

Household News

by Lynn Chambers



Make Merry With Cookies and Candies!
(See Recipes Below)

Xmas Gift Boxes

Christmas is the time for giving! Thus runs the refrain during this festive season.

And what could be more appropriate, more welcome than gaily wrapped boxes packed right in your own kitchen—boxes full of sweet, crunchy cookies warm and fresh from the oven, candies, tempting tidbits of sweetness made with spices and nuts.

Cookies and candies wrapped with waxed paper in small tin boxes will delight the heart of that boy you may have sent to camp, your daughter away at school, or a neighbor.

*Bran Filled Hermits.

- (Makes 45 medium-sized cookies)
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup all-bran
- 3/4 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon mace
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup mince-meat or preserves

Cream shortening, add sugar and eggs and beat well. Add milk and all-bran. Sift flour with remaining dry ingredients and add to first mixture. Mix well and chill. Roll dough to an eighth of an inch thickness on lightly floured board. Cut into rounds. Place 1 teaspoon mince-meat on one-half the rounds and top with remaining rounds. Crimp edges with a fork. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet in fairly hot oven (400 degrees) for 12 to 15 minutes.

Cookies right in tune with the Christmas season are these with red or green sugar dusted on them. Make them in fancy Christmas tree, Santa Claus or wreath shapes with a cookie cutter. Use butter for a really good flavor, cut them thin and chill well before cutting.

*Christmas Butter Cookies.

- (Makes 6 dozen small)
- 1/2 pound butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 to 2 1/2 cups flour

Cream butter and sugar. Combine beaten eggs and flavoring with creamed mixture. Add flour and salt. Mix well and chill. Roll thin, cut into shapes. Dust with colored sugar. Bake on a sheet about 15 minutes or until light brown, in a moderate (400 degrees) oven. Make your cookie and candy boxes provocative with tiny squares of rich, delicious peneche. These pieces can be dressed up in individual wrappings of gold, silver, green or yellow gift paper.

LYNN SAYS:

Now is the time to make your selection of gifts: perhaps you'd like to give away some of that brightly colored jelly or jam you put up last fall. Wrap it in gay paper, and tie it with a bit of silver and blue ribbon. Bring out the fruit cake and plum pudding, someone will be mighty proud to have them, too.

When packing cookies and candies for gift boxes you can make the box more attractive by alternating the kinds of cookies and candies used. To assure freshness, use waxed paper between the layers.



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON
(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

NEW YORK—Air Vice Marshal Arthur Coningham, commanding the air arm of the British offensive in Libya, probably could find his way around the fighting terrain without a map or a compass. For many years, off and on, he has been scouting this sunburnt waste of jagged rock and sand, with the British air force, based in Egypt.

He is a husky and good-looking 46-year-old Australian, a group captain at the Calshot R.A.F. station in 1933, upped rapidly in rank since the start of the war, a veteran of every kind of air fighting and an air buccaroo who has ridden every responsibility, however, is not all due to technical skill. It is a personality success as well, and it just now happens that personality resources in air wars is being authoritatively examined.

Dr. Robert Dick Gillespie, distinguished British neurologist, now lecturing in this country, held forth at the New York Academy of Medicine the other night, on the lack of neuroses in the R.A.F., as compared to other arms of the fighting forces. The doctor's theory, which he says has been convincingly demonstrated, is that air training and fighting makes for individuality which greatly strengthens personality resistance to the devastating nerve shocks of modern war.

Marshal Coningham would make a fine laboratory sample. In all this department's gleanings about his career, from various sources, it is emphasized that his every relationship in his fighting command is personal. He has a prodigious memory and he likes persons, rather than people. He has a keen wit and ready humor. But he's a hard-boiled disciplinarian.

He entered the World war from his native Brisbane, Australia, at the age of 19, serving first in Samoa and then in Egypt. Coming to England, he joined the Royal Flying corps, where he knocked about in all sorts of primitive planes. He won the military cross and the distinguished service order.

WHEN Nebuchadnezzar married a country girl, the daughter of Cyaxares, she was homesick and wanted a bit of foliage around the house. The king put in a few **Aerial Gardens of Rockefeller Center** just put in a few **Surpass Babylon's** window boxes at first, then got really interested and built his famous hanging gardens.

Rockefeller Center went botanical for an entirely different reason, and will, if it hasn't already done so, surpass anything Babylon could show in the line of aerial agriculture. The genius of the gardens in the sky is A. M. Van Den Hoek, horticulturist for the center, whose wizardry with growing things he successfully transplanted from his native Netherlands lowlands to the Sixth Avenue highlands.

We were checking with him on that chestnut tree he planted recently. It has a mate and hive of bees ready for the big job of pollenization at the first signal of spring. These trees were brought from China.

Weather-wise and earthwise, the sky-high farmer might have come out of Vergil's Georgics, but there's nothing rural about his smart tailoring, or his red-leather, push-button office. But this setting is mostly for winter farming. In the summer, he wears overalls on his 50-1 acre, ground-level farm near Flemington, N. J.

After studying horticulture in several continental countries, he went to England, in 1905, at the age of 21. There he worked in the famous Rose Gardens of Hampstead and tended the ancient grape vine, the fruit of which goes annually to the king. After 14 months in England, he removed to this country.

He worked for two years in a nursery at Morrisville, Pa., then got a job with a Netherlands horticultural firm. Advancing steadily in his profession, he became the horticulturist for Rockefeller Center in 1933.

The skyscraper onion crop was exceptionally good this year—also the cabbages, tomatoes, mint, kohlrabi, spinach and carrots. The espaliered pear and apple trees are getting on famously as are the 150 plane trees and the eight 50-foot elms that were planted around the center.

Mr. Van Den Hoek just recently planted 25,000 tulip bulbs, of Holland ancestry, via England. He says that these tulips are extraordinarily varied and beautiful and seems to see in each of them a chance of hope for his native homeland.

Town of T. B.

There is a small town in Maryland called T. B. The name is derived from the initials of a colonial settler, Thomas Brooke, who became an owner of several thousands of acres of land now included in the present town site, says Pathfinder. The Brooke boundary stones marked "T. B." were found within the township, and early residents started to call their town "T. B."

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'Spirit of '76'

This famous painting, in which the artist caught the spirit of the patriots who "fired and drummed it" was sketched and later painted by Archibald M. Willard. The artist, who lived through four of America's wars (1836-1918), was the creator of "Puck" comics after the Civil war. He originally made a humorous sketch for the opening of the Centennial exposition at Philadelphia in 1876.

A serious attempt to portray early American patriotism followed the cartoon, and the original now hangs in Abbott Hall library, in Marblehead, Mass.

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