

Potpourri

This is the busiest time of the year, everyone says. But somehow, those who run in with news stories find time to stop and chat, and there's a different tempo to the news room. Potpourri sits and stares off into space when we should be keeping the type-writer keys jangling, and Pal Peg complained as she put on her coat Friday to leave that she hadn't accomplished very much.

There's something about Christmas that turns the mind backward. While writing about 1957 Christmas parties and programs, Potpourri keeps remembering how mother always made white divinity and chocolate fudge and mince pies, how papa got out the corn popper and made pans of fluffy white kernels which the three girls strung to hang on the tree. How the tree, cut by father in the woods of Pacific county on his way home from work, would be put up in the corner of the little living room, and trimmed with strings of tinsel, the popcorn and red cranberries. How the little wax candles, held by tin holders dented and chipped with years of use, would be lighted, but only for a brief time while mama and papa watched closely to see that the tree did not catch on fire.

On Christmas eve there was always a program at church in which the girls would take part, like as not decked out in a long white robe or carrying a wand with a star on the end of it. And Christmas morning there would be presents—not as many as most children receive nowadays, but at least one for each child. Papa would have brought candy from the one grocery store in the village—chocolate creams and French bon bons—not in fancy boxes tied with big red ribbons but in little striped sacks. For Christmas dinner there would be chicken, for the family raised chickens and the luxury of turkeys was not for us.

The years went by and there was the horrible time when we could not travel from college in Pullman across the state, for there was not enough money for both college and traveling, and we spent Christmas alone. Almost alone, that is, for a sorority sister took us in for dinner on Christmas day.

Then there was the first Christmas after the two of us were married. We saved our money and bought the head of the household a pipe, an elegant one which cost us a pretty penny. And do you know what happened? He came home Christmas eve after work with a pipe which had taken his eye in the grocery store. We still remember as if it had happened yesterday his utter surprise when his purchase was greeted with frustrated sobs.

We remember the first Christmas after the family grew to three, instead of just the two of us, how our greeting cards had the baby's picture and pappy took movies of her with her first toys. Dolls were the most important Christmas gifts for her for a few years, and then there was Panda. Panda was not put under the tree, but on the foot of her bed, to be greeted with joy in the too-early morning hours. That was the year someone sent her a bottle of perfume, too, and soon Panda was so well perfumed that one could smell him from room to room.

The hastening years have hurried by, and this Christmas the third member of the family is in far-away Berlin. If Uncle Sam's postal service does not fail us, she will receive this week an envelope containing a sprig of greenery from the shrub which grows by the front door of the family home. Pal Peg made a little star for the top of the twig, using a bit of teletype paper, and Potpourri added three tiny paper ornaments cut from a Christmas card.

How pre-occupied and busy everyone is shows up in the copy which read "bacon, 1/2 & 1/2, bread and pineapple." The second in from Medford Duplicate Bridge club was a little slip of paper which read "bacon, 1/2 & 1/2, bread and pineapple?" The second item didn't refer to bridge scores, either.

Mrs. Georgiana Beier, teacher at Roosevelt school, busy at home one day last week, kept hearing furious and excited barking. Investigating, she found a small dog circling the figure of Santa Claus which she had set up on the porch as part of her Christmas yard decorations, and barking at the top of his lungs.

The "cherubs" on today's front page are, after all, lively and spirited youngsters, excited about Christmas and the wonders it brings each year for the small fry. When Photographer Bob Vroman and Mrs. Kenneth Korby, wife of the pastor of St. Peter Lutheran church, instructed the little ones to start singing a carol, so the photographer could get an action shot, a small voice piped up and said "I'd rather sing 'Hound Dog.'"—O.S.

OSC Specialist Gives Rules For Care of Christmas Tree

Corvallis—Water is still the Christmas tree's best friend, keeping it fresh and green through the Yule season and guarding against it becoming a serious fire hazard, says Charles Ross, Oregon State college farm forestry specialist.

Tests with chemicals and other special treatment for Christmas trees in the home appear to offer no better method than standing the tree in plenty of water, Ross says.

The Christmas holiday gives fire added chances to strike the home, Ross reminds. Typical hazards include short circuits, lighted candles, sparks from hearth fires and matches or cigarettes on flammable decorations, paper or trash.

A Christmas tree can be highly flammable with the risk increasing as the tree stands indoors for some time. When the dry, fire-prone needles start falling, it is time to discard the tree, Ross emphasizes.

The extension worker offers the following suggestions for keeping Christmas trees fire-safe and fresh.

1. Obtain a fresh tree and store it outdoors until ready for use.
2. Set the tree in a stand having a container that will hold at least a gallon of water. Too often the container does not hold enough water.

3. Add to the water, a little antiseptic or household germicide such as chlorox to keep organisms from forming a scum on the butt end of the tree. This scum cuts down the amount of water the tree can "drink."
4. Before placing the tree in water, make a new diagonal cut on the stem at least one inch above the old cut. This exposes a fresh, moist surface to absorb water.

5. Stand the tree in the water at once and keep water level above the cut surface at all times.
6. Start the above treatment immediately. This can be done outdoors in a bucket of water if the tree is not brought into the house at once.

Ross also suggests the following precautions against Christmas home fires:

Try to set up the tree in a cool place in the house away from television sets, radiators, fireplaces, or other sources of heat.

Singer Describes Ideal Man

By GA PAULEY
United Press Women's Editor
New York—Gisele MacKenzie, one of the entertainment world's better known bachelor girls, says the man who woos her into a wedding must be a combination of Gregory Peck, William Holden and Edward R. Murrow.

"These three have the qualities I'm looking for," said the 30-year-old television star. "They're smart, have sex appeal, a sense of humor."

I suggested that this triple threat wrapped into one tweed suit ought to be enough to lure any girl out of the old maid ranks.

Most Want Money, Too
"Nope," said Miss MacKenzie. "Just ask 'em. Most girls are looking for money too. Me, I don't want a millionaire. I've enough problems without that one."

"Incidentally, can't somebody come up with another term for all us un-marrieds? We sure over-work bachelor girl, spinster and old maid."

The vocalist, born in Winnipeg, Canada, flew into New York from Hollywood, now her home base, for a few days of business and pleasure. She confessed in an interview that she had not met the man who could qualify as THE one.

"But by the time a girl gets my age, if she's the least bit attractive, she's been proposed to. Sure, I want to get married. But until the right one comes along, I feel like the movie starlet who said she was having a wonderful time going out with all the wrong ones."

Has Minks, Rocks, Teeth
"You may say, though, that I have a lot more working for me than some girls," she laughed. "I already own a mink coat and diamond ring. And my teeth are all in good repair."

She didn't say so, but her press agent declared she also can cook. Gisele MacKenzie started her musical career as a violinist, and studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music, in Toronto. While dreaming of a future as a female Menuhin, she sang for fun—for friends, at Army and Navy cantenens and informal audiences who enjoyed her vocalizing with her own piano accompaniment.

She turned to voice professionally when some music-loving thief took her violin from her car while she was out shopping. Her first contract was with Canadian stations, but it wasn't long until radio and television in this country lured her south of the border.

To keep cake filling from soaking into the cake, sprinkle the top of each layer with powdered sugar before frosting.

Decorated Sweater

By UNITED PRESS

Holidays bring forth the decorated sweater. Trimmings this season range from ribboned rosettes, metallic threads and yarn overstretching in contrasting colors to fur, both fake and real. One glamorous sweater sports a wide collar of silvery chinchilla. Price: \$310.

The "Moo Moo" is the hottest lounge wear on campus, reports Women's Wear Daily, a trade paper. The "Moo Moo," adapted from a traditional Hawaiian garment called Mu Mu, is an angle-length robe falling in unpressed pleats from a neckline yoke. It comes in a variety of prints in drip-dry cotton.

More color afoot for spring

Good for Holidays

Shaggy fur cuffs turn plain black at home outfits into conservation clothes. Raccoon or fox cuffs trim full-length or three-quarter tapered pants worn with overblouses or sleeveless tops.

to fabrics for spring. Brazilian kid and suede team up with such materials as linen, gabardine and light-weight wool. Colors include royal blue, gray, oyster white, yellow, brown and black. Jackets are tailored for casual wear or trimmed with fur for dressier outfits.

An old sheath takes on new life with a matching or contrasting overskirt in brocade, sheer or printed fabric. Add a chunky cabochon pin at the waist.

Leather jackets come matched

Marabou trims more than Santa's hood this year. It's used abundantly on sweaters, suits, ski jackets, lounging robes and boudoir pillows.

Cheese Sauce
Empty a large can of evaporated milk into a saucepan and turn the thermostat-controlled burner to 205 degrees. Add 1/2 teaspoon of salt and 2 cups of grated cheddar cheese. Stir quickly, until cheese is melted, then turn off the heat. You can't miss—no danger of overcooking or stringiness when the heat is under control. To make it even more tasty, season with a bit of Worcestershire sauce, cayenne or mustard. Let the use determine the seasoning.

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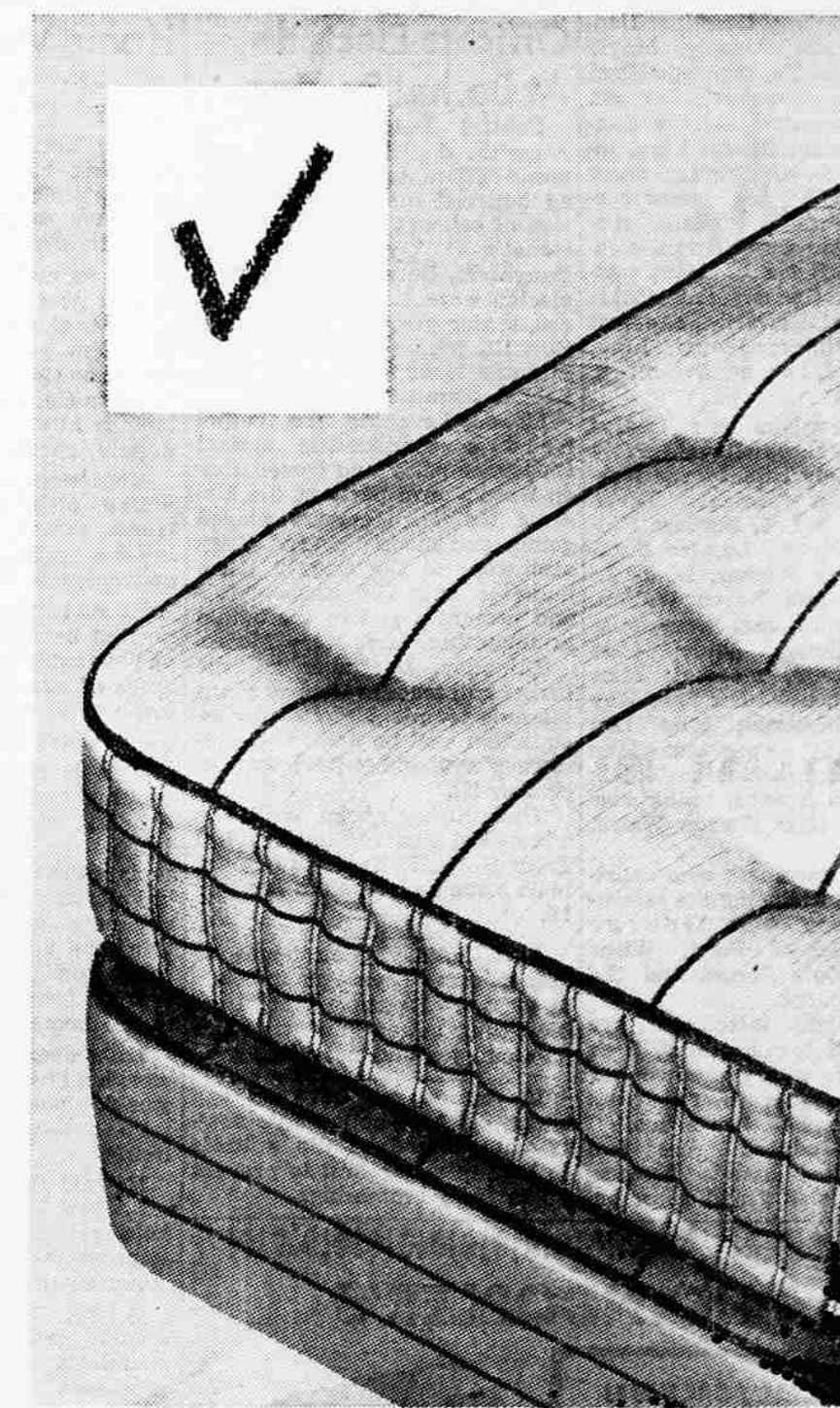
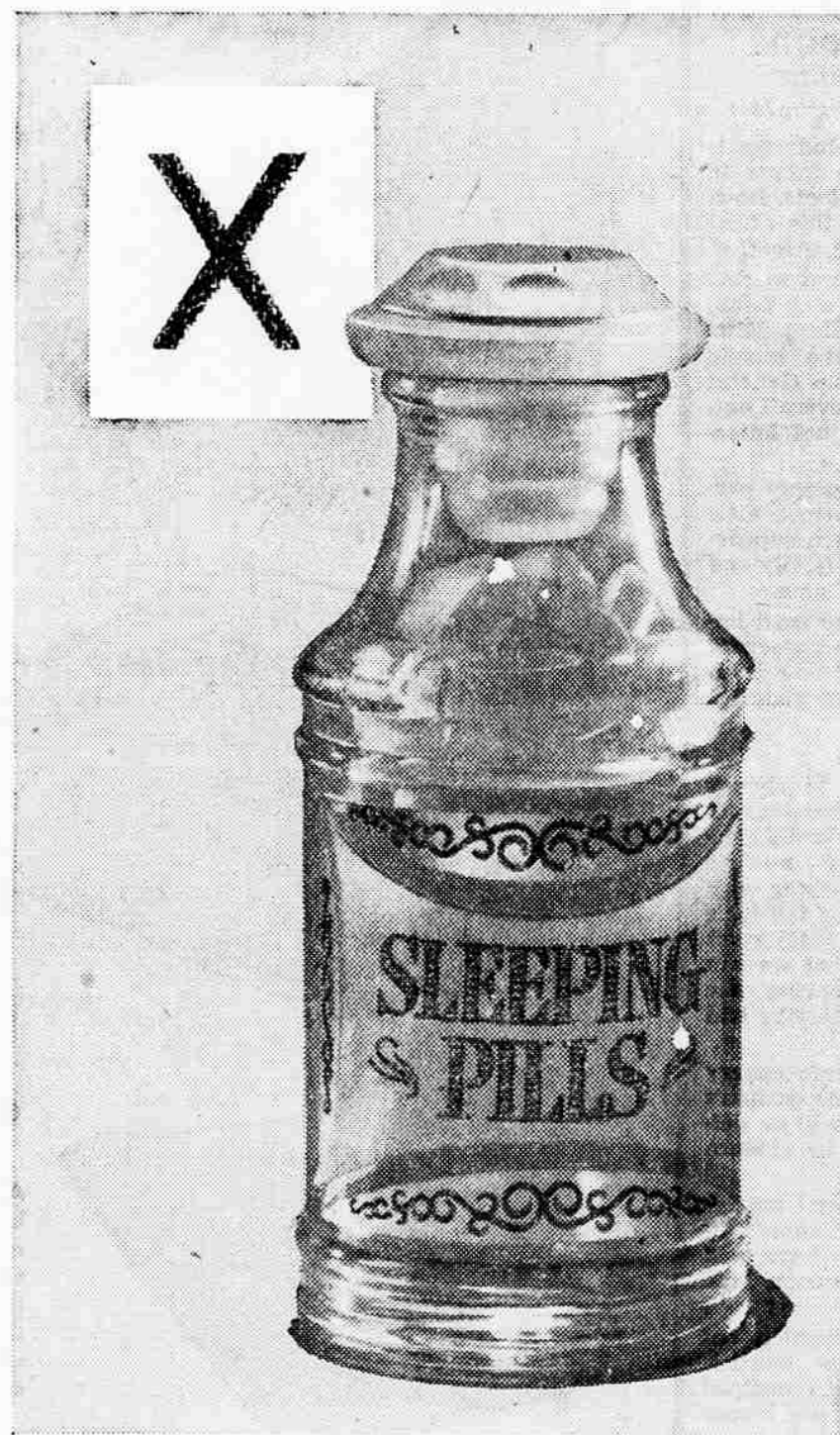
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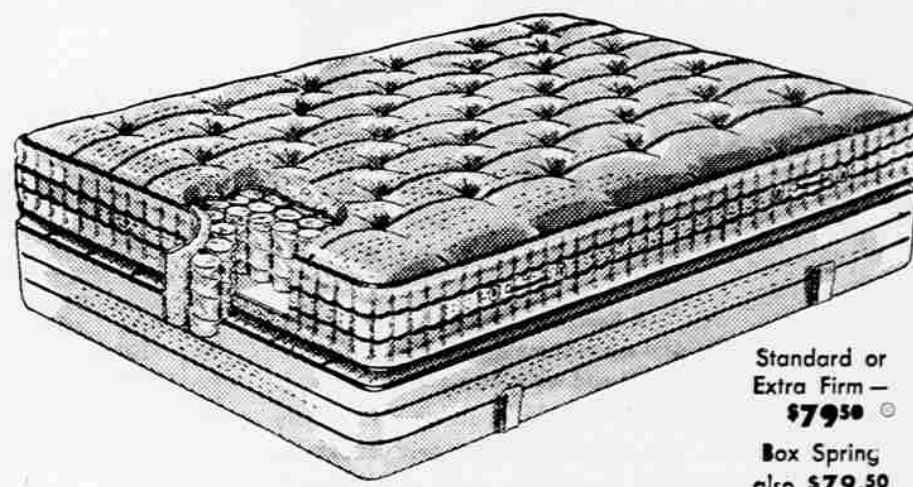
Which is the right sleep prescription?

You can't get a first-class sleep on a second-class mattress!

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