**And the Winners Are...**


Dorothy Johnson of Britt, MN won a $25 gift certificate to *Quilted Dog Quilt Shop* in Cloquet, MN. Dorothy says *Quilted Dog Quilt Shop* is her favorite shop because “They offer small kits for projects and have lots of fun fabrics”.

***The winner of the July/August gift certificate drawing was Judith Semeling whose favorite shop is *The Quilted Ladybug* in Moorhead, MN. It was misprinted that The Quilted Ladybug is in East Grand Forks, MN***

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**Have Yourself a **

Merry Little Christmas!

Win a $25 Gift Certificate!!

Each issue we give away a $25 Gift Certificate to be used at YOUR FAVORITE shop! To register fill out the form below.

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All questions must be answered to qualify. We’d love to hear your comments and suggestions regarding The Country Register too! Send in a recipe we can share in the paper. One entry per person.

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(include town)

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The Country Register began in Arizona, in the Fall of 1998, to provide effective, affordable advertising for shops, shows, and other experiences enjoyed by a kindred readership. Since then the paper has flourished and spread. Look for the paper in your travels.

Barbara Floyd, founder  
barbara@countryregister.com  
602-237-6008  
www.countryregister.com/mn

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**The Country Register**

**Minnesota’s Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events**

Kim Keller, Publisher  
12835 Kiska St NE  
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763-754-1661  
minnesota@countryregister.com  
www.countryregister.com/mn

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**Months Nov/Dec 2013**

**Volume 19 Number 6**

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Deadline For the Jan/Feb 2014 Edition is  
Dec. 10th!

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**City Listing**

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**Special Events**

**November**

1-3......................Christmas Event - Buttermilk Basin - Spring Lake Park
1-3......................Holiday Open House - This is Sew Broadway - Crookston
2-17......................Northwoods Boutique - Edina
5-9......................Cleaning out the Nook & Granny Sale - The Peddler - Mankato
6-9......................Christmas in the Country - The Prim Barn - Lake City
7-9......................9th Anniversary Sale - Old Alloy Quilt Shop - Sherburn
7-9......................One Stop Shop Hop - Quilts on Broadway - Foley
7-9......................Hammers and Heals Occasional Sale - Kathy’s Country Square - Moose Lake
7-9......................Over the River and Through the Woods Shop Hop - Quilt Haven on Main - Hutchinson
7-9......................9th Anniversary Celebration - Old Alloy Quilt Shop - Sherburn
7-10......................Hidden Treasures Boutique & Occasional Sale - North Branch
7-17......................River Valley Boutique - New Prague
8-9......................Holiday Open House - Briar Patch Primitives - Holdingford
8-9......................Gnome Made - New Ulm
8-10......................A Very Merry Christmas Open House - Past & Present Antiques - Waseca
8-10......................Holiday Open House - Treasure Chest Antiques - Waseca
9......................HoneyPop Card Class - CF Stamps Etc. - Cannon Falls
9......................Holiday Open House - Briar Patch Primitives - Holdingford
9......................Patchwork Harvest XI Quilt Show - Hudson
9-10......................Doe Days - Lake City
9-10......................Christmas Premiere - Round Barn Potting Company - Andover
12......................Holiday Open House - The Peddler of Rapidan - Mankato
12-16......................Cleaning out the Nook & Granny Sale - The Peddler - Mankato
14-17......................Barefeet Still in the Sand Retreat - Aitkin Quilts - Aitkin
14-17......................Hidden Treasures Boutique & Occasional Sale - North Branch
15-16......................North Iowa Quilters One-Stop Shopping Spee - Clear Lake, IA
16-17......................Christmas Party - The Farmer’s Daughter - White Bear Lake
21-24......................Hidden Treasures Boutique & Occasional Sale - North Branch
22-23......................Holiday Open House - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
22-23......................Holiday Open House - Round Barn Potting Company - Andover
22-24......................Beneath the Village Wreath - Morton
23-24......................Christmas Open House - The Hardy Geranium - Austin
29-30......................Black Friday Event - Bludefield Quilt Shop - Winona
29-30......................Christkindlmarkt - New Ulm
29-30......................Hidden Treasures Boutique & Occasional Sale - North Branch
29-30......................Holiday Open House - Country Craft Shed - Duluth
29-30......................Linden Hill Christmas at the Mansions - Little Falls
29-30......................End of the Year Inventory Sale - Fourth & Main Fabrics - Cannon Falls

**December**

3-7......................Have a Very Merry Vintage Christmas - The Peddler of Rapidan - Mankato
5......................Mistletoe Madness - Morton
5-7......................Hammers and Heals Occasional Sale - Kathy’s Country Square - Moose Lake
5-7......................Christmas Open House - Lost & Found - Eden Valley
6-8......................Christmas Market - Round Barn Potting Company - Andover
6-8......................Holiday Open House - Treasure Chest Antiques - Waseca
7-8......................Christmas Housewalk - Waseca Art Center - Waseca
7......................Hudson Holiday Boutique & Craft Sale - Hudson, WI
7......................Customer Appreciation Sale - Gone to Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball
10-14......................Have a Very Merry Vintage Christmas - The Peddler of Rapidan - Mankato
12-15......................Hidden Treasures Boutique & Occasional Sale - North Branch
14..........................Open House - Yarn Harbor - Duluth
Legend says a kind nobleman with three daughters lost his wife to an illness. He was in despair because he lacked money for his daughters’ wedding dowries. One day St. Nicholas of Myra decided to secretly help the proud man. After the family was fast asleep, he dropped a bag of gold from the rooftop into each daughter's freshly laundered stocking hung under the chimney to dry. The family was overjoyed to find the gold in the morning. At last the daughters could marry. This secret deed inspired other children to hang their stockings under the chimney in hopes St. Nicholas would visit and leave gifts in their stockings. History indicates Dutch immigrants are responsible for introducing the Christmas stocking to America. Who hasn’t read more than once “Visit from St. Nick” written by Clement Moore in 1822 with the memorable line “…and the stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.” The best mention of magical Christmas stockings being hung from or near a chimney was made by illustrator Thomas Nast in the mid-1800s.

And, oh, my, how those stockings have evolved! They are no longer everyday socks from the dresser drawer. Now they are created in every size, shape, color, and personalized design and theme imaginable meant for small gifts and treats, not for feet. No matter how much the Christmas stocking styles differ, there is one common theme enjoyed by all—the element of fanciful surprise during the Christmas season.

Christmas stockings make great gifts for everyone as well as colorful house decorations. Handmade stockings are sure to catch St. Nick’s attention whether knitted, crocheted, sewn, quilted, or by any other craft. Combine two or more of these crafts in a stocking; i.e., a crocheted personalized cuff onto a felt, quilted, or knitted stocking base. Thousands of patterns from easy to difficult are available at these crafts in a stocking; i.e., a crocheted personalized cuff onto a felt, quilted, or knitted, crocheted, sewn, quilted, or by any other craft. Combine two or more of these crafts in a stocking; i.e., a crocheted personalized cuff onto a felt, quilted, or knitted stocking base. Thousands of patterns from easy to difficult are available at your local fiber/craft store as well as on the internet. Be creative and use your own design, personalizing the stocking with the recipient’s name and using their favorite theme enjoyed by all—the element of fanciful surprise during the Christmas season.

Share your Christmas spirit through a handmade stocking for those without a childhood tradition. Consider gifting a stocking for a baby’s first Christmas. Disaster survivors who have lost their belongings need a new stocking for hope for the future. Senior citizens who are alone need a cheerful childhood memory revisited. Hospital patients welcome a touch of the gifting season while away from home. There are many charities in your area who welcome such gifts for distribution. It is always welcome a magical stocking of any size filled with treats and small gifts as a nice reminder of Christmas memories at home. Consult online sites for military theme enjoyed by all—the element of fanciful surprise during the Christmas season.

Disaster survivors who have lost their belongings need a new stocking for hope for the future. Senior citizens who are alone need a cheerful childhood memory revisited. Hospital patients welcome a touch of the gifting season while away from home. There are many charities in your area who welcome such gifts for distribution. It is always welcome a magical stocking of any size filled with treats and small gifts as a nice reminder of Christmas memories at home. Consult online sites for military relief groups, the Blue Star Moms organization, the Red Cross, and other groups for special Christmas military operations.

During Christmas, we pull out cherished family traditions and wrap them around us like a warm shawl, a reminder of love’s continuity. They connect us to stability in an unstable world. Christmas stockings are an essential part of the Christmas spirit, giving us a sense of the past as the stocking is unpacked, with joy for the present as it is hung for Santa’s visit, and hope for the future as it is once again packed away for the next year.

Hang ‘em high, hang ‘em low, from the mantel or your bed. Santa’s coming tonight, to fill your stockings of red.
Ways to Reduce Holiday Stress
by Wanda Headricks

Do the holidays make you feel anxious? Are you stressed trying to get everything done? Do you feel isolated or that you are alone and the only one concerned? Most all of us have had some or all of these feelings at one time or another, so I would like to share with you some ways to use essential oils in your everyday life to help combat these feelings and enjoy the anticipation, preparation and festivities of holiday fun with your family and friends more.

Scent your home or environment with pure essential oils using a room diffuser, humidifier or a pan of boiling water (remember to turn the boiling water off before adding the essential oils). The oils must be 100% pure essential oils, not fragrance oils. Remember that pure essential oils have antibacterial, antiviral and other properties that can help keep our environment healthy as they lift our spirits.

Essential oils are wonderful and can be used in so many different ways. Add 4 to 8 drops of your favorite essential oil to a bath tub full of warm water, add 1/8 to ¼ cup of Dead Sea Salt. Then add a total of 20 drops in any combination of the following oils: lavender, sweet orange, peppermint, or pine essential oil in place of the cinnamon or clove essential oil. Fir, sandalwood, jasmine and ylang ylang are all beautiful oils to use for spa treatments. You can make your own blend and call it your ‘spa’ blend.

Blend together and enjoy.
Ginger Essential Oil: 4 drops
Clove Essential Oil: 4 drops

Ginger is warming, eases sore throats and runny noses, and is cheering and stimulating to the mind. Cinnamon is considered a strong antiseptic and excellent for combating feelings of exhaustion and depression. Clove has a positive, uplifting effect on the mind and sweet orange adds a spark of sunshine to dispel gloomy thoughts and depression, relieve stress, tension, and encourage energy and a positive outlook.

You can always adjust the amount of each essential oil to your own personal scent preference. Try experimenting with different essential oils by using fir needle, peppermint, or pine essential oil in place of the cinnamon or clove essential oil. Fir, peppermint and pine are excellent to dry up colds and coughs, are uplifting to the emotions, and reduce stress and anxiety.

Use lemon essential oil to clean sinks, countertops and floors and sweet orange essential oils in jojoba oil to dust and polish furniture. Both lemon and sweet orange essential oil have antimicrobial properties and are relaxing and uplifting.

Create your own Home Spa! This is probably my favorite way to de-stress: In a bath tub full of warm water, add 1/8 to ¼ cup of Dead Sea Salt. Then add a total of 20 drops in any combination of the following oils: lavender, sweet orange, chamomile, bergamot, patchouli, ylang ylang, cypress, ginger, clary sage, eucalyptus, tea tree, lemon, geranium, basil, cedarwood, sandalwood, jasmine and rose. These essential oils are uplifting, relaxing and have properties to help keep down coughs, colds, flu and combat exhaustion, anxiety and depression.

Experiment with using pure essential oils to relax, decrease stress and bring greater joy your holiday celebrations with family and friends.

For Pure Essential Oils, room diffusers, and other ways to use essential oils go to Flinthills Aromatherapy, Inc. at www.flinthillsaromatherapy.com or email info@flinthillsaromatherapy.com. We can also be reached by phone at 620.394.2250.
Wit N Wisdom

by Cheryl Potts

Baubles and Bling

Many years ago, I purchased a case of costume jewelry at an auction. I was drawn to the sparkly and various colors of the rhinestones. Some of settings were old and missing stones, but as a whole I saw the beauty in the bling.

Over the years, I’ve added more brooches and since have set the collection into an antique frame. The jeweled art work has stood as a decorative piece on my bedroom wall ever since. Once in a while, I unfasten a brooch and put it on the lapel of a jacket. It’s comical how people take notice and comment on the “unusual jewelry” I’m wearing. There’s something about the shimmer and shine that catches the eye and bling beholders. I’ve worn them at costume parties and even at weddings. I once remember Erma Bombeck threatening to write a shockingly frank, fictitious Christmas letter just to see if her friends would really read it. She planned on putting in things like, “I guess our son George is still bullying people at school. I thought he was over it, but it doesn’t look that way.”

I once remember Erma Bombeck threatening to write a shockingly frank, fictitious Christmas letter just to see if her friends would really read it. She planned on putting in things like, “I guess our son George is still bullying people at school. I thought he was over it, but it doesn’t look that way.”

I have to admit I’m often frustrated when I want to know more about old friends than they have time to scribble at the bottom of their Christmas cards. I often wish I had time to share more news, too. Yet, just because so many Christmas letters are so bad, I’ve managed to live well over half a century without writing a single one. Maybe it’s because I don’t know if I could strike the perfect balance between “Who cares?” and “Oh, sure!” Or maybe it’s because, with a blended family of 22, I’m so busy with other things, I just don’t have time to share more news, too.

When we talk with old friends, we dread the dreaded Christmas letters. We get letters... We get letters! Before Thanksgiving the first one arrives, and each day the mailman delivers one or two more. Identifiable by their long rectangular shape, the colored paper, or the cute design on the envelope, they are... the dreaded Christmas letters.

You know the ones I mean. A full typed page, single-spaced, with glowing detail after glowing detail about the events in the life of a family you aren’t sure you know after all, because the people you remember weren’t nearly this performance-oriented, and their kids weren’t nearly this perfect. (If they had been, you never would have been friends with them in the first place!)

Yet you read on incredulously about son Johnny being the youngest Eagle Scout in Dunlap’s history, and daughter Sally having to decide between early admittance to Yale and a year with Up with People. Meanwhile, mom and dad, perfect marriage in tact, both received promotions ahead of their contemporaries. Dad’s in such demand to speak at international conferences that he accrued enough frequent flyer miles to take the family to Hawaii. Mom, between finding cures for previously incurable diseases, made matching Hawaiian shirts for everyone. The dog... well, you really don’t want to know.

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I do still want to hear from friends, of course. I only ask that if they take the time to mail me a long letter, or even a folded brochure with color photos (and we’ve gotten a few of those), that they keep the news real. After all, I hope we’re still real friends even if it has to be from a distance. Happy letter reading!

Cheryl is an Elementary Reading Specialist of 30 years and author of 10 teacher resource books, devotionals and a children’s book. She’s a member of Pine Meadows Wesleyan church and a musician on the worship team.

Nancy Parker Brummett is an author and freelance writer in Colorado Springs, CO. “Like” her author page on Face Book, or to learn more about her life and work, visit www.nancyparkerbrummett.com.
Random Acts
Gifts to Take Back

I love personal gifts. I love a well-wrapped box with pretty ribbons. Shiny paper that reflects the glow of Christmas lights just sends me through the roof, especially if that package comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve! What is inside? What did Santa bring? What is in the stocking hanging on the mantel? I wonder about all the potential possibilities, enjoying the suspense of not knowing, but eventually the element of surprise is just too much to handle.

I was always the last one up on Christmas morning. I ran into the living room to see if Santa had made an appearance, and then ran to my sister’s room to wake her up. I wanted to share this moment with someone. I needed a partner to help wake our parents. Some years they joined us right away, while other years they asked us to wait awhile. Looking back, their answers were always related to the amount of assembly our gifts from Santa required. Interesting... they must be more closely related to the elves than I thought.

I have never been able to contain my excitement about Christmas, especially when I was a child, and now that I am an adult, it has just escalated. I want my children to experience the magic of hot chocolate, snowy nights filled with sparkling lights, and the sounds of a Christmas music in the distance. I enjoy the decorations and store displays. I have never been one to run to the mall at the last minute, hoping to find a present worthy of its recipient before time runs out. I would much rather be sitting at home, playing games and reading stories, creating memories and gifts with sentimental value. I feel the tradition I want for my children.

That’s what my husband wants too. It does not happen by accident. We work together on creating family traditions that our children will remember even when the gifts are unwrapped, the batteries have died, and the toys are broken. I want them to remember what time we spent together, not the gifts they have received.

Well, I take that back. There is one gift I want them to remember always. The Gift of Jesus Christ.

Hanging on a cross, feeling forsaken yet fulfilled; Jesus’ death was as memorable as his birth. We are not worthy of this gift, for it was the ultimate sacrifice of giving up one’s life in exchange for another. We gratefully accept God’s love and celebrate his one and only born birth. We are thankful; a savior was born and died for our freedom and forgiveness. We receive this gift by simply believing.

I know it is easier to give than to receive, but I must admit, I love being on the receiving end of that exchange. My husband has learned that I am rather hard to please when it comes to gifts. I want a gift to be meaningful, with some thought put into it. That is how I give gifts and I expect the same in return. I would much rather spend time with those I love than to spend money on something they don’t really want or need. Framed pictures of a unforgettable moment or collection of those moments in a scrapbook is usually my go-to gift. I always shop in the wrapping paper department that carries one clay, there was a CD on the seat. Jim Sturman’s Christmas album titled The Gift was in the passenger seat. I smiled and asked about this unexpected gesture from my reserved husband. He grinned and shyly answered, “The Gift.” The lyrics of that song fit us so well. He didn’t have to find the words to say it, for someone already did: That surprise spoke volumes.

When he had asked me to marry him in July, we tentatively planned a summer wedding so we would have a year to plan. Then talking with my mom, who has a way of making the impossible happen on a daily basis, our gift of a Christmas wedding was about to be delivered. I had dreamt of a winter wedding, but didn’t want to wait a year and a half to be married to the man of my dreams. In every conversation, my mom would say, “why not have a Christmas wedding?” I knew I could listen to Christmas music, year-round. When we got in the car to run errands one day, there was a CD on the seat. Jim Sturman’s Christmas album titled The Gift was in the passenger seat. I smiled and asked about this unexpected gesture from my reserved husband. He grinned and shyly answered, “The Gift.” The lyrics of that song fit us so well. He didn’t have to find the words to say it, for someone already did: That surprise spoke volumes.

That ornament has become symbolic. My husband and I have found comfort in his relationship with God, and now more so with me, and we have taken a prayer challenge to begin praying together as a couple. Over a decade as a married man and wife, yet we had never prayed together. Our Bible study about love and marriage has encouraged us to look at God’s way and it’s principles in all areas of our relationships, more than ever. Our take away from that prayer challenge opened my eyes and brought me to tears. We took turns sending our requests and thanks to God and Christ thanked God for the gift of our marriage. I was so moved by this intimate statement and prayerful that still feels that way after all this time. I thought he felt that way, but hearing him say it out loud was the best gift of all.

Well, I take that back. There is one gift I want to remember always. The Gift of Jesus Christ.

© 2013 Maranda K. Jones. Author: Maranda K. Jones shares her stories of faith and family through her personal experiences of growing, teaching, and parenting in a small town. She lives with her husband and their four daughters in rural Iowa. She is an elementary school teacher as well as a professional freelance writer. Reach Maranda at Marlisa1c@aol.com

Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood was summoned to create a lodge worthy of its setting. In May of 1923, Service and construct spur lines into the park's vicinity and remedy this situation, in 1922, persuaded the executives of so difficult to get to. Horace Albright and Stephen Mather, to increase tourist traffic into the park, mainly because it was "Zion." Within a year, Congress would follow Wilson's lead, to change the monument's difficult-to-pronounce name that I determined we should expand Mukuntuweap and have beauty I beheld. Local Utah people said that Yosemite was a word for "canyon"—but had been virtually ignored by the Monument in 1909 —named Mukuntuweap, from a Paiute Virgin River carves its way through a beautiful canyon of sandstone cliffs. It had been set aside as a National Monument in 1909 —named Mukuntuweap, from a Paiute word for "canyon"—but had been virtually ignored by the federal government ever since.

I was surprised, excited, and thrilled. More than that, I was just plain stunned. I had no concept of the staggering beauty I beheld. Local Utah people said that Yosemite was a (Mukuntuweap) without color. But this didn't faintly prepare me for the reality of the towering rock walls, splashed with brilliant hues of tans and red interspersed with whites. The great towers, temples, spires, and peaks appeared unearthly as they encircled the narrow, lush gorge cut by the sparkling Virgin River. It was love at first sight for me. I was so impressed . . . that I determined we should expand Mukuntuweap and have it made a national park.

Albright's enthusiasm, upon his return to Washington, took him to the White House where he convinced President Woodrow Wilson to change the monument's difficult-to-pronounce name to the name Local Mormons had long used for the canyon, "Zion." Within a year, Congress would follow Wilson's lead, expand the protected area to 147,551 acres and elevate its status to Zion National Park (Duncan and Burns, 171).

But even national parks status failed to significantly increase tourist traffic into the park, mainly because it was so difficult to get to. Horace Albright and Stephen Mather, to remedy this situation, in 1922, persuaded the executives of Union Pacific Railroad to join forces with the National Park Service and construct spur lines into the park's vicinity and create a lodge worthy of its setting. In May of 1923, architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood was summoned to Union Pacific's headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska and invited to add Zion to his portfolio, along with Bryce.

It is interesting to note the pattern that developed over the years of Underwood's long and distinguished architectural career with the National Park Service: the rustic lodges would be secondary to the landscape itself—lying gently on the land. His earlier ones tended to simplicity, but as the years passed, Underwood's vision for the lodges grew grander. In Zion, Underwood constructed a two-story wood, stone, and glass edifice, anchored by four large native sandstone columns. By 1927, he had flanked the hotel by ten duplex Deluxe Cabins; and by 1929, five fourplex Deluxe Cabins. Those Deluxe Cabins were as beautiful and enduring as the Bryce Canyon cabins described in our January 11 blog: characterized by native stone fireplaces, chimneys, foundations, exposed mill framing, gable roofs, and front porches. At the same time, Mather and Albright helped push through an engineering marvel: the 10-mile-long Mt. Carmel-Zion Scenic highway (Highway 9), the 1.1 mile tunnel, blasted through solid rock, took almost three years to complete. Before the highway was opened in 1930, fewer than 4,000 visitors a year made it into the park; the year it opened, that number swelled to 55,000.

Sadly, on January 28, 1966, Underground's lovely lodge burned down, accidentally ignited by a crew doing repair work. All that was left were the stone fireplace and the four pillars. It was rebuilt in 108 days—but gone forever was the charming original. Trying to be kind, Barnes characterizes the result as "a simple two-story utilitarian building with little appeal and none of the design and planning that went into earlier park architecture" (Barnes, 119). Others were more frank, labeling it a "monstrosity." Through the years since then, however, beginning in 1992, current ownership (XANTERRA Parks and Resorts [formerly Fred Harvey Hotels]), began a program of restoration and has tried to bring back some of the ambiance of the original. But to anyone who has studied photographs of the original, what exists today jars and elicits a longing for what once was. Park-wise, however, good things continue to happen. Over 2,500,000 visitors come here annually, from all over the world. Since the valley was being destroyed by congestion, beginning in 2000, the heart and soul of Zion (the valley floor), has been closed to auto traffic during tourist season. Instead, visitors park in Springdale and board propane-powered shuttle busses that ferry visitors into and out of the park. The only exceptions have to do with those lucky few who have secured lodging inside the park at the lodge. Their orange window cards enable them to drive to the lodge and park there until check-out time, when they may drive out. Exceptions are dealt with by park police. This has harmed the serenity to Zion. OUR OWN JOURNEY

Awake at 5:30 so as to get dressed and take in sunrise over Bryce Canyon. We were disappointed as the overcast sky kept the sun from doing its usual colorizing. After a delicious breakfast in the lodge dining room, we dined as long as we could, still wishing at ourselves for failure to book two nights in that already cherished Deluxe Cabin. After checking out, we spent several hours driving along the rim, stopping at overlooks, then proceeding to Rainbow Overlook (the highest part of the park). By then, the sun had broken through the clouds. All too soon, we headed for the exit and then south on #89 through Glendale, Orderville, and Mount Carmel, to Mount Carmel Junction; here we turned west on #9 on the Mount Carmel-Zion Scenic Highway. That famed tunnel continues to amaze, even over eighty years after it was bored through solid rock. The occasional panoramic windows provide us with glimpses of the magical world outside.

Once we came out into the sunlight, we were free to leatherneck—unfortunately, the Lincoln had no sunroof. Finally, we turned in at the Zion National Park Visitor Center in Springdale. It was a warm May day—but not nearly as warm as it gets in July (100E the daily average)! We took full advantage of the film on the park's history and iconic landmarks (such as the 'Weeping rock, Angel's Landing, Kolob Arch, Temple of Sinawava, Great White Throne, the Organ, the Narrows, the Watchman, Towers of the Virgin, Kolob Canyon, Court of the Patriarchs, Checkerboard Mesa, etc.). Then we got back in our car, and made it past security, thanks to our orange card prominently marked (Registered Zion Lodge Guest), with dates. We really felt privileged as we were permitted to drive in to the lodge.

The lodge was, as we knew it would be, a disappointment, after Bryce. Besides, the area around it is roped off because of a habitat restoration project. The wooden motel-like structure which housed our rooms was "same of same ol, typical of other forgettable lodgings we have stayed at through the years. Dinner, we ate at the lodge's salad bar. After playing dominoes, we turned in.

Next morning, we awoke to a stunning blue sky day! Breakfast was delicious. We spent the day exploring the sites of the canyon, including side canyons, the Weeping Rock, along the Virgin River, and ending the day walking up into the Narrows where the Virgin River pours out of a slot canyon. Along the way, we rubbed shoulders with men, women, and children, of all ages and nationalities. Cooler than the day before, it turned out to be one of those absolutely perfect May days that come to us all too rarely in this journey called "life."

Most visitors see only a small portion of the park, restricting their travel to the 0.2 mile road on the valley floor and possibly the Mt. Carmel-Zion Scenic Highway, and completely missing the spectacular northwestern end of the park, the Kolob Canyon area, which includes Kolob Arch, at 310 feet across possibly the largest free-standing rock arch in the world, and the steep 20-mile-long Kolob Terrace Road, out of the town of Virgin. Neither did we make it to that part of the park; we could only sigh once again, and with Lucy, intone “A blessing for another time."


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Over The Teacup
by Janet Young
An Old-fashioned Christmas

Why is it after all these years of writing articles for The Country Register, the Christmas article is the most difficult (for me) to write. Could it be because the message is the same with gift suggestions, entertaining ideas, and most importantly of all the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? And, because I like to put a different spin on whatever message I am writing, the challenge to change the presentation does not come easily for me.

As I pondered over this, I began to ask myself, “Do I really have to change the message?” Right now our world and its values are changing almost daily, so why not go back to our roots, and celebrate the season as we did in our childhood. If there are young ones in your life, introduce them to what it was like to celebrate Christmas when you were growing up. Obviously you are going to have to prepare them for this, or they may not be open to the idea.

You might begin by inviting them to help decorate the tree. Could they help string popcorn and/or cranberries? For the little ones, perhaps they could help glue paper chains together. And, depending on where you live, could you plan a tree cutting outing where everyone comes along to pick out the perfect tree and cut it down. Of course when you get home, the family can sit by the fire (if that is an option) and enjoy a nice mug of hot tea before putting up the tree.

If family is visiting from out of town and will be with you a few days, why not let the children help with baking cookies or other delights that you traditionally make for the holidays. This would be a perfect time to pass on your favorite recipes, which hopefully they will create when they have a family of their own. And don’t forget a snack of tea and cookies is a great way to end your baking lesson.

On Christmas Eve, most people go to church. Afterwards, assuming you do not open presents on Christmas Eve, why not ride around the neighborhood and see the colorful display of lights, your neighbors have created. When you get home you can have a snack or even a meal depending on what tradition you follow.

Christmas Day at my house, before we open the presents, we read the Christmas story from the Bible. Then on a pedestal dish, we have a coffee cake with a birthday candle in the middle. We sing Happy Birthday to Jesus, enjoy our food, and then open our presents. Children need to know the reason we celebrate Christmas. So before the chaos of the day begins, it might be well to set aside that quiet time to pause and reflect what Christmas is all about.

And, if you are staying true to an old-fashioned Christmas, perhaps you can spend the afternoon playing board games. You read it right...board games, not electronic ones. And, perhaps you could wind down the day by singing some Christmas Carols over a nice cup of tea and some of your home baked goodies.

The secret to a successful old-fashioned Christmas is how you approach the young ones, especially the teenagers. You may have to collect their cell phones (and other electronic gadgets) at the door, or at least insist that their phone be turned off. But, as they become engaged, they will soon realize there is a world without cell phones etc. that can be enjoyed.

What have you shared with you, are just suggestions. You know the time you have with your family. Try to incorporate as many of your values as you can without overwhelming them. Perhaps none of these ideas will work for your situation, but I hope it is a beginning to spark ideas on how you can teach the younger generation there is fun in the simple pleasures of life, and more importantly in being together as a family.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Janet Young, owner of Over The Teacup in Camp Hill, PA. Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, Founding member of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association. Freelance writer/National Tea Presenter.
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Piecing Life Together
by Barbara Polston

Be a Doer—Make Mistakes!

Did you ever have one of those days? A few days ago, because I failed to latch the gate that separates the cats from the dog, Puppy Brian found his way to the cat food and gobbled up every morsel. Oops!

Just moments later, I grabbed the all-fabric bleach instead of the fabric softener and happily dumped the cap-full into the softener dispenser. Realizing my mistake, there was a bit of cleanup before the softener was appropriately employed. Oops!

These little mistakes didn’t really upset me. Frankly, I found them a bit funny. I thought, perhaps, they were indicators I should be paying better attention to my actions. Never one to hesitate to poke a bit of fun at myself, I posted about my day on Facebook.

I was surprised by the comments I received. You would have thought I had posted about tremendous personal tragedy and was tearing out my hair in frustration. Either my post didn’t hit the right note or my online friends blew my little mistakes way out of proportion. Maybe it says something about how they respond to their own little mistakes or the standard they set for themselves.

Little mistakes happen in quilting all the time. The seam drifts off that magic quarter-inch mark. The points, meant to be crisp and meet precisely, are cut off. There’s a tiny pucker in the curve of the appliqué. Oops, all.

Each time a little mistake happens, the quiltmaker is faced with a decision. Do I rip it out and resew it or do I let it be? Part of the answer lies in the magnitude of the “oops” and the intended use for the finished product. The bar for competition quilts continues to inch ever higher. If the quilt is destined for competition, the decision is always to rip it out and do it again. If the quilt is meant for a child to drag through the yard as a security blanket, it’s probably OK to let it be and move to the next phase of construction.

It seems to me that quilting—like life—is full of little mistakes. Some things I like about designing and making original quilts are the challenges faced along the way and the process of responding to them. Some of those challenges are accompanied by an “Oops!” And, yes, sometimes the word is a bit stronger.

In thinking about mistakes, large and small, I ran across the words of John Wooden. “If you’re not making mistakes,” he said, “then you’re not doing anything. I’m positive that a doer makes mistakes.”

So, be a doer and make some mistakes!
We’re wishing all of our readers and advertisers a wonderful holiday season!

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by Annice Bradley Rockwell

Decorating, Entertaining, and Living in the Early American Style

Sense of Anticipation
When the month of November is upon us there is a sense of anticipation within me that ignites my enthusiasm for decorating. Feeling a shifting, cold snap in the air, I am naturally drawn inside to sit by the wood fire to think and to dream. With the holidays right around the corner, my mind becomes filled with new ideas to create warmth, ambiance and an artful emphasis on bringing back the past.

Festive Symbols of the Season
Each year I always find a way to incorporate my favorite antiques into my holiday displays. Early handled crocks, painted country firkins and even wooden measures become perfect bases for my primitive trees, large and small. These festive symbols of the season add a sparkling, natural glow to each room of the house and I tuck them in any way I can. Even the corner of my harvest table becomes warmer with the primitive glint of lights on my petite cedar tree decorated with handcrafted spice balls spiked with cloves. My tavern room is softly alight by a slender tree that is decorated simply with handcrafted birds and turkey feathers nestled among the boughs. My early blanket chests become risers for other trees that just need “a little more height” to be seen from the road.

Christmas in New England
Early antiques appeal to me even more when they are adorned with the natural elements of the Christmas season. Branches of greens, cones of all sizes, strung nuts and bay, and even pears and pineapples all can add beauty to a primitive vignette. Pomanders made using apples or oranges dotted with cloves look stunning tucked among greens in a display of redware and pewter. This symbol of early New England adds natural texture and color that is pleasing and it creates warmth that is beautifully simple and brings one’s heart back to a simpler time.

Inspiration for your own holiday decorating can come in many forms, but perhaps the most fun is to venture out to your favorite open house events. Without a doubt, my Christmas inspiration is at its peak when I take in the sights, sounds and ambiance at my favorite gift shops! This holiday season seek inspiration and wonder. Take time to plan and create that special setting with your favorite antiques. Trust in the power of nature’s elements to not only enhance your thoughtful displays, but to remind you of the spectacular beauty of simplicity.

Annice Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, New England Girl. NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com

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During winter months fill balloons with water and add food coloring. Once frozen cut the balloons off and they look like giant marbles or Christmas bulbs!

~ Christie Doyle

Pieces From My Heart

Simple Gifts

By Jan Keller

No festive wrapping or pretty bows adorn the gifts John and I give to our Tarahumara Indian friends when we visit composer and pianist Romayne Wheeler at his Eagles Nest studio/home in northern Mexico's famed Copper Canyon region. The pinto beans are transported in burlap gunny sacks and meals are served out of the kitchen's screened door on paper plates with plastic forks.

Mexico’s Tarahumara Indians live in the rugged Sierra Madre Mountains and their existence is simple. To enter their world is like going several centuries back in time. If they need to go somewhere, they simply walk or run (these people are known as the world’s best long-distance runners). If they are cold, they simply wrap up in a blanket or add wood to their open fire. If they need to eat, they simply make a tortilla by using a metate stone to grind some of the corn they simply planted in their field with the help of a plow that was simply pulled by oxen and simply harvested by hand. They carry their water in jugs from streams and have no electricity or modern convenience. Their simple life requires very hard work to simply survive.

Our family and friends politely endure the stories we tell each year upon our return home and then scratch their head in bewilderment. They wonder why we go. But John and I enjoy the friendships that have developed with our Indian friends. Our reward is to tell each year upon our return home and then scratch down both of our faces, we hugged. Words were not needed and now—I simply know.

Because of my desire to show the Tarahumara that I care about them and that they reside in my heart, I hug and kiss everyone! In their culture, outward displays of affection are unusual. Once when I hugged Juannito after he played a melody on his hand-made violin, he started to pull away. When I asked if he wanted me to stop, he blushed and laughed a little. Then he relaxed ... so my hug continued.

When Candelaria or Lucia appear to pay me a visit, they simply make a tortilla by using a metate stone to grind some of the corn they simply planted in their field with the help of a plow that was simply pulled by oxen and simply harvested by hand. They carry their water in jugs from streams and have no electricity or modern convenience. Their simple life requires very hard work to simply survive.

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During winter months fill balloons with water and add food coloring. Once frozen cut the balloons off and they look like giant marbles or Christmas bulbs!

~ Christie Doyle

In contrast, Marta is very shy and only visits with her family. Even though several years ago she and Luisi graciously asked John and me to be the Godparents of their son Juan, I have wondered if Marta 'likes' me.

This year our August trip came to an abrupt and early end. We planned to leave on a Saturday morning, but that changed to a hasty Friday afternoon departure after I got tripped up by some barbed wire and fell. The result: a nasty cut near my right eye that required stitches at a clinic a three-hour drive away.

Quickly my wounds were cleaned with antiseptic and a gauze dressing applied. I changed out of my torn clothes and we packed up in haste and were ready to head on our way—but first we needed to make one stop. We needed to deliver a gift box of food to Marta, Luisi and our Godson Juan and his siblings.

When we arrived at their home, Marta tentatively approached our vehicle. She had already heard about my fall and was obviously upset. When our eyes met, she had welled-up tears in her eyes and wet streaks down her cheeks. Then suddenly, and much to my surprise, she kissed me. Marta kissed me!

Marta’s kiss of benediction was, for me, a very precious gift of affirmation and, with tears streaming down both of our faces, we hugged. Words were not needed and now—I simply know.

Gifts usually come in colorful packages of all shapes and sizes—but simple gifts are felt with the heart.

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Butter Pat Club Offers Salesmen’s Sample China for New Subscribers

Butter pat collectors have a new reason to be enthusiastic about joining the Butter Pat Patter Association, America’s only club for connoisseurs of butter pats. Afficionados of this exciting collecting hobby will receive a valuable china premium with their membership. With payment of a $22 membership fee, new members receive ten issues of The Patter newsletter and a 20th-century ironstone salesmen’s sample butter pat made by Buffalo China.

Founder of the BPPA Mary Dessoie remarked, “I know of no other club in the country that has such a low membership fee while offering such a spectacular premium as part of the membership. These pieces were used by Buffalo China to determine coloring and shading options of their different colors. Salesmen sample pats were carried in a binocular style bag and would be brought to the prospective client so they could pick out their color palette for the line of china to be used in their establishment. Regular-sized wares were far too expensive and cumbersome for traveling salesmen to carry. Therefore, tiny sample butter pat-size plates were the manner to show the actual patterns and colors that were available from the potteries.”

The top of the pat features the color in various gradations of the shade and the trim has a bold pinstripe. The Buffalo silhouette is shown on the reverse.

Butter pats are miniature plates that were introduced during the mid-1800’s for individual servings of butter. The Butter Pat Patter Association was founded for beginner and advanced collectors.

Visit our creative boutique for supplies and inspiration!
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Book Review

Take a Little Time for Tea
by Kathy Hatch

Kathy Hatch has been named the number one licensed artist for six consecutive years by Giftbeat magazine and is a nationally recognized artist. Now she brings her charming pastels to this little book on taking time for tea.

In this crazy busy world of ours, finding time to sit down and relax can be a real luxury. However, research shows that taking just a few minutes a day for yourself can lead to a longer and more healthful life.

What better way to relax than with a cup of tea? This sweet and lovely gift book is perfect for anyone who needs some refreshment and a little “time-out.”


You Could Win Take a Little Time for Tea!
You can register to win a copy of Take a Little Time for Tea! Clip and mail in this form OR simply write

You will be notified and receive your prize by mail! Good Luck!

Name________________________
Street Address__________________
City__________________State______Zip_____
Favorite Shop__________________

For additional information about the club and its members, in addition to sample copies of The Patter newsletter, please send a stamped (66 cents) self-addressed long envelope with $4.00 to: Mary Dessoie, 7950 E. Keats Avenue, No. 176, Mesa, AZ 85209-3025. For those persons who would like to start their subscriptions immediately and receive their butter pat by return mail, please send a check, in the amount of $22, payable to Mary Dessoie. Please mention this special salesmen’s sample pat offer when you write!
Unwrapping Wonder
Finding Hope in the Gift of Nature

In this modern, busy world in which we live, we need to re-discover the gift of nature, which will help us focus on something other than computers and electronics. Social media websites, cell phones, ipads, ipods, and all kinds of other useful technology can be fun, but we pay a price for this connectivity: overloaded circuits of the mind. Unwrapping Wonder: Finding Hope in the Gift of Nature is a book that can help restore your soul as you cultivate a connection with creation and, in the process, better understand the Creator.

Unwrapping Wonder offers a delightful remedy for tattered souls, using natural history, the author's personal story, and God's glory found in everyday nature. Each chapter of this 224-page book focuses on one natural object such as the bee, the barnacle, or the tiniest seed. By peering within these ordinary objects, we can learn to see details which reveal extraordinary wonder. As we unwrap this gift, we discover more of nature, of God, and of ourselves—one wonder at a time.

Be restored in mind, soul, and body through the oft-overlooked gift of nature. You can too, using his formula.

On a warm summer's night (over 55 degrees F), grab a lawn chair, go outside, and enjoy nature's symphony. Impress your friends and neighbors by estimating the air temperature counting cricket chirps. A cricket chirps faster as temperatures rise and slower when temperatures fall.

You can use the following equation (modified from Dolbear's original):

\[ 40 + N = T \]

\( N \) is the number of chirps in 15 seconds, and \( T \) is for temperature.

In plain English, this means you count the number of chirps in 15 seconds and add 40 to this number. This gives an estimate of the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

Just for fun, grab a real thermometer and check the accuracy of your "cricket thermometer." Oh, and don't forget to enjoy the song in the midst of the math.

Carol O'Casey is a biologist, pastor's wife, "Wonder Workshop" leader, mother, and former teacher. She lives in Oregon. She can be found at http://thedivinenature-project.com.

A cricket thermometer. Oh, and don't forget to enjoy the song in the midst of the math.

To enter the drawing: You can register to win a copy of Unwrapping Wonder: Finding Hope in the Gift of Nature. Clip and mail in the form below. If you prefer not to cut up your paper, write the form below on a note card and mail to:

The Country Register, 12835 Kiska St. NE; Blaine, MN 55449.

You will be notified and receive your prize by mail! Good Luck!

Name________________________
Street Address__________________
City______State______Zip_______
Favorite Shop_________________

Buy a paperback copy of Unwrapping Wonder at Cladach.com, Amazon.com, or order through your local bookstore ($17.99). You can also buy an e-book version through Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com ($9.99).
Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year! It’s a great time to bake! It’s also a great time to make keepsake crafts! Why not put the two together? These fun and quick tree ornaments are easy to make and can be eaten or they can add the perfect element to the decorated tree!

What You’ll Need:
• 1 package of peppermint candies
• 1 package of red hot cinnamon candies (or other red round candies)
• 1 can of frosting (not creamy)
• 1 strip of Christmas ribbon

How You Make It:
1. Unwrap as many peppermint candies as you wish. You can make a small wreath or a large wreath!
2. Place a dab of frosting to act as “glue” between each peppermint.
3. “Glue” small red candies to the wreath.
4. Let wreath sit for a couple hours to allow frosting to harden.
5. Once the wreath has hardened, tie Christmas ribbon on to hang from tree.

Recipe reprinted from MarthaStewart.com
When we’d ask Uncle Henry what he’d like to receive for his birthday, Father’s Day or Christmas, he’d gaze placidly at us and answer with a hint of a smile. “I have enough for the duration.”

Granted he was an octogenarian when he said these words, but he fully treasured his life. Uncle Henry had survived tuberculosis as a young man, living at a sanitarium for more than two years before being cured. It had been necessary for one of his lungs to be collapsed, and so he lived with the remaining one. Later, despite never smoking himself, he struggled with emphysema from second-hand exposure. His father passed away in 1919 when Uncle Henry was 14, and his older brother died of a brain tumor in his 40th year.

His life provided experiences to foster this contented response. He knew the value of breathing after surviving a disease that was frequently fatal when he was diagnosed in 1929. He knew how to pace himself peacefully through life. He knew how to give to those he loved and who loved him.

It is not surprising that he was a patient man. When I was learning how to drive, he’d ask me to “chauffeur” him and my grandmother to church. After church, we’d drive through the countryside. One Sabbath an old house distracted me, and I veered off the road. Uncle Henry said nothing of it, just calmly waved for me to keep driving. The next day a typed note was tucked into my hand. It explained what he felt had happened, and that it had been a good lesson in keeping to one’s task. It ended with him telling me he loved me.

Uncle Henry was like a second father to my mother and a second grand father to me. Born in 1905 he would live a long life, passing away in July of 1992 three days before his 87th birthday.

I was nineteen that summer, and I had the privilege of caring for him the last six weeks of his life. I learned two valuable lessons that I’ve carried within my bones ever since.

• I am both weaker and stronger than I ever imagined myself to be.
• Love isn’t just a part of our lives. Love is absolutely everything.

I strive to live with an attitude of gratitude and count our many blessings. However, sometimes the less than positive energy of the world slips beneath my skin. These words were never a statement of complacency or stagnancy. They were expressions of gratitude and faith. He was thankful for the blessing of enough, and if more was necessary God would lead the way to provide for it.

I pause, and I travel back in time. Uncle Henry’s words wash over me, and I smile. There is indeed enough for the duration.

Kerri Habben is a writer in Raleigh, NC.
Past & Present Antiques and Gifts invites you and yours to
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Waseca Art Center
House Walk
Dec. 7 & 8
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Personal Narrative
by Dillon Fagler

As I was cleaning out my daughter Dillon’s bedroom after she went to college, I happened to find this essay among the piles of school work she left behind. I was surprised to find it since she always had me proofread her essays before she handed them in. While I love quilting and hope to hand down the tradition to my girls, they seemed not too interested in picking up the hobby. However, I was reminded what it really means to have a quilt of your own.

Gracie’s Quilts and Gifts invites you and yours to
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Open House November 8th-10th

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Contact Kathy at 563-927-8017 or Barb at 319-668-1977

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Enjoy cookies and cider while you shop!!

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December 7th & 8th

Visit Waseca to start your Christmas season!
Tour 5 beautifully decorated homes as well as a decorated church!
Enjoy Christmas tea at the New Waseca Art Center
www.wasecaartscouncil.org

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106 N. State St.
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**Country Register Recipe Exchange**

**Buttermilk-Pecan Pancakes**

Submitted by Colleen Bass, Kenai, AK

1 cup all-purpose flour  1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1 tablespoon sugar  2 tablespoons melted butter, margarine or vegetable oil
1/2 tsp salt  1/2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp baking soda  1/2 cup finely chopped pecans, plus more pecans for garnish
1 large egg, lightly beaten  1 cup buttermilk

In a medium mixing bowl, blend flour, sugar, salt, baking powder and baking soda. In a separate bowl, whisk together egg, buttermilk, vanilla and butter or oil; do not over mix. Pour the liquid mixture into the dry ingredients and blend; do not over mix. It is OK if the batter has some lumps. Fold in pecans. Using about 1/4 cup of batter, pour batter on to a pre-heated medium hot griddle and cook pancakes until golden brown, about two minutes. Carefully flip pancakes and cook until the other side is golden brown, about 1-2 minutes. Makes about 10 (3-inch) pancakes. Serve with softened butter and warm syrup. Garnish with chopped pecans as desired.

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**Country Register Recipe Exchange**

**Rhubarb Bars**

Submitted by Sharon Berkner, Brainerd, MN

Crust
1 1/2 C. flour
3/4 C. butter (real only)
1/2 C. powdered sugar

Mix together as pie crust. Pat into 9x13 pan. Bake at 350˚ for 12 minutes or just until the crust begins to turn golden brown around the edges.

Filling
3 eggs
2 1/4 C. sugar
4 C. rhubarb, cut small
6 tbs flour
1/4 tsp vanilla

Beat eggs and sugar together. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour over baked crust and sprinkle with the remaining topping.

Topping
1/3 C. sugar
3/4 C. flour
6 tbs softened butter

Mix all till crumbly. Sprinkle on top and bake for 45 minutes or until set. Serve with ice cream or whipped topping.

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**Country Register Recipe Exchange**

**Santa Pancakes**

Submitted by Shirley Ross, Alexandria, MN

2 C. pancake baking mix
2 eggs - beaten
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 C. milk
whipped cream in a can

top vanilla
1 medium banana, sliced
small amount of chocolate chips
1 can cherry pie filling

In a bowl, combine baking mix and cinnamon. Combine eggs, milk and vanilla. Stir into dry ingredients until moistened. Pour batter (1/4C) on to a greased hot griddle. Turn when bubbles form on top and second side is brown. Place a pancake on a plate. Cut 2 banana slices for the eyes, and top with a chocolate chip (pupil). Cut a banana slice in half, place on either side of pancake for the ears. Use 1 cherry for Santa’s nose, eight or nine cherries for his hat. Last, use the whipped cream to spray on the beard, hat brim and pom-pom.
**Spicy Sausage Toasts**  
*Submitted by Irene June Stephens, Trinidad, CO*  
1 lb. 50% lean ground beef 1 small onion, chopped  
1 lb. Jimmy Dean sausage (or similar) 1/2 cup green peppers, chopped  
1 lb. Velveta cheese (mild or Mexican) 1 teaspoon oregano  
1/2 cup sour cream 1 teaspoon chili powder  
Brown meats, onion and green pepper, drain. Add cream cheese and green peppers. Bake in a 9x13 pan, 350°F for 30 minutes or until meat is done. Add pepper to taste. Cool on a wire rack and serve cold or at room temperature.

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**Country Register Recipe Exchange**  
**12 Days of Baking**  
**Country Register Recipe Exchange**  
**Butterfinger Dessert**  
*Submitted by Patti Lee Bock, New Ulm, MN*  
2 boxes instant vanilla pudding  
2 C. milk  
1/2 C. Cool Whip  
1 C. soda crackers, crushed  
1 stick butter, melted  
1 C. graham crackers, crushed  
6 small Butterfinger candy bars (or 3 large)  

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**Country Register Recipe Exchange**  
**Snowman Cheese Ball**  
*Submitted by Shirley Ross, Alexandria, MN*  
1 - 8oz Philadelphia Cream Cheese  
2 C. shredded cheddar cheese  
1/4 C. fresh chives  
1/4 C. toasted almonds  
Mix cream cheese spread, cheddar cheese, chives, almonds, and red pepper until well blended and refrigerate about 1 hour. Divide the mixture into 3 different size balls (1 large, 1 medium, and 1 small). Coat with parmesan cheese. Arrange on a platter like a snowman. Decorate with peppercorn eyes and buttons; baby carrot for the nose. Serve with crackers and fresh vegetables.

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**Country Register Recipe Exchange**  
**Lemon Bread**  
*Submitted by BJ Wilson, Cromwell, MN*  
1 lemon cake mix  
1 pkg instant lemon pudding  
4 eggs  
1/2 C. cooking oil  
1 C. hot water  
Add everything together and beat for 4 minutes. Pour into 2 greased and floured bread pans. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes until toothpick comes out clean.

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**Country Register Recipe Exchange**  
**Rosettes**  
*Submitted by Patti Lee Bock, New Ulm, MN*  
1 C. flour  
1 C. milk  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 to 3 tsp sugar  
1 egg, unbeaten  
Heat 1 1/2 lbs of shortening (lard) to 365°. Mix ingredients. Dip rossette iron in batter, then in hot lard. Fry until crisp. Cool, then dip into sugar or powdered sugar, or leave plain. Makes 5 dozen.

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**Country Register Recipe Exchange**  
**Mandarin Orange and Pineapple Cake**  
*Submitted by Judy Moyer, Rochester, MN*  
Cake  
1 pkg golden butter cake mix  
1 (11 oz) can mandarin oranges with juice  
3/4 C. oil  
4 eggs  
Frosting  
1 (13 1/2 oz) Cool Whip  
1 (3 oz) pkg vanilla instant pudding  
1 (20 oz) can crushed pineapple  
Mix cake mix with mandarin orange with juice and oil. Add eggs one at a time and mix well. Grease and flour 3 (8 inch) cake pans. Divide batter evenly into 3 pans. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes. Cool thoroughly. Mix Cool Whip, pudding and crushed pineapple with some juice. Return to refrigerator for 10 minutes. Frost cake and keep in refrigerator.
It's Party Time with Lesley

by Lesley R. Nuttall

Organization Key to Relaxed Holiday Parties

It won't be long before we are all in holiday mode again, planning for our upcoming Christmas celebrations. The joy of celebrating the holidays with our family and friends always brings a smile to my face and love in my heart!

Now is a good time to start your party calendar. Parties in December tend to be infectious, so by planning early it will cut down the pressure and stress you would experience by being too rushed.

Being organized is the secret key to any party and even more important in December. Your party doesn’t have to be elaborate. Informal entertaining at home offers a more relaxed and friendly atmosphere, but still needs the pre-planning stage for an enjoyable and successful party.

There are so many different types of entertaining ideas which will allow you to be adventurous. Decide on when you could have a party, and then choose one or more of the following suggestions:

A SUNDAY BRUNCH served after church would be a welcome treat for either family or friends. A variety of hot and cold foods can be served buffet style which makes it easier for your guests and yourself. As a brunch combines breakfast and family or friends. A variety of hot and cold foods can be served buffet style which makes it easier for your guests and yourself. As a brunch combines breakfast and

With all this planning done ahead of time, you can relax and have the best December holiday season you’ve ever had! Happy Holidays to All!

MINI CHEESY MEAT PIES

Loaf of thin bread slices 1 beaten egg
½ cup fine bread crumbs 1 pound lean ground beef
10 ounce can celery soup ¼ cup ketchup
½ teaspoon oregano ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
½ cup chopped onions ½ cup chopped celery
½ cup grated cheddar cheese Salt and Pepper
¼ cup grated cheddar cheese to sprinkle on top of pies

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Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas!

MORTON
Join us this Holiday Season to Enjoy the Holiday Spirit and Festivities!

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November 22, 23 & 24
Mistletoe Madness December 5

For more info contact Morton City Hall/Chamber
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Christkindlmarkt
A Star Shines Over New Ulm

Discover the magic of an old world Christmas market as New Ulm Christkindlmarkt casts its spell upon more visitors this year. The festive German marketplace and family fair will ring in the season featuring handcrafted works and performances by local artisans.

Imagine an indoor Marktplatz set up as a European village square complete with Christmas stalls and German streets. From the Edelweiss Schauplatz - charming carolers, strolling violins, Heinzelmännchen Gnomes and lucky Gnome Sweeps will entertain visitors while they shop for unique and difficult to resist gifts.

Warm yourself with a cup of mulled wine while you take in the wonderful view of the market’s beautifully illuminated 20 foot Christmas tree. At the Weihnachts Cafe, savor hand-made Bavarian pretzels, roasted nuts, apfelstrudel and grilled German sausages including WunderWurst, a 14” custom-created sausage served on a baguette style bun. Our wurst is zeal!

Performances by music and theatre artists will be held throughout the two days with special appearances by the Concord Singers, Wanda Gag, Alice Lind, the Chimney Sweeps, the Brothers Grimm and the Sleepy Eye Concertinas.

Travel through the enchanting Black Forest to visit St. Nick’s reindere and the Living Nativity. Kinderwelt will captivate youngsters with storytellers, art activities, a performance of The Elves and the Shoemaker and a hot cocoa bar.

Experience this time-honoured tradition without having to travel any farther than the city of New Ulm, the most German city in America. Ride the Holly Trolley for a tour of the downtown, historically decorated with swags of fresh garland, and enjoy the annual Parade of Lights.

Join young and old at the 2013 Christkindlmarkt, held from 10 am to 5 pm on Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30 at the New Ulm Event Center located at 301 20th Street South, New Ulm.

The volunteer committee has received support from the New Ulm Area Foundation, New Ulm Chamber of Commerce, New Ulm Business and Retail Association and the New Ulm Optimist Club. A special thanks to the public for supporting this project. By voting for the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, the Committee was able to secure funding through a grant provided by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council.

Come and discover your inner elf! Christkindlmarkt is free and open to the public. For more information or apply to become an artisan vendor, please visit newulmchristkindlmarkt.com or email nuelves@gmail.com.

Come To New Ulm and Shop with Your Gnomies!

Fourteen historic locations and charming artisan homes set the stage for one of the most popular and long-standing arts and crafts markets in Minnesota. GnomeMade Artisan and Vintage Market will be held Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9 from 8 am to 5:30 pm and Sunday, November 10 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Unique floral arrangements, expertly crafted quilts, holiday crafts, jewelry, textiles, vintage and upcycled furniture, prints, pottery, paintings and primitives - choose your gifts from a magnificent collection. Regional artisans and craftsmen display and sell their wares throughout the Shopping Opener weekend. You are sure to find something for everyone on your Christmas shopping list.

Come for a relaxing weekend and a curious shopping adventure. Gnomemade Artisan and Vintage Market is the perfect time to getaway and shop with your Gnomies. New this year - enjoy a lunch at the United Methodist Women’s Bazaar.

Now in its 29th year, GnomeMade Artisan and Vintage Market has been sponsored, in part, by a grant from the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau and the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature.

Admission to the market is free and open to the public. To download a map of locations, please visit gnomemadeshows.com or email rugnomes@gmail.com.

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If you can read this, thank a teacher.
If you can read this in English, THANK A VETERAN.
Veterans Day • Monday, Nov. 11th

Nov/Dec 2013 Page 25

New Ulm
10th Annual Holiday Boutique
Weekends from Nov. 2nd - Dec. 15

Join us for a unique shopping experience. Our gift shop will be transformed into a holiday wonderland where you’ll be sure to find some fun and unique gift items!

We are located on Highway 55, 3 1/2 miles west of Eden Valley or 7 1/2 miles east ofPaynesville.

Closed for the season after regular hours on Sunday, Dec 15

Materials:
Old or new, adult or child, metal snow shovel
White spray primer, sandpaper
Acrylic paint- white, black, lt. pink, orange
2” paint brush and round detail brush
Homespun or plaid wool about 3”x36”
Plastic evergreens and berries
Hot glue gun

This pattern is free for you to use. Please give the artist credit. Not for commercial use.

1. Sand and primer shovel
2. Paint handle and top of blade in black
3. Paint rest of blade white
5. Paint black circles for eyes and mouth.
6. Paint nose orange.
7. Wrap homespun or wool around base of handle. Trim and glue.
8. Tie rest of fabric at top of handle.
9. Hot glue berries and greens to brim of hat.

Stand a full size shovel next to your door or hang a child size shovel on your wall or door.

Have fun!
Free Pattern

Use this pattern for embroidery, wool applique, punch needle or rug hooking, painted projects or whatever your imagination can dream up! Reduce or enlarge pattern as desired. Commercial use is strictly prohibited.

We love to see the projects that you have made from our patterns. If you decide to post projects based on one of our patterns on a blog or website, please give design credit to Jacquelynne Steves. Thank you!

Find more free patterns at: JacquelynneSteves.com