

HINTS THAT WILL HELP REDUCE THE WORK OF XMAS COOKING, BY SARAH SPLINT

With Christmas coming on Saturday this year, so that there will be an entire week-end of festivities, the cooking problem looms larger than usual. Sarah Field Splint, Director of McCall's Laboratory-Kitchen, tells in the December issue of that magazine of a hostess who saved herself much work by proper planning.

Says Miss Splint: "It was a supper party and such a delightful one! I discovered later that our hostess had planned a meal almost all of which could be prepared beforehand."

"She had set her table in the afternoon and arranged a centerpiece which you may want to copy. She placed a green bowl on a stem in the center of the long table, then heaped it high with apples, oranges and grapes. Half way between it and the ends of the table were two smaller green bowls, one filled with nuts and the other with raisins. Four tall, red candles in matching green candlesticks surrounded the bowl of fruit, and a flat festoon of holly encircled the base of the fruit bowl and the two smaller bowls, with small poinsettias glowing here and there in the holly. At each guest's place was a Christmas place-card and a little red-covered candy box with a tiny Christmas tree on top of it. "Here is the menu she served and recipes for her 'special' dishes."

Christmas Eve Supper Menu
 Crab Flake Newburg
 Potato Souffle Currant Jelly
 Baking Powder Biscuit
 Gingerale Salad with Cheese
 Crackers
 Chocolate Ice-Box Cake
 Coffee
 Nuts Raisins Candles
 "This festive but easily-made Chocolate Ice-Box Cake was the

finishing touch to a delightful Christmas Eve supper.

Chocolate Ice-Box Cake
 1 pound cake sweet chocolate
 3 tablespoons sugar
 Few grains salt
 6 eggs
 1 tablespoon vanilla
 Lady fingers
 1 pint cream

"Melt chocolate over hot water. Add sugar and salt, then unbeaten egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Remove from fire, cool slightly and add vanilla. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into the chocolate mixture. Line a deep cake pan or fancy mold with heavy wax-paper. Line bottom and sides of pan with halves of lady fingers, put close together. Pour in half the chocolate filling. Cover with a layer of lady fingers and let them 'set' for a minute or two, then pour remaining chocolate filling on top of them. Set in refrigerator for several hours or overnight. When ready to serve, remove to plate, fill center with whipped cream and sprinkle top with chopped candied cherries and pistachio nuts. Makes 12 to 14 servings.

"After dinner the great Christmas tree was dragged out from its hiding place and set up in the living room, the trimmings were produced and we guests were told we might trim it. Then we were given bright red stockings to hang beside the children's. After this we sat down to talk before the open fire, and it was long after midnight when we realized we were too sleepy to wait any longer for Santa Claus."

A hairdresser curls up and dyes we have it from Princess Heana, but a sculptor makes faces and busts, Prince Nicolas avors. Can it be that the visiting royalty is becoming Americanized?

DOROTHY GILES TELLS HOW TO HAVE A "GREEN XMAS"

"Each one of us cherishes at heart an ideal Christmas—Christmas with the snow in the street, and the wind at the door—but the whitest of white Christmases demands a certain amount of green to set off its sparkling beauty," says Dorothy Giles, who explains in McCall's for December, how to insure shrubbery, garlands and trees for the festive season.

Miss Giles says: "The Christmas treasures of a wood lot do not happen to every one. I know, though the woods often are nearer than some of us think. Those of us with even very little gardens can have a Christmas corner where we grow at least some of our Yuletide garlands. I see in my mind's eye a north corner planting of evergreens—arbor vitae, mugho pine,

hemlock, laurels, mahonia—whose polished bronze leaves are among the handsomest winter foliage.

"The berries of the black elder, one of our native shrubs, make a fair substitute for holly in Christmas decorations. In the same winter garden there should be a trellis or a wall to support plants of bitter-sweet and one plant of clematis paniculata which dries under the frost and when the snow wreathes it, catches the heart with its ghostly beauty. Here, too, should grow many evergreen ferns, aspidium acrostichoides, the Christmas fern; cristatum Clintonianum, another large evergreen fern; the evergreen wood fern, and polypody whose dense mats quickly cover rocky ledges and crevices with green.

"But if an indoor Christmas tree is an absolutely indispensable

HOW TO DECORATE THE XMAS DINING TABLE

Next to the stockings and Christmas trees, the Christmas Dinner embodies the Yuletide spirit. Suggestion that will carry the festive note to the table are found in McCall's for December. Among others are these:

Appropriate for any Christmas table is a small Christmas tree, covered with tinsel ornaments, silver stars and silver rain part of Christmas, let me urge that you buy one that has its roots intact. You can get really sizable trees, big enough to bear gifts for the family, or small ones for table decoration. Then when the holiday is over there need be no dying bouquets to cast out upon the dust heap—but a living tree which may be planted in the garden—to keep Christmas green throughout all the year."

and little toys. A round wooden base is covered with cotton and surrounded by wreath of holly.

A five-pointed star of holly conceals inexpensive flat holders for six red candles. The star can be made as large or as small as you need for your table.

The children would adore a miniature snow-scene, where Santa Claus, driving his eight reindeer and with a bag of toys in his sled, catches tiny doll-children unawares as they make a cotton-snow man and cotton-snow balls. Bits of dry moss are used for bushes and trees. Inexpensive wax fruit painted with gold and silver paint, heaped high in a gold compote, and garnished with sprays of laurels, makes a rich-looking centerpiece for a more formal table. The fruit would look equally effective in a brass or copper bowl or one of richly colored pottery.

Queen Marie plans to be back in Rumania by Christmas. Out of famous last lines: "You don't mind if I step in here ahead of the high hats by Christmas, boys, you, do you?"

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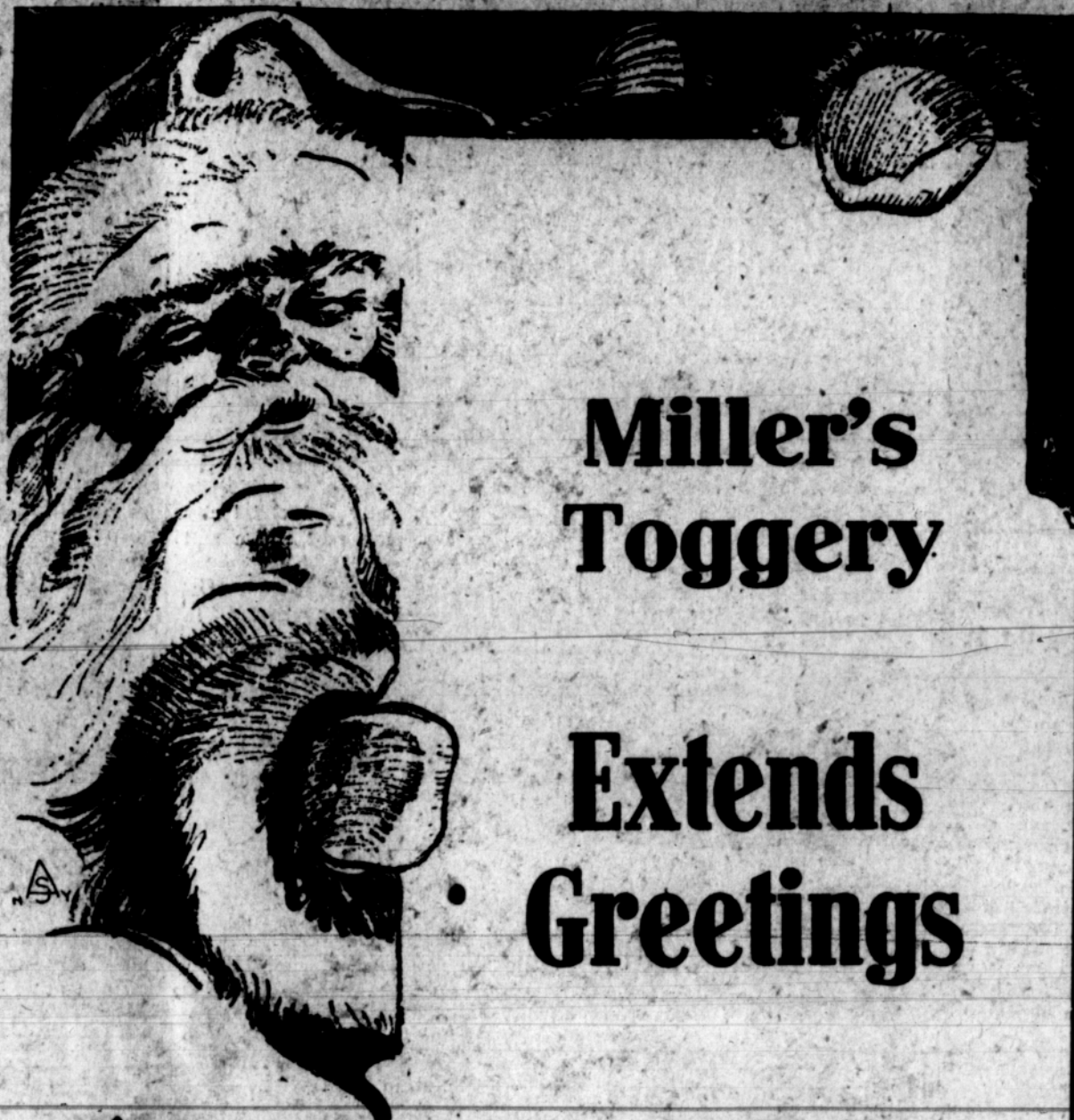


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