

Mother To 85 Children Believes Love, Feeling of Being Wanted Important

Memphis, Tenn. — (UPI) — It's a happy thing that Mrs. Ivy Martin likes children — she's had 85 of them.

A mother of four in her own right, Mrs. Martin has been foster mother to 81 others as well.

"It's the greatest joy in the world to have a child brought to your door with its head down, acting like a sick kitten, then in four or five weeks to have them running, yelling and playing like other youngsters," she said.

Quite often, they are "sick kittens" when Mrs. Martin gets them. Wayward Included

Children placed in her care include wayward youngsters from juvenile court, boys and girls from broken homes and children whose real parents are temporarily unable to support them.

A hearty, cheerful woman, Mrs. Martin said: "All children need is love and to be wanted. Material things are not important."

"We wanted each of the children we took through the years, and wanted them to feel that this was their home for as long as they needed it or wanted it to be."

The children take Mrs. Martin and her husband at their word, too, because they know they mean it. Those who have left are always dropping back to see "Mom" and "Pop."

Mrs. Martin never knows exactly how many there will be for dinner. One Christmas, she fed 78.

Full-Time Job

What's more, she holds down a full-time job while keeping house. A practical nurse at a hospital, Mrs. Martin works from 3 to 11 p.m. Her husband is on the early shift in a tire factory, and gets home in the afternoon just before his wife leaves.

The foster parent business started for the Martins during World War II.

"There were a lot of par-

ents who had become separated, and the children sort of thrown away," Mrs. Martin said. "We took a few, then got involved in a big way."

The only idea was "to take care of the children."

About half the youngsters were placed with the Martins by the Children's Bureau, which pays \$45 a month care for each child, an amount that has been carefully figured out to cover only bare essentials. Most of the other children came from broken homes, and the Martins received nothing for their care, although a few parents did pay about \$8 a week for "board."

Son Died

Shortly after they began taking in youngsters, the Martins' one-year-old son died and they adopted two boys who were living with them "because our other children wanted us to adopt a little brother," Mrs. Martin said.

The foster children remain with the Martins until they are placed for adoption or until their real parents are again in a position to care for them.

Up to 14 children have shared the Martins' eight-bedroom home at one time. The briefest period they ever had a youngster was one year, the longest 17 years.

Only three children presently live with the Martins in their rambling, 13-room home.

"Cooking has never been much of a problem," said Martin. "The older children always chip in and help out. And we have a big kitchen."

Maid Twice a Week

The Martins have a maid in twice a week, and Mrs. Martin's mother, who lives with them, helps out around the house.

Birthdays are important in the Martin household, and Mrs. Martin plays them up big. She estimates she bakes about 200 cakes a year.

For a usual Sunday dinner for about 25 persons, Mrs. Martin will cook a ham, two chickens, a couple of cakes, mounds of butter beans, potato salad and hot rolls and gallons of tea. She stresses the importance of a good diet for her family.

But first and foremost, Mrs. Martin tries to give the children love and that feeling of "being wanted."

Phoenix Festival Planned in May

Phoenix-The annual Phoenix Festival, tentatively scheduled for May 9, will be discussed at a meeting of the board of governors of the Phoenix community club at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 27, at the home of Allen Harris, 4238 South Pacific highway.

Members of past festival committees have been asked to attend.

Committee heads will be appointed for the festival, which raises funds for the Phoenix community club youth center. A coordinator has been tentatively chosen.

Booths for dart games, fish ponds, novelty concessions and similar carnival-type attractions are to be planned, along with a parade, crowning of a queen, hourly entertainment and the concluding dance.

Anyone wishing to work on the project will be welcome at the meeting, those in charge stated. The aid of the entire community will be sought.

Washington-(UPI)—The Senate Labor Committee has approved a modified version of the labor reform bill sponsored by Sens. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.).

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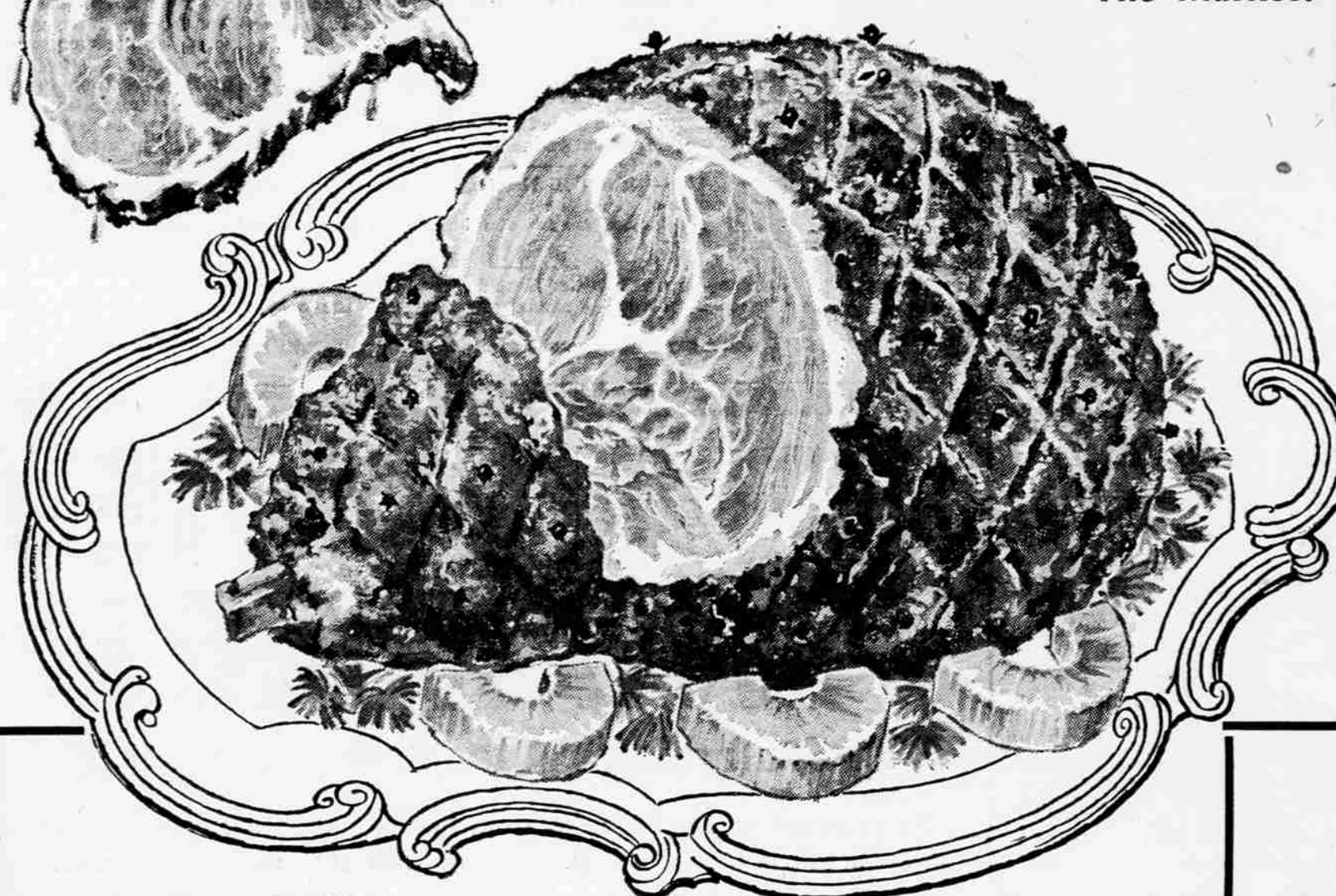
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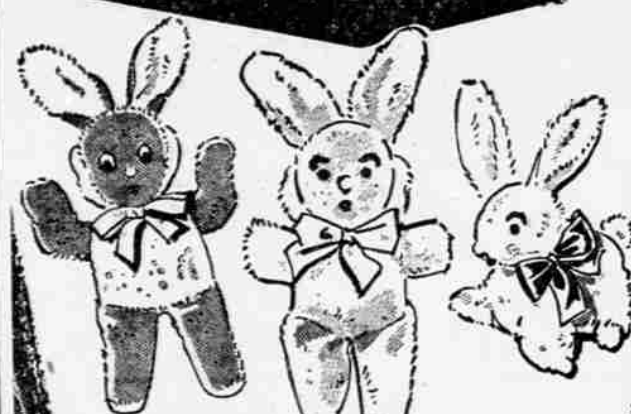
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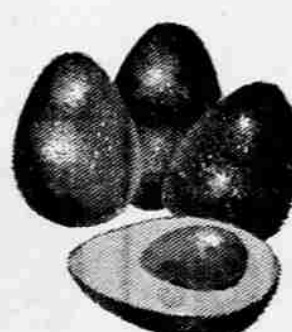
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