

Along Azalea Row

By Mrs. E. F. Rapraeger

"Does Santa Clause visit everybody at Christmas time, Daddy?" queried our small son John.

"Everybody who has the spirit of Christmas in his heart," replied his father.

Although Santa sets no age limit, Christmas is essentially a day for children. It is true they expect more than children used to expect, still it is little enough and they deserve all they get. They will not be children always. Let them laugh and be merry while they may. In a few years, in a surprisingly short space of time, they will have grown up and laughter will not come so readily nor trifles have the sheen and beauty of treasures. Then they will anticipate Christmas, look forward to it, hunger for it, for the reason that it brings back childhood memories which are locked in the heart and never quite forgotten.

The enchanting spirit of Christmas brings back my childhood in England, especially the Christmas dinner which was the main event of the day. On this day of the year the Yuletide goose came into its own, well-browned, dripping with gravy, and bedecked in all its festive splendor. My how we looked forward to the Christmas goose and the pudding which followed. In my mind's eye I see mother coming from the kitchen with flushed cheeks and a proud smile bearing aloft the steaming Christmas pudding, as large as a cannon-ball, blazing brightly in half a quart of burning brandy and gaily decorated with Christmas holly. Imbedded in the pudding were small silver coins which brought good luck to the finder. The most exciting

thing about the pudding was the chance of finding one of the silver pieces and each mouthful was carefully chewed to make sure that nothing was swallowed but pudding.

At last the dinner was done, the cloth cleared, the hearth swept, and the fire made up. Apples and oranges were put upon the table and a handful of chestnuts upon the fire. Chairs were drawn around the hearth, the punch was served and a toast proposed by mother or dad—

"Merry Christmas and God bless us, everyone."

The Christmas spirit prevailed at the December meeting of the Azalea Garden club which was held at the Grange Hall on Thursday, Dec. 11, with nearly seventy members and guests present. The dessert luncheon was served by Mesdames Ray Streubing, Ray Guerratz, Lester G. Twohy and E. W. Ravekes. The tables were beautifully decorated by Mrs. Cliff Lindskog. A program of Christmas music was provided by the Azalea Singers under the direction of Mrs. Curzon McKenzie with solos by Mrs. Curzon McKenzie and Mrs. Wilhamina Donnelly. Mrs. Webster Hibbard recited "A Gardener's Letter to Santa Claus" in her own inimitable style, and the members expressed their wish that this letter, which was written by Mrs. Lorette Longan of View Point, Indiana, should be adopted as part of the annual Christmas entertainment of the Garden club.

There were many beautiful entries in the Christmas decorations contest held for members, and begonia plants, kindly donated by

HARBOR NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hinton and Mrs. Hinton's mother, Mrs. Emma Hellrig, left Monday on a month's trip which will take them to Phoenix, Ariz., El Paso, Tex., and on south to Mexico City. They will return by the coast highway, and are making the trip in a new Ford.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pearmine left during the weekend for Los Angeles where they will be house-guests for the coming month of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Witherow.

Mrs. Jack Gilmore, Mrs. Stella Nikrent and Mrs. Theo Myers left Sunday morning for Los Angeles. Mrs. Gilmore and Mrs. Nikrent plan to remain there for the rest of the winter while Mrs. Myers will return in about two weeks.

the Woodriffs, were presnted to the winners as follows: Mary Fisher, Eunice Wollam, Martha Grayshel, Lilian Wiedeman and Mrs. Otto Turley. For the Christmas gift exchange members exchanged a box of their favorite cookies together with recipes.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hempel are the parents of an eight-pound thirteen-ounce son, born by Caesarian section at the Seaside hospital on December 10. They have named the newcomer Arnold Ray.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Melton of Trail were overnight visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Payne Saturday. They had brought Mrs. Melton's father, Jack Tungate home after he had visited them for a couple of weeks.

Mrs. E. E. Hanscam, Sr., spent a few days in Portland, Eugene and Sweet Home, having her eyes given their periodic checkup, and visiting her children and their families.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Payne are in Grants Pass where they were called when Mrs. Payne's eighty-five year old father had to undergo an emergency operation Saturday.

Mrs. Leslie Miller underwent a major operation at St. Joseph's hospital in Eureka last Wednesday, and is reported to be recuperating nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Springer returned home Sunday after visit-

ing in Port Townsend and Roy, Washington and in Portland. Mrs. Springer has been gone since before Thanksgiving, while Mr. Springer was gone a week.

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