

The Frontier Woman —

Dorsey Woman Hopes Winter of 1949-'50 Will Not Be Same As Last

By BLANCHE SPANN PEASE

Hi there, all you nice people! It's hard to believe but this is the last Thursday in August and September is knocking at our door. With school just around the corner and that old lunch box grind is starting all the rural mothers in the face again.

Ah me! Life is just one task after another, isn't it?

Since I had years of packing school lunches, I did learn a few hints and ideas that I'd like to pass on to you folks. Maybe I've mentioned them to you before, but if I have, those of you who have heard them, can pass over and to those they are new can take heed.

If your child must carry a lunch regularly, it seems to me that a good lunch kit should be indispensable.

A lunchbox with a heavy steel case, equipped with a pint thermos bottle which rides firmly seems the ideal type. Smaller kits can also be obtained which contain a half pint vacuum bottle.

The lunch kit should be washed and scalded regularly each night and the thermos bottle should be rinsed with warm soapy water to which a teaspoon of soda has been added and then rinsed with hot water. The cork can be boiled often to keep it fresh and clean. The bottle should be left uncorked overnight and the lunch kit open.

Now for accessories for your child's school lunch.

Recently I saw some Roy Rogers paper napkins. Small boys and girls would get a kick out of these napkins for school lunches, wouldn't they? I'll say! These are made on beige colored paper with a picture of Roy and his horse on them.

Watch the 10-cent stores for new ideas in paper napkins. Send two napkins with the

lunch. One should be used for a tablecloth on the child's desk. Now and then, as a change from paper napkins you might like to send bright cloth napkins in the school lunch.

Do you use sandwich bags at least part of the time for wrapping the sandwiches? You can buy them at your favorite grocery store and they're so handy. You can use them for relishes, pickles, washed dried fruits, carrot strips, pepper rings, and celery, too. Part of the time you can use waxed paper to keep sandwiches fresh.

This will help to keep the lunch from falling into that dreadful monotonous routine which so many school children must face day-after-day and month-after-month.

You can buy waxed paper baking cups at your grocer's. Sometimes they come in colors. Use them in baking cup cakes. They'll help to keep the cup cakes moist longer, make cup cakes easier to handle for the youngsters and will "dress" them up. They'll save work for you, too.

Dixie food cups, with covers, are so handy for sending salads, gelatin deserts, and puddings in the lunch box. They look better, carry well and save you work in washing dishes. For the dixie cups can be disposed of at school, and not even brought home.

Waxed colored drinking straws are also a delightful addition to the school lunch box. Any child will tell you that cocoa, milk, or such type of drink tastes twice as good when it is imbibed "through a straw." Buy some of these accessories now and then, if not all the time, for they will do much to brighten up your child's school lunch, and they cost only a few cents.

Watch your five and 10-cent store for other school lunch ideas, such as the plastic container for a piece of pie that is sometimes featured, bright plastic spoons and forks for "now and then" use.

And if the teacher boards at your house and must take school

lunches, we know that it goes without saying she will appreciate the nicety with which you pack the school lunch.

There are other ideas to pep up the school lunch also. For instance, have you considered the various attractive cookie cutters? Any mother knows that cookies, cut in new shapes, are more appealing. Frankly, they are more attractive to grownups, too. We all like a change now and then. So, if you have a dollar to spare, buy a set of new cookie cutters and put them to good use.

Then there are the various food colors and sugars which may be used to brighten up cup cakes and cookies. Colored icings, sparkling sugars and chocolate shot are certainly appreciated by the children. We all know that if the child is not too small, an individual miniature pie will take its eye. The pie baked in the small individual pan and sent packed in the lunch box does much for the child's lunch. Or, the small pies can be baked in muffin tins. Of course, you understand, these pies are the sturdier two-crust type.

There is now on the market plastic food bags which are fine for enclosing sandwiches to keep them moist and edible and some of the smaller bags are grand for enclosing cake and such. Try sending these sometimes to make something different in the lunch box.

Keep on the lookout for ideas like these, that will help to make the school lunch more interesting. For, just as food is not the whole story when served at home, so it is with the school lunch which has a tendency anyway to be too monotonous.

—tfw—
Dorsey Farmerette Writes Subscription Winning Letter—
"A Dorsey Farmerette," of Dorsey, wins our three-months' subscription prize today!

Dear Mrs. Pease:
I really enjoy your column in The Frontier! I like the letters best that have a pen-name signature. There have been several from our community printed and signed with pen-names. I

Sandhill Sal

Someone wrote to the doctor and asked him what to do for cold feet. The doctor replied the best thing he knew was to warm them. Another sensible answer to one of life's little problems.

The newspapers say nowadays that prices are on the decline. Any day now we may surprise ourselves by finding something we can buy for a nickel.

I see where the other day some millionaire said "working was like fun." Like fun it is!

Keep a fruit jar on the kitchen shelf, somebody writes, and drop a dime in it now and then. You'll be surprised how fast the dimes will count up. Ah ha, and surprising how fast one shakes a dime out, too!

enjoy trying to decide which of my neighbors and friends write the letters. (But do you decide right, Mrs. Pease?)

My but these are busy days on the farm. Threshing, haying, laying by corn and then there are cucumbers, tomatoes and beans to pick and the fruit canning is now in full swing! Sewing must be wedged in between these other jobs. Soon school will be starting and who could start their "small fry" to school without the new colorful print dresses so important to their ego?

Like many other mothers I shall shed a few secret tears when school starts this Fall for one of my children will be a first grader. It is not my initial experience with "first days" at school. But each child that takes his first step into the world alone deserves those tears his mother sheds secretly for him.

It is one of the stages of growing up and mother's heart knows her "baby" has become a person on his own and will never be quite so dependent on her again. That is as it should be, but her heart cannot help being sad.

Before we realize it, Summer will have faded and Fall and Winter will again be at our door.

God grant that it is not a repeat performance of the last one. I had always thought I much preferred Winter to the Summer's heat. But I definitely decided there is nothing of the polar bear about my makeup.

This letter has grown to quite some length so I had better close. I sincerely hope you receive an abundance of letters in reply to your call for more mail, for I do enjoy reading them.

A DORSEY FARMERETTE

—tfw—

Quick Tricks—

These days, most of us are busier than a small boy with two melting ice cream cones. The quick, slick, trick that can save us time is always welcome. So maybe you'd like to know that a box of chocolate chips spread on a cake when it is still hot in the oven, makes a good icing and one that is quick. Sweet milk chocolate bars melted over hot water also are very good on cakes and quickly made.

I always line my cake pans with waxed paper. They're easier to remove from pans and saves washing the pans. Cut waxed paper to fit the pan, set pan on waxed paper and draw around with sharp knife, use scissors to cut if necessary. A two-inch strip of waxed paper may be placed in first and ends allowed to extend over edge of the pan. In loaf pans, for nut bread, place two strips of waxed paper, one lengthwise and one crosswise, with edges extending beyond pan.

If you are chopping food, several stalks or strips chopped at the same time, saves time!

Sift flour on waxed paper, saves dishwashing. It is handy and the waxed paper can be used again.

—tfw—

Frontier Woman Needs Letters—

Oh, that letter-hungry Frontier woman. She always needs letters for her department and she needs them right now! When this column is printed, it will be time for me to be editing the October issues of The Frontier Woman and I'll need lots and lots of letters. If nothing happens, I plan to take a vacation

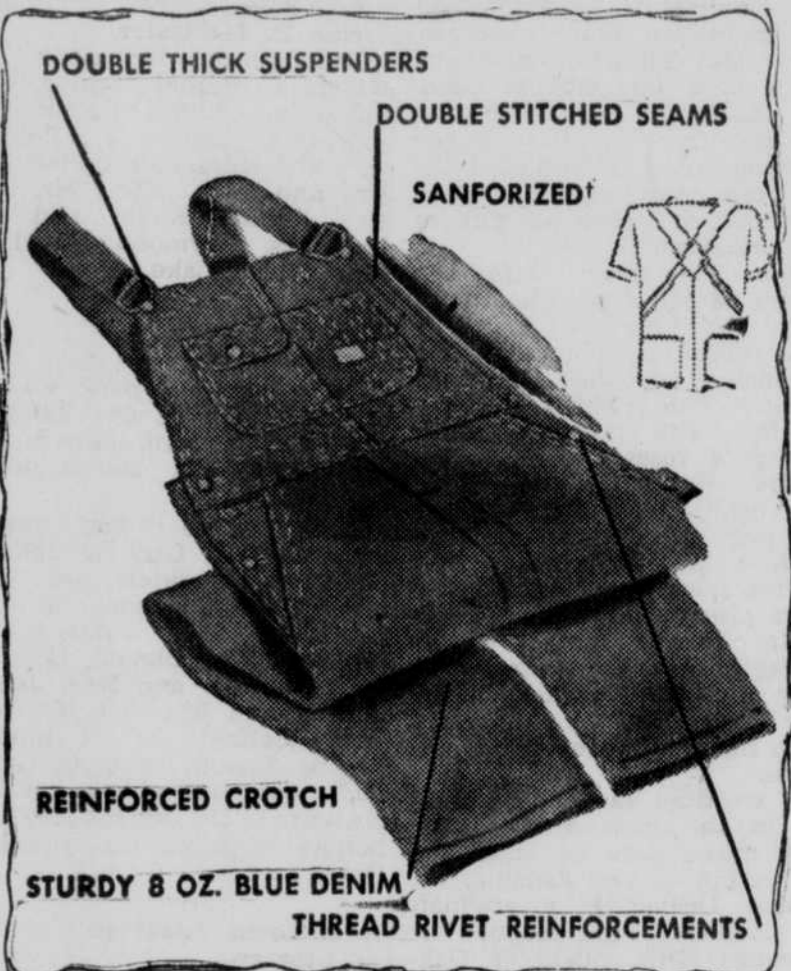
in October and my column will have to be edited ahead of time. So won't you send me a letter now!

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