Easy-to-Make Yule Pastries Brighten Table

As Santa Claus and presents are to the children so are the fruit cakes and steamed puddings to the Christmas table. One good fruit cake will serve you in many ways—as a light dessert for a holiday dinner, as refreshment for friends dropping in to wish you "Merry Christmas," and as the main note of interest for your club meetings during the holidays.

The steamed Bran Fig Pudding is inexpensive and yet delicious to serve as a dessert for either Christmas or New Year's dinner. Do it up right by garnishing with bright bits of red berries and holly round the platter and serving with your favorite hard sauce.

Bran Fig Pudding.

½ cup sifted flour
1½ teaspoons double-acting baking powder
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups whole bran shreds
2 eggs, well beaten
½ cup milk
½ cup melted shortening
1½ cups figs, cut

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder, sugar and salt, and sift together three times. Add bran, mixing to blend. Combine eggs and milk, and add to flour with shortening, mixing thoroughly. Add figs and mix well. Pour into greased molds, filling them ⅔ full, cover and steam 3½ hours. Serve with hard sauce. Serves 8.

Light Fruit Cake.

(10 egg whites)

4 cups sifted cake flour
1 teaspoon double-acting baking powder
½ teaspoon soda
¾ teaspoon salt
1 cup butter or other shortening
1½ cups sugar
5 egg whites, unbeaten
1 pound seedless raisins
½ pound citron, finely cut
½ pound each crystallized orange peel, lemon peel, pineapple, red cherries, finely cut
1 pound blanched almonds, finely cut
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon almond extract
5 egg whites, stiffly beaten

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder, soda and salt, and sift together three times. Cream shortening thoroughly, add sugar gradually, and cream together until light and fluffy. Add 5 unbeaten egg whites, one at a time, beating very thoroughly after each. Add fruits and nuts. Add half of flour gradually, beating well after each addition. Add flavorings, then remaining flour, and beat well. Fold in 5 stiffly beaten egg whites. Turn into pans which have been greased, lined with heavy paper, and again greased. Bake in slow oven (250 degrees F.) until done, increasing heat to 300 degrees during last 15 minutes of baking. In 8½-inch tube pan or 8 by 4 by 3-inch loaf pan, bake about 4 hours. Makes 7 pounds fruit cake.

Observance of Christmas Known by Many Names

Not everywhere is the holiday commemorating the birth of Christ known as Christmas.

The French call the holiday Noel or Nowel. The Scotch use the name Yule, and the Scandinavians Juletide. The Welch call Christmas Nadolig, and the Italians call it Il Natale, while the Germans say Weihnachten.

In Polish the term Boze Narodzenie is used, meaning "God's Nativity." The Bohemians and Croatians say Bozic, and the Slovaks, Vianoce. In Spanish the word Navidad, meaning "Nativity," is used.

Romans Gave Presents

The custom of giving presents was a feature of the Romans during their winter festival, the Saturnalia. The early Christians gave presents to their children on Christmas morning, under the pretense that they were the gift of the Christ Child. There is no country in the civilized world that has not in some form or another the custom of giving presents, either at Christmas or around the Christmas season, and this age-old custom can be traced to the dawn of history.

Christmas of 1776 Witnessed Crossing Of Delaware River

The Christmas of 1776 was an important one in the history of the American republic. This is the day that Washington crossed the Delaware to attack the Hessian forces at Trenton.

General Washington perfected his plan of attack on Christmas Eve at General Greene's headquarters. He believed that the 1,000 Hessian troops defending the British outpost at Trenton would fall easy victims to a surprise attack after spending a night of Christmas feasting and merrymaking.

The crossing of the river began at six o'clock Christmas evening. Washington planned to have his entire army on the Jersey shore by midnight and begin the march to Trenton by one o'clock so that he could attack the Hessians just before dawn. But the ice-filled river threatened to upset his plans and some of his officers wanted to call off the expedition. Washington, however, resolved to carry it through and although the crossing took no less than 10 hours, it was finally accomplished and four o'clock in the morning found his army drawn up on the New Jersey side ready for the seven-mile march to Trenton.

Outposts failed to discover the advancing Americans in time, and the surprise was almost complete. Although the Hessian force was captured, the loss to Washington's army was only four wounded and not a man killed.

Crop of Evergreens May Prove Profitable As Business Venture

There is no question that the growing of Christmas trees can be made a profitable enterprise in many sections where, at the present time, the annual demand is met by importation. A Christmas tree in the best tradition is an aromatic, richly green, symmetrical tree.

Since the chief sources of Christmas trees in North America are New England, the Great Lakes states, Canada, and the Pacific Northwest, it follows that plantations of trees suitable for Christmas use and indigenous, or naturally suited to local soils and climates, could be made profitable in other sections.

Suitable Varieties.

1. The Blue Spruce, a native of the Rocky Mountain section, is one of the most desirable trees for Christmas use, because of its fragrance, its rich color, and its symmetrical shape. Since however, it is of less rapid growth than some other conifers, it should not be relied upon as an early crop. It is of easy growth and, given a bit of time, will well repay cultivation.

2. The White Spruce, native to the extreme northern portions of the United States, is of a beautiful color and shape, but it, too, is slower of growth than are some others.

3. The Norway Spruce was introduced into North America from Europe, many years ago. It makes a rapid and easy growth and has a wide range of adaptability.

4. The White Fir, whose habitat is western United States, is a beautiful tree, entirely suitable for the plantation. If it is to be planted in the East, the stock should be selected from Rocky Mountain growth, for the sake of hardiness.

5. The Douglas Fir has a wide range of adaptability. It matures more rapidly than do some of the spruces, though not quite so quickly as the Norway Spruce. It is of fine form and color.

6. The Deodar, made famous by the late Rudyard Kipling, was imported to the United States from Asia. It has been planted widely, and with success and its graceful appearance makes it very popular as a Christmas tree. It is well adapted to growth on the Pacific coast and in the warmer sections of the East and Middle West.

Children Enjoy Helping Prepare Christmas Tree

The joy of giving and preparing for Christmas will be increased if parents will encourage young children to work out their own ideas for gifts. The young child can select the one or two gifts he gives, and should be allowed to wrap them, and to put on stickers.

Children like to help get the Christmas tree, to make trimmings, and put them on the tree, which should be only a little taller than the child. The child can paint empty spools, string, straws and bits of colored paper, weave paper ornaments, make paper chains, cut silver and gilt paper forms, and string popcorn and cranberries.

Mail Early, Write Plainly, Post Office Officials Warn

Post office officials are again warning everyone to send their Christmas mail early.

They urge special delivery postage for belated Christmas cards and parcels. There will be no regular mail delivery on Christmas day, but perishable matter (if properly marked) and special delivery letters and parcels will be handled as usual.

History in the Home

By LINCOLN WATSON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Christmas Card Centennial

THE Christmas card is celebrating its 100th birthday this year. The first known example of what has become an essential part of our holiday celebration was published in England in 1842 and this is the way it looked:

The original of this card is on display in the British museum in London but its history is obscure. It is said that this card was etched by a 16-year-old English boy named W. M. Egley but other details of the incident are unknown.

Somewhat clearer is the record of another Christmas card which appeared four years later and which gave to its author some claim to the title of the "Father of the Christmas Card." He was Sir Henry Cole, later famous as a social and educational reformer, who had already begun applying the fine arts to manufacture and was the pioneer in illustrating children's books with woodcuts of famous paintings.

In 1846 Sir Henry sent to his friends a Christmas greeting card. Just where he got the idea is not known. Possibly it was from the greeting card issued in 1842 or it may have been from some other source. Lover cards and illustrated writing paper had been popular in Europe for many years. In Germany illuminated cards were sent on Namenstag, the feast of one's patron saint. In 1844 some unknown person in the city of Leith, Scotland, is said to have sent out New Year's cards to his friends bearing a laughing face and the words "A Gude New Year to Ye," but since this did not have a wide circulation, it is doubtful if Sir Henry got the idea there. He may have got it from the custom of English school boys of writing "Christmas pieces" on paper which they decorated with many scrolls and much flourish of penmanship.

But wherever Sir Henry got his inspiration, after deciding to send out cards to his friends at Christmas time, he went to J. C. Horsley, a member of the Royal academy in London, for the design, and this was the result:

The German influence may be seen in the Germanesque style of leafy trellises which divide the card into three panels. The smaller side panels show two of the acts of charity—feeding the hungry and clothing the naked—and the central panel shows three generations of a family party at the festal board quaffing their Christmas cheer. This card was six by four inches, colored by hand, and a thousand copies were issued. For some unexplained reason, Horsley issued his design under the nom de plume of "Felix Summerly."

Since this card bears the inscription "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You," it can be regarded as one of the first, if not the first holiday greeting card ever printed and sent out as the forerunner of a custom that was to become world-wide. Strange to say, Sir Henry Cole's friends were not especially pleased at this remembrance and it is said to have received much unfavorable criticism. So he did not repeat the experiment and it looked as though the Christmas card idea was to die a-borning.

However, in the early sixties ornamented note paper and envelopes began to appear in the stationers' shops around the holiday season and the use of these began to increase each year. Next these designs were stamped in relief in the center of a card with colored or embossed edges decorated by stencil or by hand. Thus the business of making Christmas cards got under way slowly. It was even slower in getting started in America and it was not until 1873 that the beginnings were apparent in this country.

In that year Louis Prang, a lithographer of Boston, exhibited samples of his flowered business cards at the Vienna exposition. He had an agency in London and one of his women employees there suggested to him that he put a greeting in place of the name of his firm and issue them as Christmas cards. This was done the next year, so 1874 marks the beginning of the Christmas card in this country. By 1876 the Christmas card idea became widespread due to the exhibits of printers and lithographers at the Philadelphia Centennial.

Farm Topics

Cockroaches Found Where Food Stored

Infestations Stopped When Their Habits Are Known

Cockroach infestations may be curbed by understanding the habits of the pests and approved methods of control, according to Dr. E. W. Lowrance of the department of biology and consultant of the agricultural extension service, University of Nevada.

Roaches are likely to establish themselves anywhere that food is stored or handled. They are found most frequently in old buildings, but new houses may be infested and overrun by animals inadvertently transported to them from outside sources.

The animals have a liking for starch-containing foods, he said, and have even been known to attack books. They seem to like the starch and glue in the binding.

These two workers in a Gallatin, Tenn., cheese plant are "hooping" the cheese before it is pressed.

Associated with a relatively heavy infestation of roaches, the consultant said, is a nauseating fetid "roachy" odor.

This comes from an oily secretion in the scent glands of the animals. The oil is deposited on foods, dishes or any other utensils over which the animals may crawl. Because of their pollution of foods, he said, they may be classed as disease carriers.

Cockroaches are active at night, and, during the day, hide in dark, sheltered places. They can usually be found under baseboards, behind drawers, wall cabinets, and drainboards, and beneath flooring.

Their hiding places can sometimes be found by the sudden turning on of a light in a roach-infested room, which will cause them to run from their hiding places.

To prevent roach infestation, the biologist suggests that all food supplies and the cartons or containers in which they are delivered be carefully inspected.

If cockroaches are found, not only should they be destroyed, but the carton should be burned immediately, as it may be infested with roach eggs.

Windows and ventilators of buildings should be tightly screened, he said, food supplies should be stored carefully, and garbage removed as rapidly as it accumulates.

"Fumigation is perhaps the most effective way to eliminate roaches," the consultant said, "but this method is exceedingly dangerous unless handled by an expert.

Plenty of Spuds!

Potatoes for a fighting nation pour in from America's farmlands at The Chicago & Northwestern Railroad's Wood street huge "Potato Yard," in Chicago. Some 4,000,000 pounds of spuds arrive daily from every state in the Union. The yard has a capacity for 600 freight cars, each carrying 600 bushels of potatoes.

Rural Briefs

Walnut, maple and white oak are needed for war uses. Farmers should contact two or more buyers for offers on trees.

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Experts in the fields of transportation and grain storage say that a great deal of grain will have to be held in farm storage for a period after harvest. Terminal storage will not be available to hold the crops at any one time.

PATTERNS
SEWING CIRCLE

A New Apron.

IT IS trim as a pin, big enough to cover your entire frock, and decorative enough so that it is fun to wear! Here is an apron to rely on. You slip it on over your head, tie it at the waist and it's in place to stay. Two patch pockets make it extra useful.

• • •

Pattern No. 8254 is in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48. Size 36 takes 2⅛ yards 35-inch material. 7 yards braid trim.

Jumper . . ume.

YOU'RE reminded of little Lord Fauntleroy by this picturesque jumper outfit . . . especially if you will make the slim fitting jumper of velveteen or light wool crepe and the blouse with its ruffled collar of sheer white cotton. It is easy to hop into this outfit, too. Both blouse and jumper button down the front.

• • •

Pattern No. 8270 is in sizes 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. Size 6 years jumper requires 2⅛ yards 39-inch material, blouse 1½ yards.

Send your order to:

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT.
106 Seventh Ave. New York

Enclose 20 cents in coins for each pattern desired.

Pattern No. ..... Size .....

Name.....

Address.....

ASK ME ANOTHER ?
A General Quiz

The Questions

1. According to mythology, Mt. Parnassus was the favorite haunt of whom?
2. How is asbestos obtained?
3. If you suffer from hypnophobia, you fear what?
4. Why were gypsies so named?
5. Who was the author of the statement: "These are the times that try men's souls"?
6. How long was the siege of Jericho?
7. Tass is the official news agency of what country?
8. If you had a nom de plume, you would have what, a feather fan, a pen name, or a French maid?
9. In what state did Lincoln deliver his Gettysburg address?
10. What does the "O" in A.W.O.L. stand for?

The Answers

1. Apollo.
2. Asbestos is mined.
3. You fear sleep.
4. Gypsies were thought to have come from Egypt. Their original home, however, was in India.
5. Thomas Paine.
6. Seven days.
7. Russia.
8. A pen name.
9. Pennsylvania.
10. In American military service there is no such phrase as Absent Without Official Leave, and the initial "O" in A.W.O.L. does not stand for any particular word. It was adopted merely to distinguish the abbreviation from A.W.L., or Absent With Leave.

Acid Indig
Relieved in 5 minutes or de
When excess stomach acid cau ing gas, sour stomach and hearti prescribe the fastest-acting n symptomatic relief—medicines l Tablets. No laxative. Bell-ans jiffy or double your money bac to us. 25c at all druggists.

Alask
The name an Aleutian t means great The name a Germ

DON SUFFE
from the fiery itch of dry ec lingering relief usually follows
Soothing RESIN

Concentration

Concentration is the secret of strength in politics, in war, in trade, in short, in all management of human affairs.—Emerson.

TO RELIEVE MISERY OF COLDS
quickly use
666
LIQUID TABLETS SALVE NOSE DROPS COUGH DROPS

Win the Peace!
Buy U. S. SAVINGS ★ ★ BONDS ★ ★

THE POWER OF THE PRESS

● Manufacturers and merchants sense the power of the press. Early they began using it to carry their advertising facts and ideas into homes. And they found it a most profitable way in which to tell their story to buyers. And the buyers in turn found it profitable to deal with those who were willing to state in print the values and services they offered.