak of Christmas.

These delicious homemade goodies give joy to all. And they're so inexpensive!

Make sure, though, your Christmas cookies are made with pure New Orleans molasses—Brer Rabbit. Made from freshly crushed Louisiana sugar cane, Brer Rabbit Molasses has that real, old-plantation flavor!

Brer Rabbit's Gingersnaps
Perfect for sugar-topped stars and other Christmas symbols. The recipe—on page 18 of Brer Rabbit's new cook book—is one of 13 choice cookie recipes that will make your Christmas boxes unusual. Mail coupon and get the book free!

For "extra-nice" gifts, pack gay boxes of cookies—molasses cookies that speak of Christmas.

Our Frontpiece
[iIlustrated on page 16]

The painting on page 16 illustrates an old Italian counterpart of our Christmas tree. The inspiration is a 17th century Florentine decoration, with wonderfully carved, gilded candlesticks climbing up the three poles that hold a cèche with figures beautifully modeled and exquisitely gilded. We have made one that is the exact reproduction of the original and wound the three poles (they can be old broom or mop handles) with red and white paper, nailed little tart pans firmly to them and put the candles in those. We even have the compote piled high with coo-

ciated (recipe on page 49), and confections and fruits of every sort, and a lovely cèche under its thatched roof. The three-tiered triangle makes a perfect place for all manner of gay small packages, candy canes and other sweets. Each shelf is festooned with ribbons and bows and on the very top is a golden pine cone (achieved with radiator paint) in the approved Florentine manner.

It's just not Christmas without children
[Continued from page 111]

But that is where these people are wrong. Christmas can never be over for them because it never arrived in the first place—not in its true sense. And one can't possibly lose a thing which one has never had. They are talking about two entirely different things when they say that "Christmas has become commercialized" and that the Christmas spirit is "nothing but foolish sentiment." For the stores and shops, advertising products that are suitable for Christmas gifts is commercial, which is a business matter; while the Christmas atmosphere and spirit, the loving and giving which prevail in millions of hearts all over the country are far from commercial...and are an entirely personal matter. Christmas on a "cash" basis can never be successful or happy since money has very little connection with beauty and tone with spirit.

Somewhere we all associate Dickens with Christmas; probably because he loved the season and gave so much of himself at that time. His friends were from all walks of life. His gifts went to rich and poor, to prisons and tenements, to countryside and city. He set a splendid example for us. To him, Christmas was not only a holiday but a time for loving and giving, for thinking of others, for brotherliness—"the only time when men and women have but one feeling—to open their shut-up hearts."

Christmas is an oasis of peace in the midst of turmoil—a beautiful heritage handed down through the centuries, enriching the lives of each generation as they pass it on to the next like an infinite, flaming torch. It is concerned only with the simplest things in this world—sincerity...love...faith...-sharing!
USE a "giant" burner that brings water to a boil in half the time you are accustomed to! A broiler that grills meats deliciously without smoke! An oven that heats quicker than you’ve ever seen and holds the exact temperature you wish!

Miracles? Yes! Just a few of the cooking miracles of the modern Gas Ranges!

So many wonderful things have been happening to Gas Ranges, you’d hardly recognize your old friend of even a few years ago. Today’s Gas Ranges are marvels of beauty and thrilling performance. Read the partial list of their features, below. But remember—they tell only a part of the story. It is the combination of the finest cooking fuel and the most up-to-date cooking appliance that makes the modern Gas Range the most time-saving, work-saving, economical range you can own!

You Get All These Advanced Range Features only with GAS

- **CLUE SIMMER BURNER** — Dependable low economy flame with "click" signal for waterless cooking.
- **AUTOMATIC LIGHTING** — No matches to strike—No waiting—Instant heat.
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We're sorry that until now we have not been able to supply the increasing number of ScotTowels you've wanted. It takes special ScotTowel machines to give you the extra strength, extra weight and extra absorbency you appreciate in ScotTowels.

But now we are making more ScotTowels every day and your grocery, drug or department store can supply all the ScotTowels you need! Still less than a penny a dozen! Scott Paper Co., Chester, Pa.

NO WONDER WOMEN WANTED MORE SCOTTOwELS THAN WE COULD MAKE
Christmas—and our
state flower prints
(Illustrated on page 36)

Mount flower prints on square white lace paper doilies (5¢ for about nine), held up by perky ribbon bows. Or cut out the flower outline and mount it on a round lace paper doily. Give a group of three or more. Delightful for a child's room because they can be changed every month.

Wastepaper baskets most certainly are useful! Any woman should appreciate one decorated with an attractive flower print. It's more than a 20¢ basket as it's done here.

You can make a wall plaque by putting a flower print face down in a shallow glass baking dish and covering it with plaster of Paris mixed to a smooth paste consistency. Insert hanging device. Allow a day or two for it to dry thoroughly, and the plaque will come out easily.

Another very effectively mounted and framed flower print, lovely enough for the most fastidious, is a blue gingham mat plus a blue and white checked gingham frame. Done as a series in pale green, pink, and blue, they would be absolutely charming.

You can buy an ordinary tin tray for about a dime, dress it up in a flower print, and it's ready to go to the nicest party. Ours was painted deep yellow, and we put three gold paper stickers on each side of the sunflower print.

For less than a dollar you can make a book box out of cardboard. Cover it with wallpaper or floral print. I-legant look for enclosing delicate New York state Rose print. Elegant too for enclosing that first copy of a magazine (you know which one we mean!) if you're giving her a subscription for Christmas.

A very dainty picture can be made by mounting a flower print on a lace paper doily, putting it between two pieces of glass held together by gummed tape. Silver passe partout makes the frame. An idea that could be carried out beautifully for place mats.

But now it's your turn. We "whipped" these up without much trouble, certainly little time, for we were all head over heels in this Christmas issue. But with time on your hands, there's no end to the dainty things you can think of to make.

Working off too much Christmas dinner
(Continued from page 54)

DID YOU EVER PLAY THIS IS MY NOSE? It's simple but it's lots of fun and completely suitable for a gathering of this kind. A leader stands in front of the first player and points to one part of his body while naming another. For instance, he might say, "This is my nose," and point to his foot. The player must reverse it by saying, "This is my foot," while pointing to his nose. If he succeeds before the leader can count to 10, he becomes the new leader and stands in front of the next player. Otherwise the original leader progresses from player to player around the circle.

OBSERVATION is good fun, too. Have the guests go to another room and walk around a table on which a number of miscellaneous objects have been placed. Then they return to the living room and list everything they can remember seeing on the table.

WITH CARDS: A deck of playing cards and a man's hat will take care of two contests. For Card Toss each player in turn is given 25 cards which he tries to toss into the inverted hat on the floor some eight feet ahead of him. For Card Scaling, the players have 3 cards and the winner is the one who can throw a card the greatest distance.

GET IN SOME REAL ACTION NOW! Choose teams for a game of Balloon Volley Ball. A string is stretched across the room with a team on each side. The balloon is batted with the hands and the object of each team is to keep it off the floor on their side. When it touches the floor, it counts one for the other team. The game ends at 10.

A PRIZE FOR PEELING NICE ROSY APPLES: By this time the turkey dinner may be far enough in the background for your guests to enjoy some nice rosy apples. Give one to each persons, provide them with fruit knives, and award a prize to the one who can cut the longest continuous peel.

As long as the entertainment schedule is kept well in hand and not allowed to interfere with the leisurely exchange of family news and the re-establishment of family intimacies, it will help to make the occasion an unusually happy one. So take a little time out from the baking of pies and the making of turkey stuffing, choose the games you like best, and plan some fun for the family reunion.
Welcome Your Guests The Modern Way!

Gracious living is enhanced with a Rittenhouse Door Chime. When the door buzzer is pressed, rich, pacing chime tones replace the noisy rapping of the ordinary bell or buzzer. The sound beauty and artificial style of Rittenhouse Door Chimes lend charm and attractiveness to any home, easily installed, using regular door bell wiring. Built to last a lifetime. An unusual and welcome Christmas or wedding gift. A year-round reminder of the giver. Choose from a variety of new models $1.00 to $5.00. Attractive finishes. Suitable for homes, apartments, offices, institutions, etc. Guaranteed.

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Your free sample of QUICK ELASTIC. Please, "That Wonderful Way to Hot Starch."
To make an article of genuine usefulness from worthless castaways, to impart new and enduring beauty where loveliness has vanished is a challenge to inventiveness. Others have answered that challenge; why not I? My decorative leanings were distinctly Colonial, and it naturally followed that I should plan to fit into the picture one or more hooked rugs of good design and workmanship. It then occurred to me that I could make my own rugs and after several weeks of planning I conceived the idea of making them out of old silk stockings! Stockings have been braided, crocheted, and knit into rugs, but as far as I know, never have been used in making the attractive hooked variety.

It is an established fact that silk represents our strongest known textile. Also. while I use the term "old silk stockings," actually stockings are discarded after an average wear of but two weeks. This means that the part of the stocking which has not been subject to hard wear and which, therefore, remains intact after that short period, represents really new and alive material which possesses considerable tensile strength even when cut into strips for fashioning into rugs. Again, the chain-stitch weave of the stocking imparts to the fabric a resiliency or springiness which makes of it a particularly desirable rug "yarn."

So frequently have I been asked "Just how do you go about making such a rug?" that I will try to describe every step in the work.

THE DESIGN: There are numerous stamped burlap pieces offered in the art needlework departments of our local stores, but because I wished this to be as much my own creative work as possible, I set about designing an original rug pleasing for use in any room in the home, which would utilize the entire gamut of stocking shades. I decided at once to adhere to the typical blocks or squares found in the average hooked rug of Colonial design. My square, however, is an optical one only, as it measures 10" wide by 11" long. My own reaction to a true square is that it appears squat or shorter in height than in width and rather tiresome to the eye. Therefore, my 10" x 11" "square" gets away from this too symmetrical appearance and is more artistic and satisfying.

From the numerous designs which I worked out in the rough, I finally decided on two designs to be used alternately in the rug. One, a five-petal flower with stem and two leaves and the other a large conventional flower consisting of four broad petals. For ease of handling, I decided to make my rug in units of six "squares" each, two across and three deep, making the unit measurement 20" x 33", with 1½" of plain burlap left on all four sides for joining the units together, and for turn-in to finish the edges.

Making the rug in units also offers the opportunity of assembling the rug in any desired size or shape as the units are completed and from time to time as the need arises—as hall runners, scatter rugs, or a room size rug.

Next I accurately drew the design to correct size on firm cardboard and then trimmed the blank cardboard away from the design. I purchased the necessary light tan burlap in the upholstery department of a local store, and after measuring off six "squares" for the first unit, I placed the cardboard designs in proper position for good balance within each square and with a lead pencil traced around the cardboard design. This cardboard design can be used over and over as each
one of the units is "stamped."

To make the units exactly alike and yet have the two designs properly alternate throughout the rug both horizontally and vertically, regardless of how many units were finally joined together, I turned upside down every other dark design (the five-petal flower with stem and leaves). In addition, the diagonal rows of the dark design would be made up of one flower pointed up, one flower pointed down, one up, one down. The light design being a symmetrical conventional flower, is readily reversible—it does not have a top or a bottom.

THE STOCKING COLLECTION.

To plan my designs in color, I had to have some idea of the range of shades and proportions for each shade. Accordingly, I made a list of women relatives, friends, business acquaintances, and neighbors and set about asking for contributions of old stockings. My collection grew rapidly as relatives and friends alike became interested and lent hearty cooperation. Without further solicitation on my part, repeat offerings continue to pour in from various sources, and to date my inventory keeps well in advance of my production.

In some instances stockings are handed to me with apologies for their badly worn state. Then, too, I rather suspect that some stockings reach me before they have lived full lives, their normal demise being hastened through dislike of offering stockings that are badly worn. In either case, I give quick assurance that I can use stockings in even their very last stages of decline, with heels and knees out, toes gone, and with wide, wide runners, explaining that the worst stocking in my collection will yield four or five strips 1" in width and two feet or so in length of good material. My strips are cut from the top of the stocking down to the foot, and in this way any all runners are discarded; also, the heavier foot section where most wear occurs is not used.

As each consignment of stockings arrives, quick appraisal is made. If there are included any of the highly desirable absolute shades for "painting on" the designs, I literally gloat over my grand hoard. For me stockings, I sorted them, with signs, I found that while there was considerable contrast between the outer rim of bright carrot shade and the variegated dark fill-in, there was not a certain snap or line of demarcation between the design and the fill-in. So it was at this point that I decided to utilize the absolute light steel gray stockings in my collection by running one row of this shade around the outer rim of the bright carrot to separate the conventional flower from the fill-in or background. This addition lent considerable character to the light design. The third gray shade, gun metal, is used to "frame" each square, a single row serving to separate quite definitely one square from the other.

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The Color Plan:

After I had gathered in some 200 pairs of stockings, I sorted them, with benefit of north light, into shade groups to get some idea of the proportions of each group. A study of the different shades convinced me that there was a sufficient range of shades to enable me to develop my two designs pleasingly and effectively in natural stocking shades, without resorting to dyeing. A further study of any condition also disclosed that tans and browns were in the majority by far, with but a few absolute grays. Therefore, the rug would have to be developed for the most part in all the shades of tan and brown from ivory, Airedale, soft tan, bright carrot, through all the medium dark shades to a very dark brown.

There are just three shades of gray in my collection—a very light absolute steel, a sand taupe, and a gun metal, and all three grays have been incorporated in my rug.

Having limited myself to natural stocking shades, I realized that in order to snap up the design and achieve a desirable brightness, I would have to resort to strong contrasts. Therefore, I planned to develop the flower with the stem and leaves (which I call my dark design) in tete de nègre brown with centers, shades, and leaf veins in ivory. The fill-in or background to complete this dark design square makes use of variegated light tan shades, worked in vertical rows.

The second design consisting of the conventional four-petal flower, and which I call my light design, I planned to develop in the bright carrot shade worked solid for 1" around the outer rim of the petals, with the center using the sand taupe, an off shade which contrasts sharply with the bright carrot shade. Also worked in bright carrot on the solid sand taupe center are four large round dots 1" in diameter, one for each petal. The fill-in or background to complete this light design square makes use of variegated medium dark shades, worked in horizontal rows. To sum up this color plan, we have a dark design with light vertical fill-in, contrasting with a light design with dark horizontal fill-in.

In working my first light design, I found that while there was considerable contrast between the outer rim of bright carrot shade and the variegated dark fill-in, the locked in a certain snap or line of demarcation between the design and the fill-in. So it was at this point that I decided to utilize the absolute light steel gray stockings in my collection by running one row of this shade around the outer rim of the bright carrot to separate the conventional flower from the fill-in or background. This addition lent considerable character to the light design. The third gray shade, gun metal, is used to "frame" each square, a single row serving to separate quite definitely one square from the other.

{Please turn to page 11}
We all like gifts for Christmas that are different—things that are useful and practical, but yet original and distinctive.

The American Home Menu Maker is just the thing to give those friends who take pride in the efficiency and appearance of their kitchens. It is one of the most practical and simple methods ever devised for making instantly available all the delicious new recipes your friends gather from current magazines, newspapers and the grocer.

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Send a Menu Maker to your very best friend and see how pleased she will be.

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The American Home Testing Kitchen has just finished going over all of the recipes that have ever been published in The AMERICAN HOME. Each has been retetsted for accuracy, simplicity and delicious flavor. 212 basic recipes have been selected, illustrated, and reprinted for use in the Menu Maker. They are assembled in brochure form and may be had for the nominal price of only 50c.
Have you friends who make a hobby of their home? Who have gardens or are always planning them? Who are clever at interior decoration? Or who are always drawing plans of a home they want to build sometime?

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The AMERICAN HOME, December, 1939
Mr. Eggplant must, of course, be selected for his rotund, healthy shape. His eyes are pieces of carrot with a raisin in the center and are attached with a pin. After a little experimenting you'll find you can vary his expression by changing the shape of the carrot or the angle of it. His nose is one rosy cranberry. His mouth is a piece of green pepper cut in crescent shape. For the arms select string beans slightly curled to hold the reins. Each leg is made of two pods of peas. The buttons on his "front" are horizontal slices of cranberry. Common pins are used to attach all decorations and appendages. The man's jaunty hat is the top of a green pepper. In determining the "front" of the eggplant, look at the green calyx at the top—it sometimes is separated in such a way as to look like an old-fashioned middle hair part. If such is the case, the hat can be placed at just the right angle on this part.

Mr. Eggplant sits forward on the pumpkin and is secured by three strong toothpicks, one end of each inserted in the pumpkin and the other end in him. The wheels of the cart are four lemons, turned with the pointed end out to suggest a hub, and secured to the pumpkin by means of a toothpick in each. Around the back of the cart are placed varicolored cocktail picks to represent the slats of the cart and to hold the assorted fruit which goes on top. The turkeys come from any store selling party favors, the rears are narrow yellow ribbon. The yellow harness is secured to the front of each turkey with a small piece of Scotch cellulose tape.

—Marion M. Mayer

Any old stockings, lady?

(Continued from page 72)

PRODUCTION OR HOOKING: The hook which I use resembles an over-size crochet hook, made of steel and set in a handle of wood which comfortably fits into the palm of the hand. I purchased this hook in an art needlework store for twenty-five cents. A little dexterity of the wrist is required to pull the rather large hook up through the small mesh to complete a loop, but this knack can be acquired easily with practice. I use a small wooden frame for the work, purchased from a ten-cent store for fifteen cents. This frame I had cut down from its original oblong size to a 12" square, as I found this size more convenient to hold on my lap. The burlap is stretched taut over the frame, design up, and held in position by means of long-pronged thumb tacks, sold at the same counter with the frames. As the work progresses it is moved on the frame.

I first work in the designs and then do the fill-in. Starting with the light design, I select from my stocking supply about three very dark brown stockings and one of light ivory. These I cut into strips almost 1" in width, cutting the strips from the top down to the foot. I first "lay on" the light ivory center of the flower and the shading toward the outer edge of each petal—the shading consists of just a single slightly curved row of loops, about seven or eight of them in all. Also the center vein in each of the two leaves is worked in a single row of ivory.

With the left hand I hold a stocking strip underneath the work, and with the right hand insert the hook from the top through a mesh in the burlap, pick up the stocking strip and pull it through the mesh, leaving this starting end about 3/4" long extending on the right side. I then insert the hook into the next mesh, pick up the stocking strip and pull a loop up through the mesh to a height of about 3/4". The hook is then released from the loop, inserted through the next mesh to pick up the stocking strip, which is again pulled up through the mesh to form another loop, and so on. By practice and experience the height of the loop can be gauged quite accurately so that the finished work will be very even. The loops should be placed close together to make a dense "pile" which will stand up under hard wear. In the fill-in, which you will remember is done in even horizontal and vertical rows, I pull a loop through al-
most every mesh in a row, occasionally skipping one mesh when the loops appear crowded, and I leave two rows of mesh or three burlap threads in between each row. This will give some idea of how closely the loops should be placed in working the designs which are not done in even rows as is the fill-in, but follow the contour of the design itself to get the most pleasing effect and strike a still further note of contrast between design and fill-in.

When the end of a stocking strip is reached, this end is pulled up through the mesh to the top or right side of the rug where, after a number of such ends have accumulated, it can be trimmed down to the height of the loops and where it will remain safely locked in position by the very denseness of the loops. The loops themselves are not cut.

After all the designs are worked, I put the single row of dark gun metal around the outer edge of each square and then proceed with the fill-in as already described as to shades, horizontal and vertical rows, and closeness of work to secure the desired density of loops. This closeness of work is determined by the width of the stocking strip used. Generally speaking, there should be very little burlap left visible on the back of the rug. I estimate that from forty to fifty pairs of silk chiffon loops are needed for one unit measuring 20" x 33", depending upon the condition of the stockings and the number of good strips to be gleaned from each stocking.

After each unit is completed, I place it right side down on a soft rug on the floor in an out-of-the-way corner, and with a very wet pressing cloth spread over the back of the unit, apply a hot iron. I hold the hot iron on the wet cloth just long enough to send hot steam through the fibers of the burlap, and then leave the unit to dry undisturbed in this flat position for about twenty-four hours. This pressing flattens the rug and also equalizes any slight variation in loop length, making the top surface of the work even and uniform.

I am very enthusiastic about the design and coloring of my rug, and I am satisfied that the stocking strip "yarn" is remarkably durable, yet soft enough to give the feel of Oriental wool under foot. My hooked rug has developed into a real hobby. There is no particular urge to complete a certain number of units in any given time, as each unit can be put to use when completed by being joined to its brother units, and for that reason the work represents a cozy pick-up job and an excuse to do something with my hands while talking or listening to the radio. With the thought that my rug might some day find a place among the cherished possessions of the younger loved ones in my family, I shall sew to the back of the rug a sturdy linen label, showing the name of the designer and maker (I'm bowing) with a list of the good contributors of stockings. And, further, these names are to be original autographs, traced over with India ink for permanence. A veritable story, brief though eloquent, for the edification of posterity!

We build a doll's cradle
(Continued from page 53)

The chest is constructed entirely of plywood, the base being three eighths of an inch thick and the sides, of the material one quarter inch. The four sides should overlap the base. The actual building is simple providing care is taken in following measurements, making sure that corners are true. The following pieces are required in the construction of the trunk proper:

1 base, 3½" plywood, 10x17
2 sides, 3½" plywood, 7x17½
2 ends, 3½" plywood, 10x7
2 pieces for top (1 front, 1 back) 3½" plywood, 1x17½
2 end pieces for top, 10x3 at the highest point of the arc, the arc tapering to one inch.

Approximately 10 strips 1x17½, to form top.

My husband informs me that the only point where undue care should be taken is in the assembly of the top. Since it is next to impossible to bend a piece of wood to this arc without proper steaming, a more workmanlike job can be obtained by fabricating the entire curve. The pieces measuring 1x17½ should be bevelled on the underside to take up the difference between the outside and the inside arc. To obtain strength, two insets similar to the end pieces should be equally spaced over the total width.

Making the trunk, overall dimensions of 16½x39½ and can be divided into any number of compartments you may decide upon. We have found it a distinct advantage to have a cover on one of these small compartments to keep small trinkets in place. The end pieces of the tray should have a slotted handle projecting about ¾ inches above the sides to facilitate lifting it out of the trunk. Three small brass hinges are also used in place, equally spaced to match the braces in the top. The slots for these should be slightly countersunk to insure a tight closing. Two tray rests 10½ were fastened approximately 1½ inches above the sides. And the front has the same dimensions as the back, being 16½x39½ inches.

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WRITE FOR FREE BOOKLET: San Diego California Club

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOUR BIRDS
Provide a winter sanctuary for birds. Watch them flock to this STAKING FEEDER to eat, sing and squawk. Your birds will love the wind-resistant framing, unusual novelty. The highest point of the arc, the arc tapering to one inch.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOUR BIRDS
Provide a winter sanctuary for birds. Watch them flock to this STAKING FEEDER to eat, sing and squawk. Your birds will love the wind-resistant framing, unusual novelty.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOUR BIRDS
Provide a winter sanctuary for birds. Watch them flock to this STAKING FEEDER to eat, sing and squawk. Your birds will love the wind-resistant framing, unusual novelty. A veritable story, brief though eloquent, for the edification of posterity!
inches from the top of the main body of the trunk.

With the construction complete, the piece is ready to fill and sand. We used plastic wood for a filler and imperfections may be filled with this before priming. These will undoubtedly occur on the two ends, because to make the levels exact would be most difficult. When sanding first remove the high spots at the joints of the three quarter inch pieces and then sand at forty-five degrees to the corners until a nice smooth curve results.

The hardware may be purchased at almost any shop dealing in this type of equipment. It is recommended that brads no larger than #18 by one inch be used. Personally, I wish we had put brass handles on the sides. It's a bit difficult for Sue to manage it as it is.

The chest had two priming coats and we used bright red house paint for the outside and dark green shutter paint for the inside, but it took the addition of a great deal of drier in the shutter paint. Regular tube paints were used on the figures and gilt was used for the lettering and some trim. You can let yourself go here and add any decorations you may choose. After the whole thing had thoroughly dried we gave it a coat of thin lacquer. This should be applied quickly and very lightly, because sometimes it will pull the gift with it.

Make your decorations

(Continued from page 70)

entire outside. Flatten your funnel hat before putting it on his head. Solder mold shoes to legs.

Remember the fans we used to make of a long narrow strip of paper folded back and forth? The gold and silver tree is as easy as that. Turn to page 19.

T7 to make a tree which stands eighteen inches high before put on the standard, use a piece of wrapping paper forty-eight inches long by eighteen inches wide. Fold this paper back and forth in one inch folds. Cut the lower edge in scallops and paint silver. Now cut gold and silver paper in the shape of spreading Vs. For the tree illustrated, these pieces are cut with arms of equal width, two and three-quarters inches long, at an angle of about 112 degrees. The ends of the arms are cut on a bias so that the inside measurement of each arm is equal to the outside measurement. Fold each V in the center. Starting about three inches from the base of the tree, paste alternating gold and silver V's along the indented folds, 1¼ inches above each other.

Make a round wooden base and a twenty-two inch pole for the trunk. The base and exposed part of the trunk should be painted gold. About a third of the distance up from the base fasten on the trunk a disk of plywood about eight inches in diameter to hold out the lower branches. Or you might find it easier to run stiff wire through the trunk to hold out the paper branches at a realistic angle. Use gold wire to draw the top of the tree together.

If you agree with me that wooden chopping boards should come out of the kitchen, you will want to make a bowl Christmas tree as shown on page 19. Simply drill holes in the centers of three or more bowls, and slip them over the wooden trunk—grand for holding holiday goodies.

If you find the days slipping by and time at a premium, simplify these ideas. Or better still, use these ideas just as a starting point for your own. For instance, the gold corrugated wreath is very lovely without the cherubs. A bunch of silver grapes could be used in place of the bow. The little blue funnel angels could be made of cone-shaped paper, with artificial snowballs for heads. A three-ply or one-half inch wooden Santa Claus could replace the wire netting one, though he should retain his strainer pack. And so on through the list of holiday decorations—simplify if you like, but do make some!

Small gifts—cleverly "done up"

(Continued from page 14)

I have mentioned these ideas not only because they are economical and might serve as suggestions to the readers of The American Home but also because, if you stop to think about it, it's often the packaging that really makes the gift. So many times you need a gift that can't be bought, that has to be something with a little bit of yourself thrown in.

While I think of it, there isn't a nicer gift than a package of wrappings with matching ribbon, stickers, cards, silver bells, and things for next Christmas. You can spend as much or as little as you like.

When wrapping gifts for little children I generally decorate the toy itself with just a ribbon bow and a tag. For older children I often tie little gifts on the outside of the package, such as whistles, balloons, or small animals. I keep a list from year to year of not only the people I give gifts to but what I have given them and the price. Then I check it as I wrap the packages. This keeps me from overbuying for one and not having enough for another.

Some gift ideas are suggested here:

1. Bar Caddy: Comb ajng, ice breaker, and a corkswep which fits in the bottle-opener handle. Beautiful non-tarnishing chromin finish. Only $1.00.

2. Bar Caddy: Book Ends. Highly polished solid brass anchor and rope, mounted on a half-round brass base, well weighted and felt covered. 6 ½ high. Fair. $2.50.

3. Jubilee Jam Jar of clear narrow. Finid glass with none of the finish removed. Top is finished in polished chrome or copper. Complete, $2.00.

4. Jubilee Jam Jar: Clear narrow, polished glass with none of the finish removed. Top is finished in polished chromium or copper. Complete, $2.00.

5. Jubilee Jam Jar: Clear narrow, polished glass with none of the finish removed. Top is finished in polished chromium or copper. Complete, $2.00.

6. Jubilee Jam Jar: Clear narrow, polished glass with none of the finish removed. Top is finished in polished chromium or copper. Complete, $2.00.

7. Jubilee Jam Jar: Clear narrow, polished glass with none of the finish removed. Top is finished in polished chromium or copper. Complete, $2.00.

8. Jubilee Jam Jar: Clear narrow, polished glass with none of the finish removed. Top is finished in polished chromium or copper. Complete, $2.00.

9. Jubilee Jam Jar: Clear narrow, polished glass with none of the finish removed. Top is finished in polished chromium or copper. Complete, $2.00.
OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE!

Who would think of a pencil and paper at a time like this? And yet, your own fire insurance policy states that a complete list of destroyed and damaged property is required, for settlement. After a fire is too late! You'll never remember everything! The time to make this list is before fire strikes. We have prepared a special booklet that helps you. It lists things—by room. Suggests items often forgotten. It is easy to make a list of property, if you do it calmly and in advance. Then you are ready. Write for this booklet. It is absolutely free. Mail the coupon.

THE AMERICAN INSURANCE GROUP
(Department 111) 30 Washington St.
Newark, N, J.

Without charge or obligation, please send me your Household Inventory Booklet.

Name ____________
Street ________________
City ____________ State __________

Money Can't
Buy... a Christmas gift that expresses more in colored taste than this Daniel Boone hall clock . . . a faithful copy of the Edison Institute original. Beautifully perpetuates the Early American spirit. At leading furniture and department stores.

Doris Hudson Moss

Holiday dinners plus

Thanksgiving Day is pretty much our own holiday and in this hurried age there is a homespun honesty when millions of thankful families bow their heads in grace before meat upon Thanksgiving Day.

There are as many types of Thanksgiving feasts as there are family traditions. Whether yours is "over the river and through the wood to grandmother's house" or a smart dinner served in formal sophisticated fashion—whatever the type of your Thanksgiving, it is born of tradition and is best fed upon early Americanism. It's a wise woman who emphasizes her home the value and beauty of national inheritance.

My own family likes the New England Thanksgiving: simple, bountiful, warm with affection. Can there be a sweeter hour than that which precedes the dinner? The mouth-watering fragrance of the browning turkey, the whispering of potatoes to a feathery lightness, the almost dramatic un-molding of the beautiful cranberry jelly, the fluted pies in a row ready for cutting, while the children hover about, a bit smug in the memory of having given a bit of their bounty to a family less fortunate. The table is spread with best damask and set with the most treasured old china and silver; a sort of garnering of material tradition for this day of national inheritance.

Not every Thanksgiving dinner need be built around a turkey, by any means. For a small family, a chicken, a little roast, or even a delicious meat loaf will suffice. It's the "fixin's" and the spirit that make the feast. There never will be a better time for using one's very best linen, silver, and china. Garnishing will turn even a simple dish into a pretty picture and Thanksgiving dinner should be as beautiful as possible. Listed below are suggestions for several Thanksgiving dinners.

For a Very Small Family
Rosy cheeked pear salad with honey French dressing
Crisp buttered crackers
Small roast chicken, sage dressing, giblet gravy
Whipped potatoes
Canned cranberry jelly
Whole kernel corn with minced pimentos, sautéed in butter
Hot biscuits or poppy seed rolls
Pumpkin pie with ginger flavored whipped cream
Coffee

Decoration—red apples in a ring on autumn leaves, centered filled with heaped up nuts. Brown and pale green candles stuck in red apples on more autumn leaves.

Elaborate Dinner for a Large Family
Semi-frozen clafe juice cocktail with lemon juice
Canned consommé with lemon slices
Clear tomato and beef bouillon with avocado slices
Warm melba toast
Individual spinach rings filled with creamed canned mushrooms
Tiny hot rolls
Roast turkey, celery, and sage dressing, giblet gravy
Halfed acorn squashes, baked with butter
Cranberry jelly
Crisp celery
More tiny hot rolls
Mixed greens salad, fresh grated Parmesan cheese added to French dressing
Warm melba toast
Frozen Nesselrode pudding
Salted almonds
Black coffee
Crème de menthe
Decoration—a wreath of violets and red roses and a fruit arrangement centered with a fresh pineapple; turquoise cloth, ivory candles.

A Lovely Dinner for the Average American Home
(Illustrated on page 25)
Canned consommé with lemon slices
Crisp crackers
Roast turkey, sage and celery dressing, giblet gravy
Whipped potatoes
Buttered steamed squash garnished with sautéed pineapple rings
Cranberry jelly
Hot rolls
Pickled peaches
Loganberry juice sherbet
Blueberry pie (canned or frozen berries)
Roquefort cheese—water thin crackers—coffee
Decoration—old maple leaf and blue inverted thumb print glass on white damask. Green grapes and fresh pineapple in high blue fruit dish, a wreath of yellow marguerites on cloth around fruit.

An Extra Delicious Budget
Cubed apple and celery salad in red apple cups
Crisp crackers
Veal and pork loaf baked in ring mold, center filled with whipped potatoes
Spanish sauce
Crisp celery
Canned consommé
Bread and butter
Pumpkin or squash pie
Coffee

Decoration—charming arrangement of scrubbed, oil rubbed vegetable or fruits (to make them shiny) on autumn leaves. White candles stuck into small squash.

CANTON-CERTIFIED-MALLEABLE-IRON-CO.
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SEND FOR YOUR COPY of "Authentic Reproductions", describing copies of famous originals also informative Hall Clock booklet. Enlarge life (from stamps) on cover mailing card.

COLONIAL MANUFACTURING CO. 550 COLONIAL AVENUE ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

THE AMERICAN HOME, DECEMBER, 1939

80
There is a touch of old-fashioned chivalry in this modern gift that keeps a woman's hands softer, a woman's back straighter, a man's time freer ... So once again, as we have for 32 years, we whisper this Christmas idea to husbands, "Give her a Hoover and you give her the best!"

And, looking at the matter from the angle of a time-pressed husband, buying a Hoover for Christmas is the easiest bit of holiday shopping that ever comes your way. You can handle it by phone, or you can ask the leading store in your town that sells Hoover Cleaners to send a representative right to your office.

You can choose from three Hoover models. You can get a Hoover for as low as $52.50—the new "305." (The model illustrated is the medium-priced Ensemble in Brown.) Easy terms, too, as little as $1.00 per week, payable monthly.

No "penalty" for finest—admittedly the overwhelming choice of women, the Hoover costs no more to give. You give the "best" cleaner, you pay only "regular" cleaner price. Initials for Christmas will "personalize" your gift! If you wish, three initials of the recipient will be put right on the Hoover itself—in attractive red and gold letters. Your gift Hoover arrives in a handsome Christmas cellophone package, ready to go under the tree. Why not call your Hoover dealer right away—soon?


P.S. If your wife has the Hoover, or you haven't a wife, it's a grand present for another "best girl"—mother, sister or daughter.

(At left) Your Hoover arrives in a handsome Christmas cellophone package ready to go under the tree. No wrapping—no holiday crowds—no strain on the purse.
"Try on" your new room at home

with the help of your husband
and Bigelow Basic Rug Colors

Here's a new easy way to create charming rooms all at once or in easy stages. First go to your nearest department or furniture store and get your copy of "Color Clues." Then choose the Bigelow Tailor-Made rug that just suits you in every way.

The many shades and patterns to select from are grouped into 10 basic colors. Each basic color is styled to "go with" the popular colors in other home furnishings. See how it works. With samples and fabric lengths and a copy of "Color Clues," you can actually 'try on' your new room at home.

Prices?... also 'tailor-made' to fit any purse.

Get your free copy!

"Color Clues to Home Beauty"

Actual demonstrations of how Bigelow Basic Colors help you plan whole room schemes. Ten rooms in color... practical decorating advice. One of the most helpful guides ever created on the use of color in the home. Ask in rug departments or write to Bigelow Weavers, Dept. 129A, 140 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.
That's about all you need to make these place mats! But a colorful set of them makes as nice a gift as anyone on your list could want. The ones shown above have natural centers and outside slats of rust, yellow and brown; some of the other color combinations you may want to try are red, green, and yellow or red, white, and blue.

To make the crepe paper into strong raffia you will need to buy (for about a dime) or make a twister. This is a block of wood with a large hole on one side and two smaller holes on the opposite side. Buy the very best quality crepe paper, cut on the cross grain in strips an inch wide, insert into the larger hole and pull it through the smaller hole of the twister, which just fits into the palm of your left hand. Pull gently, never jerking, until you have yards and yards of raffia. Two thicknesses of cardboard, cut in strips an inch wide, inserted into the larger hole, make the slats.

Now take a strand of the raffia and paste the first few rows to a cloth and napkins with crocheted without a tree simply because I couldn't eat the turkey because it was almost too late because of a hospital trip I had just made. Holidays ahead, even in San Francisco, looked dreary. And that couldn't be! We'd just made. Holidays ahead, even very amusing, But to sit down and wish oh so terribly that you'd never made garlands but must not make garlands nor stretch an arm to trim a tree!

A few pennies worth of crepe paper

When you ever think, early in December, "this year we won't do anything at Christmas" and then come up to Christmas Eve with a sinking heart and a dull feeling down where gingerbread cookies and mulled cider ought to be lurking, and wish oh so terribly that you'd bought a tree and asked someone to sup or for eggnog by the fire? And did you rush out to buy the last of the withering fir trees and dig up ornaments and guests? Or was it too late?

With me it was almost too late because of a hospital trip I had just made. Holidays ahead, even in San Francisco, looked dreary. And that couldn't be! We'd never had a dreary Christmas. Of course there had been strange ones, like the time we had had a hurricane in Hawaii and the roof let tropical rain come through and the coal stove wouldn't burn; or the year on the Mexican Border that a sand storm almost blew our shack away. The men wore goggles to prevent their favorite moustards from being dined at the table.

1. Pepper Mill—A chef's secret in Sterling, fragrance and body of freshly-crushed peppercorns will delight any epicure's palate—but no more than this mill will delight his eye!...

2. Double-Ended Jigger—For the man who takes his medicin mixing seriously—this beautifully-finshed sil-

3. Mustard-Jar Con-

4. Jelly Jar and Spoon—Pierced silver frame to hold old-fash
dioned jelly glass. A charming little Sterling "incidental" that will blend with any pattern.

5. Syrup Jug—From an unusual Colonial antique, this authentic EXEMPLAR copy in finest modern Sterling. It's a twin heir to the museum-pie
tioned ornaments, charming, really usable.

6. Brushe and Comb Set—The luxury gift for him. Silver lap
d-backd e soh and a d brush, in box of leather pad...

7. Mist Julep Tumbler, $9 a dozen.


Watson Sterling

SOLD ONLY BY
FINEST JEWELERS

THE AMERICAN HOME, DECEMBER, 1959
lands could be bought for fifteen cents a yard, which was cheaper than going in our car to cut our own evergreens, which we had always done. I ordered enough yards for the mantelpiece and for two wide doors. I called up the neighbors and said "come and help decorate our tree. We'll have a baked bean supper first."

They loved the idea, and asked us to come to their home and finish their tree. It turned out that we had two trees to do beside ours and we began working at six o'clock Christmas eve.

But just a minute. Now that I'd asked guests to supper, six of them, I must do something about table and food. I put beans to soak, because we like our own home baked ones, but good canned beans would have answered the purpose. Then I got out last year's supply of silver "rain," a sheet of Cellophane, two silver candlesticks with candles, and went to work. It took but half an hour to make two of the loveliest small Christmas trees you can imagine. A nine inch Cellophane cone atop the candle in its stick, and coming within four or five inches of the table, formed my tree shape. This cone I covered thickly with the long strands of rain by tying them in bunches around the candlewick. I lighted the candle to soften its wax slightly so that it would "take" and cooling, hold a tree ornament of silver shaped like a fir cone.

Next morning the beans went into the oven for a long day of baking. I got out a pale blue satin table cloth (white would have done as well—perhaps better for a baked bean supper!) put a big mirror in its center, and my trees at each end. The grocer sent up a huge can of pop corn and I made popcorn balls, which I heaped on the mirror so that they looked ready for a snowball fight but were really for dessert. When pale blue pottery dishes and crystal goblets were on my table, and six white candles in glass candelabra, and baked beans, and brown bread (canned), the table was pretty and the food good.

A soft gray San Francisco fog made the night almost as lovely as a snow filled one. Presidio's huge post tree with its hundreds of lights shone down, and as we went to the midnight service in the little chapel on the hill, I thought of those Christmases when San Francisco hadn't even been born and the Presidio stood, and somehow my Christmas meant more to me because of candlelight and fog, and because I hadn't struggled, and hurried, and been modern.

I t is my desire to share some of the beauties of my poineettias, in thought or imagination, with the outside world, and tempt others to cherish their Christmas poineettias and enjoy their increasing number year after year. My window garden, planned in the Christmas spirit, lends pleasure and joy before the festive season begins, and remains long after its departure. I recently read an article stating that among other flowering plants the poineettia comes first to mind. This article stated: "It is hard to equal as a holiday flower. It may be obtained from the florist in various heights and sizes, to suit every need." In this connection it may be of interest to others to know of my success in home culture.

Last year my poineettia plants filled five windows of our home and produced twenty-nine blooms by Christmas time; soon after Christmas five more blooms appeared, making a total of thirty-four flowers this year, all in bloom at one time. In one window, the lowestel, I had one dozen flowers. The plants attained various heights and sizes, but the blooms were uniform, measuring approximately ten inches in diameter. The plants received the morning sun, facing a southern exposure. These lovely flowers shining against the glass and the gorgeous green of the leaves made a wonderful Yule garden.

After the poineettia has completed its blooming period, about the last week in January, I place the plants in a rather dark, cool room, our basement laundry; then give them a little water—possibly every three weeks. The resting period lasts from February 1st to May 1st. Then I take them out of the pots and plant them in the garden. When the foliage appears, I please turn to page 86.
Start an HEIRLOOM DOLL this Christmas

MIRIAM HAYNIE

If there is a little girl in your family or on your list, give her a doll this Christmas, but make it a special doll—a treasure to be played with, cherished, above all other childhood loves, and finally kept to be passed on to her own young daughter or granddaughter.

Such a doll cannot, of course, be picked up at a bargain counter in a last frenzied minute of shopping. This does not mean that the doll need be expensive, but it does mean that she must be carefully selected, or else, put together with care and originality. She must be strongly constructed to withstand long, hard usage; of medium size to be easily handled; and a lady with personality and the beginnings of an interesting wardrobe.

My own doll, Florence, is my guide for these qualifications. She reached me after having passed through other childish hands. Now, after fifty years of handling and mishandling she still remains intact. Her china head sits firmly upon the body made by a great-grandmother who shaped her cunningly along hour-glass lines. The blonde china waves of her hair are as placid now as half a century ago.

This doll was the delight of my childhood. When I first became acquainted with her at my grandmother's house I was made to understand that she was mine to play with only while my visit lasted. When it was time to go home Florence had to be fully dressed, her clothes neatly packed in her trunk and both placed in the hall closet. Each Christmas morning we went to grandmother's house. Florence always awaited me on the hearth in a brand-new outfit. That she was not wholly mine did not matter in the least, in fact, it made her much more alluring and the visits to my grandmother's house were exciting adventures. Wise grandmother!

Florence always wore an underbody and drawers of white batiste with insertions of lace, red woolen knitted stockings and a short embroidered flannel petticoat. These articles had all been

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"Opens anything that wears a cap" Jars including Mason Jars.

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This is a well finished article in it's own right.

Order direct or from top grade stores.

No tax—write for booklet showing 20 new styles!

WRITE FOR BOOKLET SHOWING 20 NEW STYLES!

NORTH STAR BLANKETS

for Christmas—There will be nothing to eat.

All the North Star Blankets here are moth proofed and we don't know where our next meal is coming from.

YES, NOW THESE FINE WOOL BLANKETS ARE MOTH-PROOF

What a wonderful Christmas gift—for yourself or others! Gorgeous North Star blankets that are really moth-proof. What's more, these famous all-wool blankets will stay moth-proof for many a Christmas to come, no matter how often you wash and clean them. Expensive? Nay! Just a penny more for this moth-proof protection that makes North Stars last longer! All sizes...latest colors...at most department stores: $8.95 to $65.

For Him
For Her
For Christmas

For your friends who have everything...buy a pair of "Knie-Grip" this Christmas. They're asbestos fingerless gloves, enabling women to hold turning lips, handle red hot grills, pans, etc., without discomfort. Admiring gift package. Two sizes—one for a man, one for a woman. At leading Department and Sporting Goods stores, or send money order.

JIM LITTLE • Danville, Illinois
made by the great-grandmother and were not to be removed under any circumstances. This went also for the black kid slippers with velvet bows which were sewed on her feet. The remainder of her clothing could be removed at will.

For me, Pandora's box could not hold no more treasures than the contents. There was an afternoon Canton flannel, striped, and dotted Swiss; long-sleeved, fitted shirts with red wool, blue Canton flannel, striped, and figured cotton. To go with the waists were the ankle-length, bunched skirts of chambray, serge, and flannel. There was an afternoon suit of sheer wool in shell pink: its short, full jacket hung straight from a round collar and was fitted by a tightly hooked underjacket; the flared skirt was heavily lined and trimmed with bands of satin and coarse lace. Other suits were made of woolen and gray-blue serge. All of Florence's clothes were carefully made and of design that exact that they had been replicas of costumes worn by grandmother. When finally I arrived at what grandmother considered a responsible age, Florence was given to me outright.

If you have imagination and a small talent with the needle, creating an heirloom doll should be easy, and fun in the bargain. First of all, you must find a head. Look in attics and antique shops. I recently saw a number of these doll heads sitting on a shelf in my two year old home. Can matching plaster be used for such heads? I'm not sure. If none of these suggestions appeal to you, a glance through a fashion magazine will stimulate your imagination and give you authentic styles of the year. And, of course, if you prefer modern things, or have no inclination for sewing, there are many suitable dolls on the market. A foreign doll would be different enough to be a good choice. But if you possibly can, make it yourself and it will be more precious as a doll and as an heirloom.

**Increase their number**

*Continued from page 84*

I cut the plants back to the wood, cut the prunings into five inch lengths, and plant each cutting, as well as the original plants, in the garden. After about three weeks, and when the leaves are somewhat lengthened, each is in a pot. In preparing the pots for the plants I place a piece of broken crock over opening in center, and over this a small covering of peat moss. With the soil I mix one rounded tablespoon of bone meal to each pot, place my poinsettias, placing three or four of the slips in one crock. These potted plants remain in ferneries on our porch throughout the summer, where the weather is sunny. All summer, I enjoy the beautiful foliage and in late September, when the weather and winds are harsh, and the nights become quite chilly, I bring them indoors and place them at windows facing the south.

The first flowers appear in time for Thanksgiving. As soon as I notice a flower starting I use small sticks, tying or forcing the buds toward the window pane. Of course, where a home conservatory this would, no doubt, be unnecessary. However, in this way I obtain gorgeous symmetry and arrangement of the flowers. I water the poinsettias with lukewarm water every morning. A normal room temperature is required, maintained at approximately the same degree, and although air is required, no direct current of air should be allowed to reach the plants during the winter months. On the last day of January my poinsettia plants still retain several blooms in perfect condition and the foliage is still luxurious, but it is time to rest them. However, before taking them to the basement, cut off the flowers and we have a bouquet to enjoy for at least two weeks. The thought which seems to be prevalent, that the poinsettia does not carry flowers a long time under house conditions, is incorrect. If a housewife to discard them after the flowers have passed seems a deplorable waste of the plants from which flower may be produced another year.
The magic of some of the simple things you found there is gone, to be sure. An orange or a tangerine is no novelty to the modern youngster. But strings of snowy white popcorn and shiny red cranberries and chains of colored paper such as every kindergarten child knows how to make, are new. Moreover they are valuable from the creative standpoint. Even the smallest members of the family with a little assistance can make them, and many other things besides—bright-colored cornucopias, baskets, ornaments out of bits of tin foil. They won’t be “smart” and probably even a little distressing! But in the making, the children will feel that the tree is peculiarly their own—and what else is a Christmas tree for, if not for a child’s pleasure!

The cotton-hatting snow and the tiny candles of our youth were undoubtedly a fire hazard, and should have no place on your tree today, no matter how sentimental you are about the past. The arrangement of the strings of lights can be your boy’s task. It will give him a splendid opportunity to put his practical knowledge of electricity to work and he’ll work like a little beaver—loving it! There should be ornaments of course—gray glittering baubles that catch and reflect the lights. And I can’t imagine a Christmas tree without at least a star on top. If you can find one of those quaint old-fashioned angels, so much the better.

But there should be other decorations, too. If you have never used food, try doing so this year. You have a real treat in store not only for the family but for all who share your tree. Perhaps big sister specializes in sugar cookies. Cutters in the shape of green, star, wreath, and Santa Claus can be bought for a few pennies in any department store. With red and green sugar, while frosting, tiny candies, and decor-ettes, the most attractive results can be achieved. It’s fun for the whole family to help with the decorating. Perhaps Dad will find hidden artistic talents when he starts to work with icing and hits the gingerbread men Grandmother has made. And surely you have some favorite recipes for the boxes you’ll want to fill for the children and callers who’ll drop in to see your unusual tree. You, or some other member of the household, can run up bags of red tartar for the dried fruits and nuts. And it may even be that Grandfather will want to invite the neighbors’ children for an afternoon of making popcorn balls and candy canes. Pulling molasses candy is always such fun for youngsters nowadays who get their candy so easily.

Whatever you do, let your 1939 tree be different. It should be a

Give every one GOOD TIME this Christmas!

NEW TELALARM, a graceful alarm, in a silver-colored case with black plastic band and base. A quiet, accurate clock for the bedroom. Modestly priced at $4.95. Talisman, the same design with translucent, electrically illuminated dial, is $5.95.

KENDALL, a graceful new model in a brown wood case. Priced at $7.95. Like all Telechron clocks, it is powered by the superior self-starting Telechron motor, sealed in oil for quietness and long life.

STEWARDESS, a new clock for the kitchen or bathroom wall, has a metal case that is available in a choice of colors—chrome with ivory, green, black, white, red, or all chrome. Its price is only $4.95.

HIGHLAND is a well-designed new model in a brown plastic case. Use it on your desk, table or mantel. Priced at $5.95. Angelus, same deep dial, a different dial. Strikes hours and half-hours. $9.95.

OLYMPIC combines the modern and classic in a handsome wood case with fluted sides. An attractive gift for drawing room or desk. Priced at $9.95. Telechron clocks are sold by leading dealers everywhere.

WARREN TELECHRON CO. Ashland Massachusetts

THE CANADIAN TELECHRON CO.

A Telechron clock in any room provides a complete reorganized timekeeping system—all the telechron systems that keep time so efficiently for schools, hospitals, and office buildings.
family project in which everyone one can share. Not just a symbol! Perhaps you’ll wish to burn it outdoors on Twelfth Night and save a pinch of the ashes to use in the new tree, as they vegetables, and nuts will give the cut edge of the pumpkin just the right texture. This bowl of fruits, small enough to be held in hand, and the paper gently pushed into the groove with the back of a thin knife blade. This bowl of fruits, small vegetables, and nuts will give the cut edge of the pumpkin just the right texture. This bowl of fruits, small enough to be held in hand, and the paper gently pushed into the groove with the back of a thin knife blade.

PUMPKIN FRUIT BOWL. Because the pumpkin is closely associated with Thanksgiving, half a large pumpkin will make a novel fruit bowl for a centerpiece, or if your table is long and narrow, the elongated banana squash may suit the shape better. In using the pumpkin as a fruit bowl, first line it carefully with wax paper. See page 20.

The lining is easily accomplished if a kefir is made around

the cut edge of the pumpkin just inside the rind, and the paper gently pushed into the groove with the back of a thin knife blade. This bowl of fruits, small vegetables, and nuts will give the cut edge of the pumpkin just the right texture.
Our funny Christmases

(Continued from page 81)

We made red paper bells, gold paper chains and popcorn strings to add to the more modern decorations. After Christmas we trimmed the tree in suet for the birds to feast on.

The Christmas "build-up" extended to the family mixing and rolling and cutting and baking and frosting of Christmas cookies; to the family making of syrupy popcorn balls. Gifts were fashioned—a pale blue penwiper for Daddy; a necklace of huge glass beads for Mother; rubber bibs with pink crayon bunnies for Baby Brother. Our talk centered itself upon the making of a Christmas. We took toys to a day nursery, we saved cards for a children's hospital and Jean carried a somewhat-bruised cranberry string to a department store Santa Claus. (He was too stunned to thank her but we saw him later, later; feeling prouder than any group of clerks.)

For days, snow had fallen. At breakfast we "discovered," in the fresh snow, queer looking, fresh appearing tracks. Reindeer tracking? Santa's reindeer? Could we follow? Find the North Pole? Santa's place? We hurried! Leggings, galoshes, earmuffs, mittens, scarfs! We tracked them—losing the trail once in a while—through the yard, along the driveway, over the low stone fence, back again, around to our side porch. There they stopped! Beneath a window they stopped! We didn't hesitate. We climbed in. There—over the low stone fence, back the yard, along the driveway, the North Pole! Great mound of (cotton) snow with a shining silver pole rising from its center and a shiny silver (paper) knob at the top bearing the sign N-O-R-T-H P-O-LE! So on we "discovered" packages beneath the "snow." But the hilarity of our trip northward persisted the central part of that Christmas morning.

The next year Jean was a white melodramatic desperado. Break fast was a merry one from attic to cellar. Bill didn't even wait until all the packages, to which they led, had been unwrapped; he was off to retrace his "Trail of the 'wed' string."

Treasure hunts, forfeits, a huge cotton snowman, and grab-bag games have followed. (A huge red tarlatan bag, filled with family's gay packages, is lovely.) The year Bill started to school we had a Mrs. Santa Claus' classroom with silly questions and drills and exercises and Christmasy songs—and with packages given at frequent and unexpected moments for good (or bad) behavior. Another year, when Christmas followed close upon mumps, Dr. Santa Claus brought Nurse Momma capsules containing notes regarding packages. Every nap, every quarter-hour dose of medicine (water, colored with red cinnamon candies), every exercise, even every pain brought its package for the patient.

Our most elaborate piece of foolishness was a Pirate Hunt. Old camp breeches, torn shirts, bright scarfs, smears of lipstick, burned cork, huge curtain-ring earrings transformed a fairly respectable family into melodramatic desperadoes. Breakfast was eaten on clean brown packages beneath the "snow." But bandanas, bright scarfs, smears of cinnamon, every exercise, and with packages given at frequent and unexpected moments for good (or bad) behavior. Another year, when Christmas followed close upon mumps, Dr. Santa Claus brought Nurse Momma capsules containing notes regarding packages. Every nap, every quarter-hour dose of medicine (water, colored with red cinnamon candies), every exercise, even every pain brought its package for the patient.

Our next year's plans were feeble but they went off surprisingly well. A silly balloon man stood by the Christmas tree. In one hand he held a red string; in the other a green. Bill chose the red. Under rugs, over doorways, here and there and everywhere ran the strings—inter twining with the children intertwining after them. Bill didn't even wait until all the packages, to which they led, had been un wrapped; he was off to retrace his "Trail of the 'wed' string."

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NEW SILVERPLATE for the HOLIDAYS... and this beautiful solid mahogany coffee table at 7/4 to 1/2 savings

Your turn to roast the Christmas turkey this year? Delight the family with lovely Gorham Silverplate (the next thing to Sterling). Serve your after-dinner coffee from silver purchased. Equipped with tarnish-proof trays to hold 116 pieces of flatware.

fascinating to our young barbarians. We felt that an inordinately nonsensical treasure hunt would be more binding a form of family fun than any orthodox Santa Claus antics.

This year, with an adapted parochial game-effect, will be our twelfth. They have taken in years when, as a four-year-old Jean once said, "Santa Claus almost brought us too much!" They have included depression years wherein we wondered if he might not be bringing us too little. The family foolishness holds the interest of two normally impatient children although I am not sure that it would do so if the custom had not been started during their younger childhood. It means, of course, that package-opening cannot be finished before nine or ten o'clock on Christmas morning. Our ideas seem crudely "pioneerish" yet we feel that they have been a worth the effort: foolishness and the play-spirit are so much needed in a world like ours.

Our nights-before-Christmas belong to a separate article, yet I cannot write of Christmas without mentioning them. Even the two years in which we let a roomful of glittering toys dumbfound our child we had Christmas Eve services which she loved. Very simple, very brief. With Jean and her dolly cuddled on Daddy’s lap, we three sat by a blazing log fire. We sang carols. We talked of the Baby Jesus, and of the shepherds, and of the Star. On happy impulse we wrapped a blanket around our “ready-for-bed” child and went outdoors to look at the starlit sky. Rather than break the spell of the night and of the firelight, each with a lit candle up the stairway to tuck our family’s youngest member into her bed. With growing-up additions we have worked out these services each year, with increasing interest helping to plan them.

The children’s opposition to changing from our unorthodox Christmas surprised us. Their depth of interest in these Christmas Eves surprised us too.

There is so much to a Christmas! Dinner with its surprises, the house decorations, the stocking fillings, the tree, and the kindergartens work still keep a beloved place, traditions, innovations. While Christmas is, primarily, a Christ-Mas; it is also a festival for binding closer together the interests and affections of family groups. And foolishness helps so very much in this binding process. It does more than that. It takes away some of the over-emphasis upon material things which does come with our modern Christmas. The real reason we like family foolishness at Christmas is because we find it fun!
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De Luxe Hospitality Set

A beauty and a grand entertaining aid. Hostesses appreciate this one. $23.95 (Standard Set, $19.95)

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Here's a newcomer. The very latest party-promoter. Makes grand waffles. $18.95 (Waffle Baker, $12.95)

TOASTMASTER
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Swell number—just the thing for breakfast, after-school snacks, and midnight pantry raids. $17.95

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Entirely new—tops for looks. And tops for toasting! 1-slice, now only $9.95; 2-slice, $15.00

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Mrs. Kiliaen M. Van Rensselaer entertains... serves Camels.
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By burning 25% slower than the average of the 15 other of the largest-selling brands tested—slower than any of them—CAMELS give a smoking plus equal to

5 EXTRA SMOKES PER PACK!

Here are facts about cigarettes recently confirmed through scientific laboratory tests of sixteen of the largest-selling brands:

1 Camels were found to contain more tobacco by weight than the average for the 15 other of the largest-selling brands.

2 Camels burned slower than any other brand tested—25% slower than the average time of the 15 other of the largest-selling brands! By burning 25% slower, on the average, Camels give smokers the equivalent of 5 extra smokes per pack!

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MORE PLEASURE PER PUFF—MORE PUFFS PER PACK!

Penny for penny your best cigarette buy

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