

Try Homemade Fruit Bread

New York (AP)—Anybody who accuses American housewives of turning in to shortcut cooks should take a look at holiday preparations in the kitchens.

The frozen foods and ready mixes may save hours in meal preparing, but for many women there is still no substitute for the fancy homemade Christmas cookies, dipped candies and rich fruit cakes and puddings.

And it's still hard to duplicate the personal gift of fruit cake or fancy bread or candy baked and decorated at home. One suggestion for a homemade gift is a new version of a fruit bread. It's filled with fruits and nuts, with a combination of rolled oats and brown sugar to give an unusual texture and flavor.

OATMEAL FRUIT BREAD

Ingredients: ¼ cup fat; ½ cup firmly-packed brown sugar; 1 egg, well beaten; ½ cup chopped Brazil nuts, pecans or walnuts; ½ cup cooked diced prunes; ½ cup cooked diced apricots; 1 tablespoon grated orange rind; 1 cup rolled oats; 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour; 2 teasp. baking powder; ¼ teasp. soda; 1½ teasp. salt; 1¼ cups buttermilk or sour milk.

Method: Cream fat; add sugar gradually. Add egg to creamed mixture. Stir in nuts, prunes, apricots, orange rind and rolled oats. Sift together flour, baking powder, soda, and salt. Add dry ingredients alternately with buttermilk to creamed mixture. (To make sweet milk sour, add 1 tablespoon vinegar to 1¼ cups sweet milk.) Turn into two small greased loaf pans or one loaf pan about 9 by 5 by 3 inches. Bake in a moderate oven (350-370 degrees F.) about 1¼ hours, or until done. Cool on rack. If desired, decorate top of the loaves before baking with whole pitted prunes, apricots, nuts, or candied fruit. The recipe makes 1 large or 2 small loaves.

One of these loaves, wrapped in cellophane and tied with red ribbon with a sprig of greens tucked in the bow, makes a very attractive gift package. For something simpler in the way of a holiday treat, especially in a family where the youngsters expect a handy supply of cookies and candy to serve young visitors, there's a new recipe for crunchy pecan, brown sugar and puffed rice or puffed wheat balls.

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Method: Measure puffed rice into a shallow pan. Heat in a moderate oven (350 degrees) for 10 minutes. Pour into large greased bowl and mix with pecan meats. Combine sugar, syrup, water and salt in a saucepan; cook until a few drops in cold water form a hard ball. Remove from heat; add butter, stirring only enough to mix. Mixing quickly, gradually pour cooked syrup over the puffed rice and pecan meats. With greased hands shape into balls. If desired, decorate immediately with additional pecan nuts or shredded coconut. Recipe makes 12 balls.

PAINT BY RECIPE

Amateur home decorators now can look up the recipe for mixing a new color for the living room walls, just as they would consult the cookbook for a cake recipe. A new 200-page volume entitled "The Keystone Cavalcade of Color" has full-page reproductions of every color that could be dreamed up by a decorator. The pages are coated with the paint itself, and on the back of each is a recipe giving exact proportions of the different pigments required to produce the color. The book is available at paint supply stores throughout the country.

IT'S IN THE BAG

A soap-saver bag made of a rubber-like coating on paper cord, can hold small scraps of soap and use them to the last. Keep scraps from sliding out, chip. The sudsler has a flap to can be hung on the faucet to let water flow through for convenient suds-making. It has a net construction that is easy to grasp when in the shower, dish-washing or for scrubbing pots and pans. It also can be used as a hand scrub brush to remove stubborn grime.

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Hostess on Wednesday

A hostess of the mid-week will be Mrs. Stephen Tabacchi, who has invited a group for luncheon and bridge Wednesday, the party to be at her home.

In the group will be Mrs. Floyd W. Shepard, Mrs. John H. Carson, Mrs. Thomas Holman, Mrs. John J. Griffith, Mrs. John R. Caughell, Mrs. James Lugenbeel, Mrs. D. R. Dunlop, and the hostess.

Mrs. Elkins Hostess

Monmouth — The First Wednesday club met at the country home of Mrs. Melvin Elkins for a 2:30 o'clock salad luncheon. A business meeting was presided over by the president, Mrs. Van Crider, and the remaining time was spent in sewing. Those present were Mrs. Claude Winegar, Mrs. Ralph Winegar, Mrs. Van Crider, Mrs. John Sparks, Mrs.

Cookie Hints

Refrigerator cookies come off the roll in trim, even slices if you cut them with your butter cutter or cheese slicer.

Colored coconut makes fine decorations for your Christmas cookies. Just add a drop of color to a few drops of water and let the coconut shreds absorb the color.

Don't forget to include your favorite rolled oatmeal cookie with holiday bakings plans. Cut them in a variety of shapes and decorate with sugar or nuts before baking.

Rolled cookies cut into star shapes can twinkle. Highlight each star point with a peanut half before baking.

It's an easy trick to roll out oatmeal cookies when the dough has been chilled a few minutes before rolling.

Raymond Yung, Mrs. Arthur Stump and Mrs. Joe Smiley.



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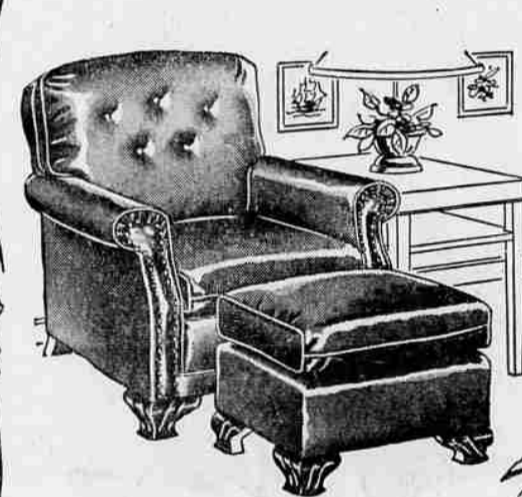


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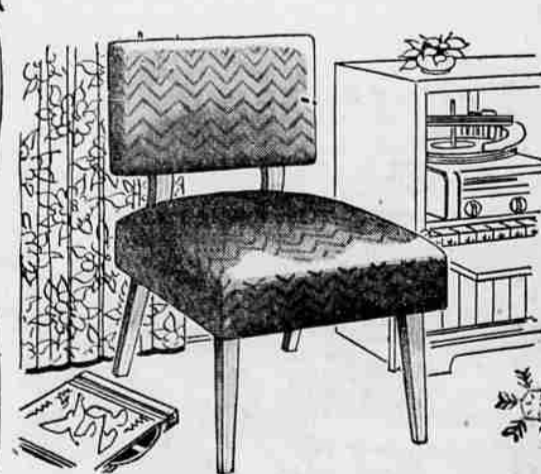
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