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Maine Federation of Women's Clubs

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The Maine Federation News

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks

*O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emanuel.*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
DECEMBER, 1949

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SPRINGER'S

Maine Federation News

Official Organ of the Maine Club Women

Published by the
Maine Federation of Women's Clubs

VOLUME XXVI

DECEMBER 1949

NUMBER 2

Edited by
Mrs. Mildred W. Perkins,
Sidney Rd.
Waterville, Maine

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Subscriptions, \$1.00 the year. Clubs subscribing 100 per cent of their membership will receive the special subscription rate of 75 cents per year.

OFFICERS FOR 1949-1950

President

Mrs. Gilbert F. Loebs
43 Burleigh St., Waterville

First Vice President

Mrs. W. Bradford Cushman
11 Belmont St., Portland, 5

Second Vice President

Mrs. Norman F. Plouff
51 Free St., Dexter

Recording Secretary

Mrs. Milo B. Clarke
11 Beals Ave., Ellsworth

Corresponding Secretary

Mrs. Arnal S. Bragg
81 High St., Fairfield

Treasurer

Mrs. Charles W. Mills Milo

General Federation Headquarters

1734 N. Street, N. Y.,
Washington, D. C.

Thru The Editor's Window

At Smith College last month, during the two-day 75th Convocation exercises, 12 women were awarded honorary degrees. Among the 12 were two Maine women—Margaret Chase Smith, given a Doctor of Laws, and Mary Ellen Chase, given a Doctor of Letters. Proud indeed are we women of Maine for these honors that come to our own native leaders.

After receiving her degree Senator Smith addressed the gathering in attendance at the anniversary Convocation asserting "wherever you find the women's voice granted even an approach to parity with that of the men, you will find a more peaceful nation." She went on to say "To me, Smith College has two very important symbols—education, and women. I don't know of any two more effective ingredients for peace.... The historical belligerency of most nations will be found to be an inverse ratio to the degree of freedom and recognition that the particular nation grants to women... And America, the peace leader of the world, also leads the other nations of the world on opportunity granted to women... If women are to accept more fully the individual responsibilities of citizens of a democracy, they must maintain an interest and intelligence in those matters which vitally affect the basic concepts of a democracy. Just voting isn't enough... The interests of women in our government and public affairs should not be limited to only those issues and matters which are feminine in character. Suffrage, Equal Rights, Equal Pay for Equal Work and other similar issues so militantly supported and pushed

for by many of our women are well worthy admirable objectives. But we have so limited our efforts to such measures and subjects that we have brought upon ourselves the criticism that 'women selfishly seek equal rights without agreeing to give up those feminine privileges and niceties' which I previously referred to as being in direct conflict with the equal rights sought."

Shall we not take these words to heart and live them? We, all of us—have our place to fill, knowing that if we do not do our part we are weakening the chain of accomplishment for our state and our nation. We may not be able to be a Margaret Chase Smith or a Mary Ellen Chase, but we CAN be the shoulders on which they stand, the undergirding strength and power to carry on the things for which they speak.

The other ten women receiving degrees were as follows: Maria Elena Rincon, Doctor of Humane Letters; Gerty T. Cori, Doctor of Science; Bodil Begtrup, Doctor of Laws; Sara Gibson Blanding, Doctor of Laws; Helen Maud Cam, Doctor of Laws; Margaret Clapp, Doctor of Laws; Charlotte Bequignon Lagarde, Doctor of Laws; Eleanor Roosevelt, Doctor of Laws; Barbara Ward, Doctor of Laws, and Princess Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, Doctor of Laws.

OUT OF THE PAST

From the DELINEATOR

Fashions for March, 1891
Spring Millinery:

Flowers are used in profusion on everything, from the tiniest of bonnets... to the most elaborate
Continued on Page 8



MRS. GILBERT F. LOEB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again, at Christmas, we experience that wonderful hope of peace on earth and good will among men. We again are filled by a sense of the possibilities of mankind. We, as women, have very special avenues through which to work to achieve a world wide peace. We may promote international friendship through our programs and through our individual efforts, educate our children in one world citizenship. Our efforts are strengthened by working together as an organization. This year a resolution will be placed before our clubs as to whether our state federation will join other state federations in Universal Membership with the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This means that each woman in every club, belonging to the state federation, will pay dues to both the state and national organization and will join five million other women in meeting the responsibilities which face us at this very precarious time in our history. Quoting from material released from the headquarters of the General Federation of Women's Clubs:

"No organization is stronger than its weakest link. That is why each federated clubwoman is

The President's Page

so important to the General Federation, and, through the work of the General Federation, to the welfare of her community, her state, her country and the world.

The General Federation is both national and international in scope. Nationally it is concerned with government, citizenship, the family, child welfare, "Youth Conservation," religious training, public health, education, the fine arts, and all movements looking toward a better life for our people. In the breadth and range of its interests, it is unique among women's organizations.

Internationally it seeks to promote peace and the extension of democracy throughout the world. Support of the United Nations and an international good will program based on personal contacts between American women and women of other lands are important features of its program in this field.

The individual clubwoman, dedicated to the promotion of these broad aims, thus becomes a constructive, progressive force in her own right. She seeks to educate herself on the needs of her community, her state, and the nation—and then do something about them. Through association with others of like mind and through the stimulus of organized effort, her knowledge and interests broaden. She becomes a leader in her community, rendering all sorts of civic and philanthropic services.

She realizes that many desirable reforms cannot be achieved without legislation, so she is conscientious about writing her state and national legislators advocating or disapproving measures, according to the policy of the State and General Federation. She adds her voice to the 5,000,000 other federated club members in the United States and thus becomes a powerful factor in determining what our laws shall be. The more she works in the legislative field, the more aware she becomes of the importance of the type of man or

woman who holds public office. She makes HER vote count !

Today over 5,000,000 women in clubs outside the United States are affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs. American women are communicating with thousands of women in foreign lands with whom they exchange information, cultural materials and gifts. To those in war-devastated countries they have sent countless packages containing the necessities of life, educational supplies, and money. Each clubwoman who nourishes this personal interchange and contributes to the alleviation of suffering abroad is furthering better understanding among peoples and making friends for the United States around the world.

There is no more important factor in our national life than the federated clubwoman. With justification she has been called "the conscience of America."

Clubs belonging to the General Federation of Women's Clubs receive each month, through their President, a copy of the GENERAL FEDERATION CLUBWOMAN. This is an interpretative journal of information, carrying to the clubwomen a knowledge of present laws and those in the making which affect the permanency of our democratic principles and further possibilities of more workable international cooperation. It is the voice of the President of the General Federation and Department and Committee Chairmen who are commissioned to carry out the objectives of the organization. It is the medium through which club news is disseminated among member organizations in the United States and many foreign countries.

Federation members are kept in touch with national programs, projects and campaigns through periodical letters from the General Federation President.

General Federation programs, pamphlets, speeches, forums and

study kits are available for the asking to all Federation members. Lists of available material are printed periodically in the magazine.

Books for the research library, which contains 6000 up to date publications, are available on loan to members.

Member clubs have voting representation at national conventions. The General Federation conventions have grown to be outstanding forums on national and international affairs, participated in by Governmental authorities and other experts from our own and foreign countries.

At national conventions delegates from member clubs have a voice in the endorsement of resolutions upon which the legislative program of the Federation is based.

Member clubs are asked to join with other clubs of the Federation in active campaigns for legislative measures, thus giving power to the voice of the individual club.

Large influential clubs have the opportunity, through support of the national organization, of making available to smaller clubs and clubs in remote areas timely educational material and services from national Headquarters.

Membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs means affiliation with the largest and most influential women's organization of its kind in the world."

Your President and the Executive Board have been very busy in the performance of their offices. Mrs. W. Bradford Cushman, Mrs. Norman Fay Plouff, Mrs. Philip Marston and Miss Stella Scurlock, Chairman of the Youth Conservation Department of the General Federation of Women's Clubs accompanied your President when District meetings were held in Lubec, Ellsworth, Camden, Portland, Bath, Waterville, Farmington, Houlton, Dover-Foxcroft and Bangor. We were delightfully entertained in each District and the enthusiasm for the program which we presented was very grat-

ifying. Miss Scurlock and Mrs. Marston stressed formation of Youth Councils and Mrs. Marston has written an article on this subject for this issue of the Federation News.

Two surveys have been made in the state. One concerns labor conditions under which children work, the other concerns citizenship as taught in the schools, recreation and family relationships. Through these surveys it is hoped that we may find any immediate needs which members of the Maine Federation may meet either personally in various communities or by the organization.

Since this is an "action administration" the cooperation of every woman is needed for the accomplishment of those aims and ideals which characterize the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs. Already the challenge of our times has been met by very fine work by our members and my appreciation is unbounded. Our motto, if we had one would surely be, "Whatever thy hands findeth to do, do it with all thy might."

It will be a fine thing to meet you in Augusta at the mid-winter meeting. With every good wish to you for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Loyally yours,
Ruth Flanders Loeb

State and National Poetry Contest

(Open to all Federation members and all are urged to participate)

CONTEST RULES:

1. All entries should be sent to the Fine Arts Chairman, Mrs. Harold Gleason, Ellsworth. The three best poems, chosen by judges of national reputation, will be forwarded to the General Federation Chairman for competition in the General Federation Poetry Contest, as well as being awarded prizes at the annual meeting of the M. F. W. C. in May.

2. First page, name of poem and pseudonym.

3. Any type of poem or subject will be accepted.

4. The poem shall not exceed 32 lines.

5. Please submit four copies of each entry. Keep another copy for yourself. No poem will be returned.

6. Double space, one side of sheet.

7. Poems must reach Mrs. Gleason by February 15, 1950.

8. Select a pseudonym and write it on the outside of an envelope. Inside the envelope, give your own name, club affiliation and complete address. Attach the sealed envelope to your manuscript. This envelope will not be opened until after the judges have made their decision.

CORRECTIONS IN THE HANDBOOK

Mrs. Harold Bickford, Box 176, Strong, Maine, is a member of the American Home Department.

Mrs. Vernon K. Gould, (Martha Merserve Gould) is President of the Maine Writers Research Club.

The West Farmington Literary Club has appointed Mrs. Luna L. Hodgkins as Secretary, (Corresponding and Recording) to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs. Doris Black.

Article 4, Section 1. The last sentence should read: These officers with the thirteen District Directors and Department Chairmen, shall constitute an Advisory Committee.

Article 10, Section 2. There shall be a Mid-Winter Conference each year, the time and place to be decided by the Executive Board.

Article 15. Entertainment. Officers of the Maine Federation and invited guests shall be eligible to free entertainment at the annual meeting.

Chairman: American Citizenship, Mrs. Arthur Gilmour, Lewiston, Maine.

Mrs. Preston Martin is President of the Pierian Club of Presque Isle. Her address, Northland Apartments, K4, Presque Isle.

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Departmental Goals

Department of Citizenship

Chairman: Mrs. Arthur Gilmour

Purpose:

To convince the American women of the superiority of our form of government.

Objectives:

1. To have every citizen regardless of age, race, creed or sex participating in the government.
2. To have that government begin in the home and the school and continue on into appreciation of community, state, national and world affairs.
3. To create a vital interest in, and knowledge of, world government.
4. To have club women studying issues in political campaigns and supporting qualified candidates for office.
5. To urge each club to continue to sponsor "Citizenship Day" in its community.
6. To urge that a program on world citizenship be used in schools—plans of which will be sent from State Citizenship Department.
7. To have the aim of this department to protect the heritage of America.

American Home:

Chairman: Mrs. Cecil B. Witham

Theme: The Family Makes the Home

Objectives:

1. To assist the departments of citizenship and education in conducting a survey of courses in citizenship being taught in the schools.
2. Upon the advice of Miss Helen Lockwood, retired, of Farmington, to see if it would be possible to have a Family Counsellor on the Extension Board of the University of Maine.
3. To try in some way to educate our members as to the importance of each member of the Family to the whole unit—both their freedom as individuals and their responsibility and duty toward others.

Notes to Clubs about the Department:

1. Try to answer survey questions as soon as possible.
2. Call upon your Department chairman for advice about planning a club program.
3. Invite your Department chairman for a program—remember the fee for transportation and entertainment only.
4. Attend American Home Day at the University of Maine.
5. Invite your Farm Bureau agent to speak or help you with a Home Project.

Department of Public Safety:

Chairman: Mrs. Nils Rabenius

Plan of Work. If active adoption of methods listed below are made, the club women of Maine can make a real contribution toward accident prevention.

1. Appoint an active safety chairman in each club.
2. Examine your community and home conditions carefully. List the findings. Use them as a basis for a local program.
3. Have club study programs on your state laws regarding traffic and safety measures. Learn what they include.
4. Include safety information and discussion at your club meetings.
5. Contact local officials. Tell them of your interest and concern for improved safety conditions. Find out where and how your services and those of your club can best be utilized.
6. Spotlight days without accidents.
7. Strengthen school safety courses, playground traffic hazards, fire dangers, etc.
8. Stimulate a good driver training course in your local high schools. Encourage active assistance by local citizens.
9. Arouse public interest by an interorganization conference, as a guest program. Unite as members of the panel, a public health official, a fire marshal, a traffic police officer, a safety engineer in industry, a home economics consultant and a judge.

Department of Education:

Chairman: Mrs. Albert Turner

Theme: A fundamental problem in our schools today is to keep an adequate and competent teaching staff.

1. Other states offer teachers more money.
2. Other states sometimes offer pleasanter living conditions.

Objective: We can help to make our towns pleasant for our teachers.

1. By helping them in their work. Some schools welcome old magazines—The National Geographic for instance—for supplementary material. If you know the teachers well, you will learn how you may be of assistance.
2. By entertaining them at our clubs. Invite the teachers to an especially interesting program.
3. By being appreciative. Has Johnny learned to enjoy reading, or has number work suddenly straightened out for Susy? Perhaps the teacher had something to do with the children's success.
4. By being friendly and neighborly, so that the teachers won't feel left out of all the life that goes on when school is over.

Suggestions:

Clubs should also

1. Show our respect for our schools by having some observance of American Education Week.
2. Help the rest of us by writing the Chairman of the Department of Education about what you have done to make things pleasant for your teachers. Perhaps your bright idea is what some of us have been looking for.

Department of Fine Arts

Chairman: Mrs. Harold W. Gleason

Theme: Art is long; life is short. (From the Latin)

Objectives:

A better understanding of, and a greater interest in, international relations through the Fine Arts.

Notes:

1. Contribute to the Penny Art Fund.

2. Send for the Doll, Art and Wood Carving exhibits.

3. Plan study programs on Art, Music and Literature of foreign countries:—specifically the Genre type of painting of the Five Great Nations.

4. Call upon the department chairman to help plan a program.

5. Search for talent in your club so you will be ready to enter the Poetry contest.

Suggestions:

Since the G. F. W. C. is concerning itself more and more with international relations and urging its members to take a more active interest in the foreign policy of the United States and gain knowledge of the peoples of other countries, the Fine Arts committee of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs has three suggestions for the year 1949-1950.

The first suggestion is for each club to plan at least one meeting during the year devoted to the art or music or literature, or all three, of some foreign nation.

The second plan is to urge all clubs to continue the one cent per member tax to aid the art collection fund in Maine. While last year's goal was not reached, \$100.62 was realized. Art is universal and we learn to appreciate other nations by knowing their art.

Also in keeping with Mrs. Gilbert Loeb's line of thought—namely an interest in public welfare along the line of mental health, this committee would urge members to read and discuss the many authoritative books on this subject.

Department of Fine Arts:
Division of Literature

Chairman: Mrs. Harold W. Gleason

Suggestions for a Club study program on the music of Russia. The music is to be the whole program. This is best presented by three members, although one could do it.

Member A should give a brief picture of the geography of Russia and a ten minute history of

Russia, outlining life under the Czarist regime, followed by the revolution of 1917 and bringing it up to today, thereby showing the relationship of the geography and history of the country to its music.

Member B should give some interesting sidelight about each of the suggested composers.

Member C should play one of the suggested works, or anything by the composer either on record or on the piano.

After the playing of the music by the composers, member B could mention the pianists Ossip Gabrilowitch and Vladimir de Pachmann, and also Mischa Elman, the violinist.

Suggested composers and works, but by no means a complete list.

Tschaikowsky's 1812 Overture or Nutcracker Suite.

Rimsky-Korsakov Scherezade.
Prokofieff Peter and the Wolf.
Stravinsky The Berceuse from The Fire Bird.

Shostakovitch Polka from The Age of Gold Ballet.

Rachmaninov Preludes.
Khatchatourian Sabre Dance.
Moussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition.

Russian National Air (pre-revolution.)

Any of the Russian lullabies.
Practically any library can furnish material on the geography and history of Russia.

I have purposely omitted the Polish composers who were born while Poland was part of Russia but who claimed Poland and not Russia as their homeland.

Department of Public Welfare
Chairman: Mrs. Clarence C. Little
Theme: Be ye doers and not hearers only. (James 1:22)

Objectives:

To cooperate with, and implement the work of, all Maine organizations striving for better health and welfare of our citizens.

Outline:

1. Continue active interest in State Hospitals and Institutions.

2. Support community enterprises pertaining to good health.

Department of International Relations:

Chairman: Mrs. Ervin Center

DURING these days of world chaos, unrest and insecurity, your Department of International Relations urges each and every clubwoman to give earnest consideration and study to world affairs; to show tolerance and understanding toward the peoples of the world and to ask daily that Divine Guidance be given those who are seeking to bring about a lasting peace.

Realizing that in the majority of clubs, programs for the ensuing year are already planned, we sincerely hope that you have given priority to this vital subject, the objective of which is—"A better knowledge and appreciation of other peoples," and we therefore offer the following suggestions:

1. To continue the study of United Nations and the Atlantic Pact, with emphasis on the study of World Government. (In this connection we recommend Forums and Panel discussions in which club members may participate.)

2. To continue correspondence with people in Foreign lands.

3. To send CARE packages.

4. To make a study of Foreign countries.

5. To follow the suggestions sent out from time to time by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Junior Program

Chairman: Mrs. Robert Anderson

Theme:

"Not merely to exist."

Objectives:

1. To increase membership by adding at least one new Junior club to every district.

2. To make Junior club members more state and general federation minded.

3. A state project for all Maine Juniors. (This for next year after membership has increased.)

Program:

1. Project in relation to Youth Conservation based on community needs.

2. Study of various departments of the Federation with programs built around suggestions of these departments.

3. Active Interest in International Relations.

a. Corresponding with women abroad.

b. Foreign student speakers

c. Gifts sent abroad, etc.

4. Continued interest and work on public welfare projects.

Your Junior Chairman stands ready to attend meetings whenever possible, to tell Juniors of work done by clubs throughout the state and help in formation of new clubs.

Department of Veterans' Service
Chairman: Mrs. Merton Cram

Theme: "Do unto those who have served you."

Objective: Build Morale

Outline of Work: Cooperate at all times with Togus Veterans Hospital.

Project: To have each district have the responsibility for one month out of the year for supplying what is most needed. For December would suggest two districts take charge. Playing cards are always needed, candy, cigarettes and birthday gifts. Suggest utility packages with contents of packages marked on slips pasted on the outside wrapping.

Department of Youth Conservation

Chairman: Mrs. Philip Marston

Let's work WITH and FOR our Young People to Build Better Communities.

The objective of the Maine Youth Conservation Department is to help the clubwomen of the state to see the needs of youth, to better understand youth, to learn what they can do to help meet these needs, and to work with young people to build better communities in which they will want to stay.

Special emphases for the year

include: improving the comics, movie, radio, television and literature diet of youth; extending recreational facilities and training in recreational leadership forming a community council to plan for children and youth; increasing the employment of youth during after school hours and of young adults after school years are over; helping youth to beautify and clean the community; stressing youth's school training for citizenship, family life and political responsibility.

Information for realizing some of these objectives may be obtained from district Youth Conservation Chairmen, from the state chairman or from Miss Stella Scurlock, General Federation Director of Youth Conservation, 1734 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Each president is urged to appoint a club Youth Conservation chairman and to send her name to the state chairman.

Department of Legislation:

Chairman: Mrs. Paul Morin

The children often tell us that "things at school have changed," and we must agree with them in the matter of specific preparation for intelligent citizenship. Having been seriously threatened with the loss of this privilege twice in our generation has made us alert to the need of providing information upon which values may be determined, and consequently, adequate and qualified leadership may be guaranteed.

Active citizenship is no longer anybody's privilege, it is everybody's obligation.

The Department of the Maine Federation which I chair is Legislation. Each of the Clubs in the Federation is interested in this department. From time to time you have instructed your Federation representatives to speak for you on behalf of measures of wide public interest. How deep have been your convictions on these measures? How well have you prepared yourself to support the position you have urged your del-

egates to represent to legislative bodies?

It is the earnest desire of this Department to equip you with guide posts to the achievement of both individual participation in public affairs, and collective intelligent action thereon.

We suggest:

1. Select an item for major emphasis during the year.

2 Underwrite a sufficient amount of money to pay for postage, printing, telephone and telegraph expenses.

3. Require each member of the committee to accept one phase of the general topic for her research. For example, What is the present local (or state) situation in the particular field? Interview local public officials on the subject under study. How is the work being financed? How is the personnel which administers the program selected? And what changes should be made?

4. Plan a weekly meeting or fortnightly meeting to discuss your findings.

5. Report in 3-5 minutes at each club meeting as to your progress in your work, and keep the membership informed.

6. Present motion calling for action to your club when you are ready to proceed and ask for a "campaign committee" to see it through.

7. Interview every candidate for public office on the subject of your campaign before nomination of candidates.

8. Report to your club, and to the public the attitude of the candidates. This is the way you help to create public opinion for your measure.

9. After election and before the presentation of legislation, consult with other groups, and try to cooperate with all who share your views on the matter under consideration.

10. In all public hearings and publicity present a cross section of your membership, to verify your scope of understanding and influence.

Department of Publicity:

Chairman: Mrs. John Carter

Active cooperation is essential to good publicity. Nothing should be sent out for publication without the knowledge of the Publicity Chairman, Mrs. John Carter of Waterville or the Chairman of the Federation Column, Mrs. Everett Billings of Kittery Point.

Every club should appoint a publicity chairman who is keenly interested in the activities of her club, energetic and dependable. Material concerning future club programs is very acceptable for publicity. Names make news. Be sure that the name and title is given correctly. Include sufficient biographical material to acquaint your readers with the personality. Speakers are glad to furnish biographical material and pictures before their appearance.

A story of some particular project or accomplishment of your group is interesting. The date and place of your meeting is important in an advance announcement. Tell how a program was presented or how a project was started. Remember publicity sells our organization to the public. It is our "show window". Let's make it interesting.

Midwinter Meeting

MAINE FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S CLUBS

Augusta, Maine, Augusta House, Headquarters, January 25-26, 1950.

Convention Theme: The Needs

of Maine—How Maine Club Women Can Meet Them.

Registration fee: One dollar.

All registration for rooms will be made directly with the management of the Augusta House. Details as to rates for rooms and meals will be included in the Convention Call, which will be sent to each club.

Names of speakers and details of the Colonial Dinner Party will be included in the Call.

OUT OF THE PAST

Continued from Page 1

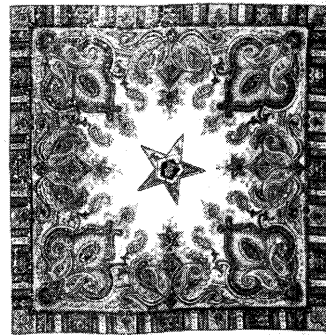
chapeaux;...ribbons sustain the dainty blossoms in almost every instance.

Since bright hues are decidedly the fashion, one need not hesitate to wear a hat that is a veritable color study, provided, of course, it is becoming. A charming hat... has a round crown of black satin straw and a broad brim of Milan straw...A fold of maroon velvet is adjusted inside the brim near the edge, a bow of maroon velvet and corn-colored grosgrain ribbon placed in front, and a bunch of paradise plumage and red poppies is secured at the back...with maroon velvet tie strings.

Oats made of velvet...are among the most popular of floral decorations...Bunches of yellow oats fall over the crown from the back and among them are placed several orchids and their leaves...The design of this hat is at once original and artistic.

Bonnets display charming contrasts of color quite as frequently

as hats. A wonderfully dainty specimen is formed of a series of tiny black lisse edged with narrow gold braid in open weave. At the back are placed a bunch of small purple and yellow dahlias and a cross aigrette, beneath which the narrow black velvet strings are tacked. The strings may be either tied under the chin or crossed and pinned on the corsage, according to the wearer's preference.



It's pure silk and 35 inches square! No picture can describe the beauty of this unique Eastern Star Scarf. The authentic paisley body design, like the emblem, is hand printed in lovely shades of blue, yellow, white, green and red...on a background of shimmering white. The hem is rolled. The design is copyrighted. Your money will be refunded by return mail if not even more desirable than described.

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MAINE

THE GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION OF MAINE

NATIVE GREENS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY DECORATION

Many uses may be found for the several common native evergreens in arrangements, either by themselves or in combination with cut flowers. Because of the variety they offer in texture and colour, many interesting and attractive effects can be achieved. Their refreshing outdoor fragrance adds much to their appeal, particularly when used in hospital work. When the number of available flowers is limited the greens are especially helpful, since each will tend to emphasize and enhance the other.

(A few notes will suggest the possibilities.)

WHITE PINE—airy and graceful, slender blue-green needles, delicate twigs—perhaps the most desirable in vase arrangements. Pitch and Red Pine, though coarser in character, are effective in large arrangements.

HEMLOCK—arrangements of slender, flexible twigs is informal, well adapted to vase arrangements—needles are dark green, silvery beneath—can often be collected with tiny cones at the tips of the twigs—needles drop quickly upon drying but hold well when twigs are in water.

BALSAM FIR—somewhat similar to hemlock, although stiffer and more formal in effect—the most fragrant of the group—the most desirable material is obtained from slow growing trees in sunny exposures.

COMMON JUNIPER—needles more or less bronzy-green (in winter), silvery beneath—irregular or informal arrangement of twigs—usually available with green and blue berries—needles very sharp, requiring care in handling.

ARBORVITAE—foliage soft green (bronzy in winter), scale-like, borne in flat, fan-like sprays.

CANADIAN YEW—similar to Balsam Fir in needle character, but colour is dark green, lighter beneath, with no pronounced fragrance.

TAMARACK—not evergreen although it is a conifer—desirable in spring and summer for its feathery blue-green needles.

THE SPRUCES—least desirable, because of stiff appearance, rapid needle drop in dry locations, and in some varieties objectionable odour.

In addition there are many varieties of ornamental evergreens, trimmings from which will provide attractive material. Trimming of many of these evergreens, by the way, is desirable in order to keep them in good condition and to improve their appearance.

(Aid in identifying the native evergreens may be obtained from Maine Extension Bulletin No. 345, "The Conifers of Maine," available from your local Farm Bureau Office, or from the Extension Service at Orono.)

FLOWERS FROM YOUR GARDEN IN WINTER

The flowers and foliage of many of our woody ornamentals easily and successfully may be forced into growth ahead of the season, providing colourful and useful material for arrangements during the late winter and early spring. No special equipment or location is needed for this work, and only a few points need consideration.

A period of dormancy is required by these plants before growth will take place, but in most cases the period has been of sufficient length by the time the Groundhog has come out for his first peek. From this time on the rate of growth is increased as spring approaches.

Twigs to be forced should be cut preferably on a mild day, or should be thawed out very slowly after being brought inside. Cut the twigs longer than the pieces eventually desired, for this will provide more stored food material to produce stronger and better development of the buds. Do not cut twigs promiscuously; rather use this as a method of pruning and shaping up your

shrubs. Make clean cuts in the manner of regular pruning.

Before placing in water (tepid) trim the ends in long slanting cuts and remove some of the bark at the base—this will facilitate the intake of water. The twigs will want light but should not be placed in full sunlight; they will do best in a location where the temperature will average around 60 degrees or slightly above. It is difficult to estimate the time required to produce blooms, for it will depend upon a number of factors—variety, time of season, condition of wood when cut, temperature—but will usually run between 15 and 30 days in February, and between 7 and 15 days a little later in the season.

Some common materials suitable for forcing are:

Alder (*Alnus*)—catkins
Apple (*Malus*)—standard and crab
Barberry (*Berberis*)—yellow flowers and foliage
Birch (*Betula*)—delicate foliage
Flowering Almond (*Prunus triloba*)
Flowering Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*)
Forsythia
Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*)
Japanese Quince (*Chaenomeles*)
Maple (*Acer*)—particularly Red
Pussy Willow (*Salix*)
Shadblow (*Amelanchier*)—white flowers with white foliage
Spiraea
Tamarack (*Larix*)—feathery foliage

Edward D. Johnson
October 31, 1949

The deadline on news items for the February issue is January 27th. The sooner the material, the more help to your editor. **GET IT IN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.** If your club has done something worthwhile, share it.

Your editor would like names and addresses of any club members, active or honorary, who are over 80 years of age. Perhaps a few facts about them also. Can you help? Which club has the oldest member and which the largest number of such members. Send this word to your editor.

Holiday Sweets

Christmas brings new and old recipes to the fore. Some of these are old—some new, but all are good. Try 'em.

Indian Pudding

Scald one quart of milk in double boiler. Slowly stir in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cornmeal; stir, cook 20 minutes. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, 1 tsp. salt, 1 tbsp. butter, 1 tsp. cinammon, 1 tsp. nutmeg. Turn into greased $1\frac{1}{2}$ quart casserole. Bake, uncovered, in slow oven 275 degrees F. 3 hours, stirring once during baking. Serve warm or cold with cream or ice cream. Serves 6.

Gingerbread Boys

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup boiling water
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fat
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses
 3 cups flour
 1 tsp. soda
 1 tsp. salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp. ginger
 1-8 tbsp. cloves

Pour water over fat, then add sugar and molasses. Add the flour, salt, soda and spices mixed and sifted together. Chill thoroughly and roll thin. Cut with cutter or from metal pattern, and bake about 40 minutes in a moderate oven (375 degrees). Then cool, decorate with colored icing for clothes and with raisins or cherries for features.

Christmas Oatmeal Cookies

1-3 cup fat
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
 1 egg
 1 cup sifted flour
 1 tsp. baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
 1 tsp. cinammon
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. ground cloves
 1-3 cup milk
 1 cup rolled oats

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup seedless raisins

Cream fat and add sugar gradually. Beat egg until light and add slowly to creamed mixture. To sifted flour, add baking powder, salt, spices and resift. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk to creamed mixture. Stir in rolled oats and raisins. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto a well greased cookie sheet. Top with a piece of glazed candied cherry. Bake in moderate oven (375 degrees) about 18 mins. Yield: About $2\frac{1}{2}$ dozen cookies.

Pecan Pie

Line pie plate with pastry—with fluted edge. Cook half a cup of sugar and a cup of dark corn syrup until mixture thickens (228 degrees). Beat three eggs; add hot syrup slowly, continuing to beat. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1-8 tsp. salt, 1 cup pecan meats. Pour mixture into shell. Bake in hot oven 450 degrees 10 mins., then in slow oven 300 degrees 35 mins. Cool and serve with whipped cream.

Holiday Fruit Bars

Sift together and set aside:

$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sifted flour
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ tsps. baking powder
 $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. salt

Beat:

3 eggs with
 1 cup sugar until thick and lemon-colored

Add:

1 pkg. semi-sweet chocolate
 1 cup nut meats, chopped
 1 cup raisins
 1 cup pitted dates, chopped
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup maraschino cherries, drained and chopped
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup candied pineapple, diced

(optional)

1 tbsp. maraschino cherry juice
 grated rind of whole orange

Fold in flour mixture. Pour into two greased, waxed paper-lined pans about $9\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{3}{4}$. Bake at 350 degrees F. 25 to 30 minutes. Yield: 4 doz. bars.

Christmas Cookies

2 cups brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter
 1 egg
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour
 3 tsps. baking powder
 1 tsp. cinammon
 2 ounces citron ground very fine
 juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ orange and rind and
 juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup almonds, blanched and
 chopped

Cook sugar and honey until sugar is dissolved. Add butter and cool. Add beaten egg. Sift the dry ingredients and add to the syrup. Add chopped fruit, fruit juices and nuts. If necessary, add just a bit more flour to handle. Roll 1-8 inch thick and cut in fancy shapes. Bake on greased cooky sheet at 350 degrees F. for 10 minutes.

Aunt Hat's One-Egg Cake

Sift $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of flour which has been sifted once. Put in sifter with above (for second sifting) 1 cup sugar, pinch of salt, a good tsp. baking powder. Sift all into mixing bowl. Put egg in cup and fill with milk. Stir to break yolk and mix slightly. Add to sifted mixture. Lastly put in a tbsp. of melted butter and flavoring (any kind) and then BEAT, BEAT, BEAT and BEAT. Use for loaf, layer, cupcakes, anything!

(Most of these delightful recipes come from Mrs. Percival Wyman, Waterville. Others were picked up by your editor.)

Merry Christmas Wreaths

1½ cups sifted all-purpose flour
½ tsp. baking powder
1 cup butter or margarine
2-3 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla

Sift flour, measure and resift with baking powder. Work or cream butter or margarine until soft. Work in sugar gradually with your hand or a wooden spoon until very fluffy and smooth. Beat in eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift flour mixture into butter or margarine mixture, a small amount at a time, beating well. Mix in the vanilla. Set oven at 400 degrees or moderately hot. Drop the cookie dough by teaspoonfuls onto a greased baking sheet about 3 inches apart because they spread. Bake five minutes (edges should be light brown). When done, lift off baking sheet with a spatula, and cool on wire rack. Makes 50.

To decorate mix up confectioner's sugar frosting. Frost each cooled cookie. Color about two-thirds of the remaining frosting with green food coloring and the rest red.

Christmas Trees

2-3 cup shortening
¾ cup sugar
2 well beaten eggs
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 tbsp. grated lemon peel
2 cups enriched flour
½ tsp. salt
1½ tsp. baking powder

Thoroughly cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs, lemon juice, and peel; beat well. Add sifted dry ingredients; mix thoroughly. Chill dough. Roll 1-8 inch thick on lightly floured surface. Cut trees or stars, using floured cookie cutter; brush lightly with slightly beaten egg white; sprinkle with colored sugar, if desired. Bake on greased cookie sheet in moderate oven (375 degrees) about 10 mins. Makes about 4½ dozen.

Midnight Cake

½ cup shortening
1¼ cup sugar
2 eggs

1 cup hot water
½ cup cocoa
1½ cup sifted flour
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. vanilla

Cream shortening, add sugar gradually, and cream until fluffy. Blend in well beaten eggs. Slowly add hot water to cocoa and mix until smooth. Stir to dissolve completely. Sift flour, salt, soda and baking powder together, and add to creamed mixture alternately with hot water and cocoa mixture. Blend in vanilla. Pour into an 8 inch square pan (2½ inches deep) which has been greased and lined with paper. Bake 50 to 55 minutes in a moderate (350 degree) oven. When cool, spread Double Boiler Icing over top. Yummy!

Inexpensive Fruit Cake

In a pan put 1 cup brown sugar
1 cup cold water
1-3 cup shortening
1½ cups raisins
1 T cinnamon
1 tsp. cloves
¼ tsp. grated nutmeg
½ tsp. salt
Boil three minutes and cool.
Add 2 cups sifted flour
½ tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. soda dissolved in ¼ cup hot water.

Optional to add: ½ cup nutmeats, dates, cherries, citron cut up, diced candied fruits, 1 cup mincemeat

Bake in 350 degree oven 50 minutes in loaf pan or 30 minutes for cupcakes.

Holiday Mincemeat Bars

1 package dry mincemeat and
1 cup boiling water OR
1 pint homemade mincemeat
¾ cup shortening
¾ cup sugar
1-3 cup molasses
1½ cups sifted flour
2 cups quick-cooking oatmeal
¾ tsp. salt

Cream shortening and add sugar. Beat until fluffy and add molasses. Add dry ingredients. Spread half

the mixture on an oiled shallow pan, pressing down firmly. Spread mincemeat filling over. Spread remaining mixture on top and press firmly. Bake 30-40 minutes in 350 oven. Cut in squares.

Fancy Christmas Cookies

1 egg
1 cup conf. sugar
1 cup butter
3 cups flour
3 tbs. rice flour or cornstarch
3 tsps. baking powder
1-3 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla and almond

Sift half the sugar with the flour, baking powder, rice flour and salt into large bowl and mix well. Add butter and cut into small pieces. Work butter in with dry mixture until there are no lumps. Then rub lightly between the hands. Continue to rub until butter is completely mixed. Make a hollow in flour mixture and into this sift the other half of the sugar. Beat egg well and pour this into the sugar and with large spoon, start to stir around. Egg will gradually pick up sugar and then flour. Keep stirring as long as flour is being picked up, then knead with hands thoroughly. Roll to ¼ inch thick or less. Cut in fancy shapes and bake at 375 degrees 12 to 15 minutes. Decorate with citron, cherry or fruit peel.

Mrs. Howard's Sugar Cookies

1 cup butter or shortening plus salt
1 cup sugar
½ cup milk
3 cups flour
3 tsp. baking powder OR 1 tsp. soda and 3 tsp. cream tartar
1 tsp. nutmeg.

Combine ingredients and chill for ten minutes. Roll, cut, sprinkle with sugar and bake in hot oven.

You cannot run away from a weakness; you must sometime fight it out or perish; and if that be so, why not now, and where you stand?

Robert Louis Stevenson

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Prayer For Christmas Morning

By Henry van Dyke

The Day of Joy returns, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and goodwill. Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children and the Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake.

The Christ Child

The Christ Child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light;

(O weary, weary is the world,
But here all is aright).

The Christ Child lay on Mary's breast,

His hair was like a star;

(O stern and cunning are the kings,
But here the true hearts are)

The Christ Child lay on Mary's heart,

His hair was like a fire;

(O weary, weary is the world,
But here the world's Desire)

The Christ Child stood at Mary's knee,

His hair was like a crown;

And all the flowers looked up at Him,

And all the stars looked down.

Gilbert K. Chesterton.

The forceful, vigorous, effective folk are those who execute their ideas while they are full of the enthusiasm of inspiration.

Orison Swett Marden



Christmas Worship Service

"God sent not His Son unto the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17.

Peace on earth at this time in our history has a special significance. Many have doubts and fears and memory of past failures; many have not enough courage and hope to keep them stable through the pressure of these chaotic times. At Christmas, hope returns and faith binds us in dedicating ourselves anew to the rebirth of love in our world, which recognizes, "In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of Men."

Christmas Devotions

Song: "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Lord's Prayer

Song: "Silent Night"

Reading of Scriptural Selections

Prophecy, Micah 5:2

Isaiah 9:2,6

Nativity and Fulfillment

Matthew 2: 1-3, 7, 9-11

Matthew 2: 12-14, 16, 19, 20, 23

Luke 2:4, 5, 7-11, 13-24, 25, 33, 36, 38

Peace

Matthew 24:6, 7, 12, 13

John 16:33

John 14:27

Song: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Song: "Joy to the World"

Benediction: "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

How lovely Christmas boxes look,
All holly-trimmed and ribbon-tied;
It's often quite a shock to see
The funny things there are inside.

Rebecca McCann

Christmas

Christmas—the greatest holiday in the Christian year! On this one day the whole world stands still to celebrate the advent of a life. It is no wonder then, that literature was and is inspired in every tongue and in all forms. We find historical and religious treatments expressed in carols, hymns, poetry, plays, essays, sermons, stories, and so on. It is hailed by all Christians of all lands and nationalities. From early writings such as "Round About Our Coal Fire," published in 1734 and mostly of historical content, to later works of history, poetry, customs and worship, we find the simple nativity story told in many languages by many people.

One book, "Yule and Christmas" by German author Alexander Tille, published in London in 1899, is authoritative and shows much well-referenced original research. Its pre-Christmas history tells of the Germanic year, the 3 score day "tide of Yule"; the original 2 seasons, summer and winter; then three, spring, summer and winter, each 4 months. These were followed by a division of 2 tides each of 6 months and lastly another division, the foundation for our present twelve months. He tells us of the adoption of the Roman calendar and the introduction of the festival of Christ's Nativity.

Carols brought playfulness and festivity into the season, and dancing enlivened by joy.

Hymns were of older origin than carols, a very spiritual expression when Day of Nativity was all awe and reverence. Hymns were the "call song" of the gloom of the middle ages. Carols came later when a lighter spirit put joy into the Day. The earliest collection of carols known was in 1521.

And so it is to us, —Christmas the greatest festival of all time—for all people Let us use it to His Glory!

This I resolved on—to run,
when I can; to go, when I cannot
run; and to creep, when I cannot
go.

John Bunyan



BOOKS



Ten Books Worth Reading

Selected from the Fall List
of 1949

by Ernest C. Marriner

THE EGYPTIAN—Mika Waltari

An unusual novel about the changing fortunes of a physician of ancient Egypt. Written with profound historical knowledge and keen psychological penetration

FRATERNITY VILLAGE—Ben Ames Williams.

The best of the author's short stories of Searsmont, Maine, collected into a good bed-side volume.

VENUS, THE LONELY GODDESS—John Erskine.

Subtle, kindly satire of modern man and his illogical ways, by the author of "The Private Life of Helen of Troy."

ROOSEVELT AND THE RUSSIANS—Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.

The former Secretary of State's impressive answer to the charge that F. D. R. sold us out to the Russians at Yalta.

THE DEVIL IN MASSACHUSETTS—Marion Starkey.

Not only the best and most authentic account of the Salem Witchcraft trials, but also a revealing picture of how innocent, but neurotic people can spread a reign of terror in any place and in any age.

LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT—Vincent Sheehan.

A noted world traveler and publicist tells how he became a disciple of Gandhi. Contains the best account in print of Gandhi's lesser known South African years.

CHILD OF DESTINY—Ishbel Ross.

Biography of Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman physician, and her successful fight against prejudice and persecution.

LEST WE FORGET—Florence Agnes Nelson. Delightful reminiscences of old New England ways and things of sixty years ago.

OUT OF MY LIFE AND

THOUGHT—Albert Schwartz-er. The autobiography of the man who has been called the world's greatest living man; the scholar who holds earned doctorates in theology, music and medicine, yet has spent most of his life fighting fever and sleeping sickness among the blacks of Africa.

KILLERS OF THE DREAM—

Lillian Smith. The author of "Strange Fruit" tells you things about prejudice and hate that will get you where you live, whether it be in Georgia or in Maine.

"Way Down East"

By Jessie Wheeler Freeman

There has recently appeared a volume of verse that I should think every Maine Club woman would wish to own—"Town Down East," by Jessie Wheeler Freeman. Mrs. Freeman herself, has been a member of a Maine club for twenty-five years and is now Executive Secretary of the Poetry Fellowship of Maine. Don't pick up "Town Down East" with the idea that you can look it over a bit and then put it down. It will hold you until you have one refreshing poem after another to the end. Then you will feel that you have had a deep breath of fresh stimulating air, such as one draws only here in Maine. My special job is "Short Path." Do read it. R.W.H.

There are seasons when to be still demands immensely higher strength than to act.

Channing

We each have all the time there is; our mental and moral status is determined by what we do with it.

Mary Blake

Letter From American Home Department

Dear Fellow Clubwoman:

Thousands of sister clubs overseas need soap. Your club can help provide it without extra cost to any member.

CARE, the non-profit, government approved organization which sends food and other packages to the poor and hungry of Europe, has launched this campaign.

Wholehearted endorsement has been received from the Church World Service, War Relief Services, National Catholic Welfare Conference, women's clubs and youth groups.

Briefly, this is the plan: For every two Swan Soap wrappers sent to CARE Soap Campaign, General Federation of Women's Clubs, Boston 6, Mass., CARE will guarantee the delivery of a bar of soap to member clubs overseas.

So critical is this soap shortage that many children have never seen a bar of soap. Lever Brothers Company is donating the soap for this purpose. It is an ideal opportunity for all of us to make a great contribution toward combatting disease and improving health standards. This is an excellent chance to be of real service. If every clubwoman in our state gathers a few Swan wrappers from friends and neighbors, we will be able to send millions of bars of soap. Remember, it costs nothing. The clubwomen and friends who send in the wrappers keep the soap.

American clubwomen are traditionally generous. Won't you aid in cleansing the war-scarred bodies of millions? The need is great.

Let us share our blessings with those less fortunate.

Faithfully,

Mrs. Cecil Witham

Let us be content to work
To do the things we can, and not
presume
To fret because it's little.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

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It's What You Put Into Christmas

The memories of Christmas that linger longest are not the remembrances concerned with "boughten" things but with the part of Christmas that we make with our own hands. Doesn't every mother keep the smudgy calendar made in school long after she has forgotten the expensive gifts received in later years?

Thoughts of presents and cards come first. Knitting, crocheting, sewing—there is no end to the lovely gifts that come from the skillful hands of countless Maine women each year. One of the most welcome gifts I ever had was a dashing hat crocheted from wool for me by my sister-in-law. Another was a dainty white scarf of spider-web delicacy. Handmade bags of various sizes and shapes have marked other Christmases.

This kind of handwork isn't my kind. I find my Christmas fun at the cookstove and working with products to be had for the asking from Mother Nature's storehouse. Boxes of Christmas goodies are traditional gifts in our family, and they are truly family affairs, for all four children help to get them ready. Since a number of these go in the mail to friends, we begin early by buying all kinds of cookie decorations: silver shot, tiny red cinnamon drops, red and green sugar, vari-colored decoettes. Every year we find a new cookie cutter to add to our wide variety.

Two weeks before Christmas we made our first batch of cookies and our first fruited cup cakes. Using basic sugar cookie and molasses cookie recipes, the whole family rolls and decorates and bakes. We use a doughnut cutter for wreath cookies, sprinkling green sugar and tiny red candies on them. Animal cookies have "eyes" carefully placed. (Yes, this is fussy work, but the children's delight more than makes up for it.)

Santa Claus and his bag, lions, bells, wreaths are soon lying side-by-side with dainty shapes pressed through a cookie gun and decorat-

ed with chopped nuts or cherries. We make about ten varieties, some rolled, some dropped from a spoon, some sliced after baking.

The cupcakes are made from a "war cake" recipe, with dates, mincemeat, nuts and chopped fruits added. These are frosted in various colors and decorated with candies, nuts or cherries.

When the cooking is done, boxes are lined up and packed with care. In small spaces, we tuck stuffed dates, pralines and fudge. All of us get much satisfaction from making such attractive gifts, and we are sure teachers and friends look forward to receiving them.

After the boxes are packed in their outside mailing packages, carefully lined with crumpled paper and corrugated cardboard, we lay on top sprigs of evergreen, red berries and pine cones which will breathe forth our Christmas message as soon as the boxes are opened.

Our family does many things with the greens that father and sons gather each year from the nearby woods. We like to make candle holders from rounds of birch wood, hollowed out to the size of a candle. Sometimes we flatten one side of a foot-long birch log and cut out two or three holes for a candelabra. All kinds of boutonnieres can be fashioned from evergreens, cones and berries, accented with narrow red ribbon bows, and these make excellent favors for a party.

We decorate our six fireplace mantles, each in a different way. Our Christmas boxes have a variety of figurines, mirrors, artificial snow, painted cones, plastic red ribbon, cotton batting and other materials, which we use with the fresh greens and berries and vari-sized cones.

The best evergreens are saved for door decorations. Last year we wired branches in the shape of a small tree, covered it with a string of lights and attached it to our front door and the overhead

light. On another door we had a spray with a foot-long California cone wired in the center and a huge plastic red bow at the top. A third door spray was made from beautiful spruce boughs with no decoration but their own lovely cones and a red ribbon bow.

Mrs. Alvah Roberts of York Village, Maine, who is widely known for her floral decorations, has many ideas for Christmas novelties. She suggests that tiny flower pots painted silver and hung upside down on a spray of evergreen make interesting "bells." Using a material which she calls "plastic snow," she makes many unusual centerpieces and mantle decorations. The "snow" may be used year after year as a base on which to wire figurines and evergreens, and it is so easy to use that even a small child can make a centerpiece. Mrs. Roberts makes attractive poinsettia flowers by painting milkweed pods red and wiring them together, fastening artificial yellow stamens in the center.

The children have had lots of fun making their own Christmas cards, too. We use colored construction paper, stars, Christmas seals and wrapping paper, gummed tape, old Christmas cards, chalk and paints. Cunning cards may be made by cutting out figures, such as snowmen, from wrapping paper and pasting them on paper cut to fit the selected envelopes. Last year's favorite card was made by pasting a red house and green trees, cut from construction paper, on a black background, with "snow" chalked on and "Merry Christmas" printed across the "sky." One Santa Claus seal had a cotton beard glued on. Another card had a narrow red ribbon bow tied in one corner and a huge poinsettia seal centered above the greeting.

Yes, Christmas is what we make it and in our family we feel we get much more out of the holiday season by giving of ourselves and storing up happy memories for years to come.

Doris Marston

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Is Your Town In Step With The Times?

Mrs. Philip Marston,
Chairman Youth Conservation

One small Maine town needed better recreation and decided to do something about it. The organizing group, which included a minister, and members of the woman's club and the PTA, called together representatives of schools, churches, agencies, service clubs and citizen groups. Fifty-eight men, women and young people met to discuss the recreational needs, the facilities available and what could be done about it.

As time went on, more and more needs of boys and girls were included in the plans and discussions until the council formed to promote recreation found itself concerned also with the total needs of children and youth—their health, welfare, education, employment, family life and their attitude toward the community. And so one Maine Community Council on Children and Youth came into being.

This experience of one town is being repeated all over Maine and throughout the nation, as more and more people become ready to co-operate in making plans for the 1950 White House Conference on Children and Youth by first discussing the needs of the young people of their own communities and states.

By the time this is in print, Maine's governor will have preparations made to call a State Council on Children and Youth, in response to the request of President Harry S. Truman. He will ask that every Maine town set up a similar council, for it is only by knowing the local needs of youth that the state council can become effective.

In the past, specialized groups have discussed separate needs of youth in recreation councils, health associations, PTA's and women's clubs. Now we know that we find many inadequacies in this method, that we need to consider

"the whole child," in order to see that no need is neglected, and this is the reason Councils on Children and Youth are of such vital importance.

By sharing their knowledge, by pooling their resources, by discussing and carrying out plans for youth's present and future development, all organizations concerned with young people—including groups of young people themselves—can become more effective than each can separately. No town is too small, no city too large, to find a satisfactory method of procedure.

How Do We Start?

There is some organization in every town that can become the nucleus of a Council on Children and Youth. It may be a recreation council or a public health association that can be expanded to include representatives of all community organizations. It may be the Youth Conservation committee of the woman's club or the child welfare committee of the American Legion Auxiliary. The source is not important nor does it matter who gets the credit. Whatever the group, the procedure is similar.

If it is a special committee, a request is sent to every organization in town to send a representative to form a council on children and youth. If it is a town council, organizations not already represented are asked to send a delegate. Perhaps a city would have neighborhood councils and would also set up a city-wide group made up of representatives from the smaller councils to secure an all-over picture of the city.

Participating in any one of these forms would be representatives of all races and creeds from churches (including youth fellowships), schools (including student councils), child study clubs, health department, social agencies, county and circuit courts, PTA, law enforcement agencies, local govern-

ment, agricultural extension, service clubs, veterans organizations, youth-serving agencies (including young people from Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, YWCA, YMCA, 4-H, etc., as well as their leaders), and any local office of a state agency. Representatives should be a continuing group, chosen for ability and interest in youth and not dependant on the term of office in their individual clubs.

The official group resulting from this organization may be either a small committee, with special committees selected outside its membership, or a large membership with a small executive board. Too large a governing board will hamper the work, yet many hands and hearts and minds are needed to do a thorough job.

In larger communities there would be enough work to require employment of an executive secretary, and a staff. Funds for this might be secured from the city or might be donated by participating groups. In smaller towns, the work would be done by volunteers. Funds for postage, printing and so forth would be secured through town meeting or by club donations. (In one Maine town the public health nurse is financed entirely by public card party proceeds.)

What is the job of the Community Council on Children and Youth?

The Council will determine the needs of young people and how they are being met by state agencies, by public agencies, by private agencies, by volunteer organizations and youth groups. This means research, for which the questionnaire sent out by the Youth Conservation Department of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs may be used as a base.

The Council will formulate proposals for action in specific fields: health, child guidance, social service, education, recreation, child labor, youth employment and others. If a need for better laws is seen, the Council will study ways to secure them.

The Council will report its findings to the public via press, radio, Continued on Page 23

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IS YOUR TOWN IN STEP WITH THE TIMES?

(Continued from Page 21)

moving pictures when possible and conferences, realizing that an informed public is a cooperative public.

The Council will maintain contact with Federal agencies and officials, with state agencies and officials. It will encourage and foster local planning and action and provide a center of information about children and youth.

All this activity means work for many special committees, chosen for special abilities and interests. It requires planning which cannot be left to the experts, but must be done by citizens and young people who are close to the community. It means that the public must be awakened to a recognition of its responsibility to the children of the community.

What Do We Expect to Accomplish?

Three years ago Gov. Horace Hildreth appointed a committee to study the problem of juvenile delinquency in the state. Mr. Harry Manser of Auburn was its chairman. Although many excellent recommendations were made by the committee in the fields of welfare, general community resources and conditions, education, juvenile courts, probation and the institutional program, few have been carried out.

It would be useless to set up local councils to make surveys of the needs of youth and how to meet them if it were to end there. "Every community has the crime and juvenile delinquency rate that it deserves." Every community can achieve the goal it sets itself if its citizens know the situation and work together to improve it.

No community excels in all services to youth. Even alert communities can do more than they are doing. "In unity there is strength" and not only can each community strengthen its own youth program in the fields of health, welfare, education, family life, employment and recreation, but it can cooperate with all other

communities to have necessary state legislation passed, to have state facilities broadened, to avoid waste of effort and money in duplicated services, to coordinate local and state programs, resources and personnel.

Laws and appropriations lag far behind the needs of the youth of the state. This is partly a question of public recognition of responsibility. Community Councils on Children and Youth will help to bring the required knowledge.

Women's Clubs can play a major role in this forward step by joining a community council or organizing one if none has been started. They can study the needs of youth, offer their services and give financial help. Opportunity to express opinions regarding a progressive legislative program will be given club members at MFWC meetings. Material giving further details about the formation of community and state councils on children and youth and information about the White House Conference may be obtained from Mrs. Philip Marston, chairman of the Youth Conservation Department, Cape Neddick, Maine, or Miss Stella Scurlock, director of the Youth Conservation Program of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, 1734 N Street, NW, Washington 6, D. C.

Be sure YOUR club and YOUR town are in step with the times!

NOTICE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE DEPT.

Dear Club President:

In a non-legislative year you may consider that your chairman of legislation should make no demands on your energies. However the challenge of our State President that "our potential strength be directed along specific lines toward tangible accomplishments" is too earnest an appeal to be disregarded.

Let us therefore assign a committee in each of our clubs to follow through on the major emphasis theme for the first term "Youth Conservation" as it relates to legislation.

Ask this Committee to be prepared to report factual information on the following questions at the mid-winter conference of the Federation in January:

(1) Have you an Attendance Officer in your local schools?

(2) Is this official a trained and/or otherwise qualified person to do this work?

(3) What is the average age of the newspaper carrier in your community? The youngest? The eldest?

(4) What employment of children under 16 years of age can you report for your community? Restaurants? Bowling alleys? Movie theatres? Others?

Consult with your local PTA and other civic groups to learn what other problems relating to activities of young people may be remedied by adequate laws. Add the result of such discussions to your report for the January meeting.

If you are near a School for Correction, your Committee should visit the school.

If there are Juvenile Court proceedings held in your community ask your local Municipal Court Judge, Trial Justice, and/or Probation Officers about such proceedings. Tell him of your interest in problems presented by such cases, and offer to serve as needed.

At the January meeting we shall add to your local reports the State aspect of these problems, and then be prepared to proceed toward effective and intelligent action when the next legislative session convenes.

It will be a Happier Holiday Season for all if we but help to make it so.

Yours faithfully,
(Mrs. Paul A.) Gertrude P. Morin.

Pay as little attention to discouragements as possible. Plough ahead as a steamer does, rough or smooth, rain or shine. To carry your cargo and make your port is the point.

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IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION**From Mrs. J. L. Blair Buck, Pres.**

General Federation of Women's
Clubs, 1734 N Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Emergency Resolutions

The GFWC Rules and Policies Governing Resolutions provide that: "The Board of Directors at its meetings between conventions may vote . . . upon resolutions of an emergency nature or such resolutions as are governed by a definite time value. . . An emergency resolution upon adoption becomes the policy of the General Federation. Copies of emergency resolutions shall be mailed immediately to the president of each per capita paying club."

Following are the resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors at its meeting in New York, October 20-22, 1949:

1. Proposed Amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act

Resolved, that the Board of Directors of the General Federation

of Women's Clubs, assembled in New York City, October 1949, recommends the adoption of the following amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act:

Non-nutritive ingredients shall not be added to any food product unless their addition shall serve some useful purpose and they have first been certified by the Food and Drug Administration to be non-injurious; nor shall any such proposed ingredients be added if they are to be substituted in whole or in part for natural food elements.

2. Coal and Steel Strikes

The General Federation of Women's Clubs respectfully requests the President of the United States to direct the Attorney General to immediately enjoin the present coal and steel strikes under authority vested in him through existing law.

3. Genocide Convention

WHEREAS, The United Nations has undertaken to outlaw geno-

cide, the mass extermination of national, religious, ethnic or racial groups, as an international crime, and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly unanimously adopted the Genocide Convention last year and it now awaits ratification by our Senate to which it was submitted in June, 1949; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the General Federation of Women's Clubs at its meeting, October 1949, endorses the principle of the Genocide Convention and urges its prompt ratification with adequate Constitutional safeguards, and further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President; the Department of State; members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Philip Jessup, Ambassador-at-Large; Warren Austin, United States Representative to the United Nations; and Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations.

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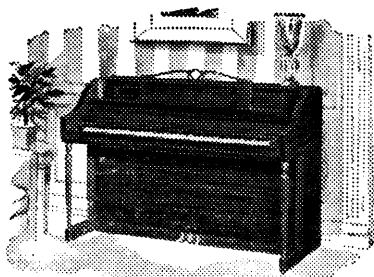
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