

Social Events ♦ Women's News

Eagle Point Club Holds Annual Show

Eagle Point — Guests were ushered into the home of Mrs. Ted Flury through a lane of candy canes and met by three tiny dwarfs, each with a Christmas greeting, as they attended the open house and decoration show sponsored by the Eagle Point Garden club last week.

Mrs. Flury's home was decorated throughout with arrangements made from both decoration kits and evergreens, and ingenious articles using ribbons and scrap materials that were turned into centerpieces for tables, stands or wall brackets.

While a modernistic theme was used in the living room, it blended with the antique rocking chair and old fashioned poinsettia pattern quilt on the bed in the bedroom. Mrs. Irma Cushman helped decorate Mrs. Flury's home for the show.

Mrs. O. W. Turnquist and Mrs. Doris Jackson greeted guests at the Turnquist home on Agate road with a predominantly red and white color scheme. They used popcorn and red cranberries to decorate their fir Christmas tree and living room in an "Old Fashioned Christmas" theme complete to the braided rugs on the floor.

Mrs. Ed Kimmel and Mrs. Thelma Short decorated and greeted guests at the mobile home of Mrs. Short. Emphasis was placed on the exterior decoration of the covered patio with Christmas decorated shrubs placed in large pots around the outside of the circular patio. Baskets of red ferns were suspended from the green roof, and cut gold and green Christmas spirals hung between the patio pillars. A small decorated Christmas tree stood outside the kitchen door, and smaller Christmas arrangements were used inside the house trailer.

A Christmas tablecloth of bright red brought color to the tiny kitchenette where guests were asked to register.

Almost 100 persons attended the home decoration show at Eagle Point. A silver tea was held at the Eagle Point Community building and homemade decorations sold following the tour of homes. Mrs. Betty Claus was general chairman of the tea and assisted by Mrs. Glenn Hale.

World Christmas Customs Are Colorful

Christmas, as an international holiday, is celebrated throughout the world in many colorful and picturesque manners. These customs, born long ago, today may be practiced only in tiny villages, still their origins are fascinating and quaint. Many of the traditions have to do with food.

The Near East region is the home of the first Christmas. Wheat is a staple food in the dietary pattern of most of this region. Perhaps for this reason breads have long formed the basis for Christmas food customs in those Near Eastern countries which are primarily or partly Christian.

Bulgaria — In Bulgaria, the Christmas bread is decorated with the design of a cross, a bird and a flower on top. The baked loaf is served with a lighted candle in the center. Before the bread is cut, the mother and father lift the loaf high above their heads, asking, "May the wheat grow as high." When the Christmas meal is finished, the food and dishes are left on the table, for it is the custom to be ready for guests on the night when Jesus was born.

Greece — In Greece, the Christmas bread is also decorated with a cross on top, and a silver coin is baked into the loaf. When the parents serve the bread, they break it into small pieces, then dedicate the first several pieces to various saints under whose patronage the family lives. The remainder of the pieces are served to the family and "his thought the person who receives the piece containing the coin will be especially lucky and will prosper throughout the year."

Yugoslavia — In Yugoslavia, the housewife also bakes a lucky coin into her Christmas bread. The loaf itself is usually large and round with a hole in the center for a candle to be inserted.

America — In America, though we have no one Christmas bread common to the entire country, yet the holiday season has become a traditional time for imaginative baking. Few are the homes where some type of specially festive bread or coffee cake will not be served on Christmas day. Whether you have purchased your rich sweet breakfast bread at the bakery or baked a traditionally favorite coffee cake at home, the family "broke the fast" on this morning with

a holiday bread.

Mexico — Mexican Christmas festivities begin on December 16 and continue through December 24, a period of 9 days called posadas. No meat is eaten on Christmas eve — instead bacalao (dried fish) is prepared and eaten as appetizers or in sandwiches. At midnight everyone goes to Mass, then returns home to lunch on tamales (meat and corn meal cakes).

Each night, during the nine day posadas, the townspeople go from house to house, singing and praying, asking for "room in the inn" as Joseph and Mary did. Each night they are refused until the last, Christmas eve, when everyone is welcomed in at every house, this symbolizing the stable scene. The real celebration begins then.

Also during each of the nine days there is a pinata which is primarily for the children. The pinata is a large thin earthenware jug, gaily colored and decorated, filled with fruits, nuts and candies. Armed with sticks, the blind-folded children try to break it open. When one succeeds there's a joyous scramble for the treats that spill out. However, it's not until the eve of the fifth day in January that the children receive their gifts by placing their shoes on the window sill to be filled. This symbolizes the coming of the three wise men to present gifts to Jesus.

Two Soups — Christmas day dinner is one of delicious variety beginning with two soup courses. The first is a dry soup or sopa made of fried rice, onion, garlic and tomatoes steamed in soup stock until just moist. There is also a very thin vegetable soup served. Next come the vegetables, which for this course must be green vegetables such as artichokes prepared with egg, garlic, onion and cheese. This is followed by a green salad of, perhaps, avocado, tomato, onion and vinegar.

The highlight of the meal is the turkey called guajolote mole. The mole or sauce for turkey is prepared by grinding together four or five types of peppers, fried bread slices, peanuts, garlic, chocolate, seeds and onions. This special sauce is simmered, then pieces of cooked turkey added. The whole process takes

several days preparation. Next is another vegetable course of potatoes or other non-green variety. Last come the frijoles (dry beans) which signal the end of the meal.

England — The yule log is brought in on Christmas eve and every member of the family must sit upon it and salute it before it's lighted. This assures good luck in the New Year. Then the flaming plum pudding is brought in for everyone to feast on.

According to old superstition, whoever eats a plum pudding and makes a wish (on the first mouthful) on each of the twelve days between Christmas and Epiphany (January 5), will be blessed with luck and fulfillment during the coming months. However, bad luck attends the greedy who nibble puddings before the Christmas feast.

The Yule Spice Cake or Pepper Cake is another holiday cake that is considered unlucky if cut before Christmas eve. It is a rich and delicious concoction containing sultanas (grapes), currants, candied peels and spices. It is baked the day before the holiday as a flat round cake about three inches thick. Cheese is usually eaten with the cake and traditionally marked with a cross.

Old English thought was that since the twelve days between Christmas and Twelfth Night are a mirror of the year, a person will enjoy one happy month during the next twelve for each mince pie eaten at a neighbor's house during that period. Bands of carolers, going from door to door in the villages before Christmas, are invited in to mince pies and hot drinks.

The ancestor of modern England's mince tart was an enormous affair, sometimes weighing over a hundred pounds and bursting with "neat's tongues (oxen), chicken, raisins, eggs, orange and lemon peels," and many other ingredients, as well as quantities of sugar and spices. So important was mince pie years ago that a night watch was appointed to guard them from marauders.

The Twelfth Night Cake, served on the occasion of the Twelfth Night, has a great part in the festivities. The cake, baked with a bean and a pea inside, was originally accompanied by Lambs Wool, a drink seasoned with sugar, nutmeg and the pulp of roasted apples. At the gathering, whoever found the bean in his portion of cake was proclaimed king of the revel, while the queen was the person getting the pea. From there a mock court was established and each of the guests was assigned to some different office and title of importance.

Former Residents Visit Ashland — Houseguests of Mr. and Mrs. Williams Briggs Sr., Upper Tolman Creek road, are Mr. and Mrs. William Briggs Jr., and children Susie and Roger, and Mrs. Gladys Crandall, Burbank, Calif. All are former Ashland residents.



Beginning when she was only a year old, Mrs. Donald K. Denman and her grandfather, Edward C. Daley, Bath, Maine, made a yearly trip into the Maine woods to select a family Christmas tree. Now that his only grandchild lives in Medford, Ore., and cannot go with him to choose a tree, Mr. Daley cuts a tiny tree and ships it to her by air parcel post. This year Mr. Daley, a retired lumberman who lived as a boy in northern Canada, soaked the tree in water, wrapped

it in a plastic sack, stood it in a box and then poured popcorn around it for packing. The little fir tree arrived in perfect condition and Mrs. Denman is pictured with her present from Maine after it was trimmed. Mrs. Denman and her husband, an attorney live at the Denman family home, 104 Geneva street; he is an attorney and Mrs. Denman teaches homemaking at McLoughlin Junior High school.

Opera Casts Announced

Portland — Musical Director Eugene Fuerst has selected the principals for the Theatre Arts Opera association's two New Year operas.

The two operas, "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci," will be staged February 10 and 11, sponsored by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

Two newcomers will make their local opera debut with Mr. Fuerst in "Cavalleria Rusticana." They are Anita Grandberg, major of Portland music university, and Maria Novak, of Marysville college.

Miss Grandberg will sing the mezzo-soprano role of Lola in "Cavalleria Rusticana" with Eileen Fern. Miss Novak doubles with Luella Mahnon as contralto in the role of Mamma Lucia.

Other principals in the opera by Pietro Mascagni are sopranos Helen Bolton and

Carters Here — Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Carter and children, Diana, Judy, Jim and Douglas, have arrived in Medford to spend the Christmas holidays with Mrs. Carter's mother, Mrs. John Seiler, and her sister and brother, Adabee and Harlin Seiler, 1132 West Main street. The Carters live at Yucalpa, Calif.

Mrs. Seiler is a patient at the Hawthorne Convalescent home.

Face Here — Clarence Starcher is in Medford to spend Christmas with his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bren H. Starcher, 1570 Stage Road south. He will return to his home in Blue River, Ore., Wednesday.

Group Cancels Weekly Session — Security Benefit club will not meet Wednesday, December 26, it was announced yesterday. The next session of the club will be January 2 at 11 a.m. at the Pythian building.

About 135 attended a Christmas dinner given by the club last Wednesday. A business meeting was followed by community singing and the day was rounded out with dancing until 4 p.m.

John Turnbaugh brought a tree which was trimmed to provide a Christmas background for the dinner and a dance held Friday night.

Honored for having December birthdays were Mrs. Mary Oland, Mrs. Barbara Maguin, Mrs. Ethel Coy, David Moore, Mrs. Lethel Leachman and Mrs. James Bishop. The birthday cake was furnished by Mrs. Eva Wright.

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In Portland — Mrs. Charlotte Froman, Hersey street, is spending the holidays in Portland with her daughter and family, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sheridan and three children.

In Ashland — Mr. and Mrs. James McNair, Pasco, Wash., are guests for the holidays at the home of his mother, Mrs. Lorena McNair, 323 Oak street.

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