

# ◆ Chit Chat ◆

By JCE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

This is the season for blazing fireplaces, hot apple pies, pumpkin pies and of course, turkeys.

The center of all such cooking activity is the kitchen. We seldom think of the holidays and holiday cooking without thinking of The Kitchen in an old country home.

It was built in the age when kitchens were not designed for modern appliances and a woman's step-saving convenience. This kitchen was so large and spacious that a woman had walked a good many miles before she completed her day.

It did have plenty of cupboard space, however. These cupboards reached from floor to 12 foot ceiling. One tier was divided by a shelf. The smaller cupboards resting on the floor contained various items. But the most important such cupboard housed two large earthenware crocks with heavy covers. These were kept full of cookies for visiting grandchildren, two dozen in each.

The tall cupboards on shelves within reach held the plain everyday dishes and cups. But, high on the topmost shelves, and out of reach of queuing children, were the stacks of fine china, silverware, candlestick holders, candles and table decorations.

This fine table-setting was kept where it could be reached only by a stepladder even long after the children of the house had left to form their own families.

It was a ritual during the holidays that these valuable and fragile items would be lifted down to be carefully washed and polished. For Thanksgiving time there were clay turkeys mounted on spring legs so they bobbed up and down when a chubby finger poked at them during a long after-dinner conversation. The Christmas centerpiece was a Santa's sleigh and tiny reindeer.

The cupboards were cut out to allow a broad shelf over deep flour and sugar bins next to the tall kitchen windows. In the cupboard over the broad shelf were the condiments, spices, pepper and salt. Another shelf could be pulled out over the flour bin so pie crust could be rolled with the worn wooden rolling pin and the unused flour could drop back into the bin. On the broad shelf overnight would rest halves of grapefruit which was soaked with a drop of honey in their centers for breakfast next morning.

The plain, square-shaped kitchen chairs were drawn back in a row next to the kitchen window. In a shallow cupboard between the two windows was the built-in ironing board which would drop on its two sturdy wooden legs as soon as the door opened. A high, gray wooden stool made the ironing easier. Everything in the kitchen, including the kitchen itself, was painted a drab gray. Kitchens were not supposed to be bright and cheerful in those days.

Across the room from the tall cupboards were more cupboards atop of which was a long shelf with built-in drain board and deep kitchen sink. In these floor cupboards was the hand-crank meat-grinder, the calendar for rinsing fruits and vegetables, a conical shaped strainer with matching wooden utensil which helped mash apples into applesauce, etc. It also included other heavy kitchen equipment and utensils.

A large electric kitchen stove of an early vintage had earlier replaced the proverbial wood stove. The stove-pipe hole was marked by a painted over metal plug.

Running lengthwise and dangling from the ceiling pulleys not far from the stove was a long wooden boom which could be let down and on which could be hung stockings mounted on their wooden stocking shapers, long woolen underwear and other things which needed drying overnight.

But, the center of the kitchen held the most important thing

—the kitchen table. This solid, round wooden table would support the tools and the fixin's for pie.

Here Grandma would sit with the light from the kitchen windows outlining her stern, New England profile as short red apple peelings curled away from her sharp paring knife. A funnel-like instrument would be shoved into the heart of the apple to remove the core, then the apple would be sliced into thin, precise segments.

The sheet of dough, soon to be the bottom crust, would be smoothed over the bottom of the pie pan. Then the apples would be put in layer by layer and sugar and cinnamon sprinkled over each layer. Sometimes if little fingers were quick enough, they could seize the tasty, seasoned bits of apples and get out the kitchen door before being caught.

This time of year, mincemeat and pumpkin pies would follow the apple pies into the oven. The large kitchen windows would steam up from the cooking as the leaves drifted down from the cherry tree outside.

Preparing and roasting the turkey was a ritual all its own. But in the center of the activities, amidst the slamming of the stove door, the rattle of dishes and silverware presided the kitchen table.

During the summer this same kitchen table would support blueberry pies and muffins, cherries, peaches and pears for canning, mint for mint jelly, plums, nuts and raisins for plum conserve and all manners of jams and jellies to be prepared for storage in the dark closet of the dining room.

This was frugal, measured, careful living, but perhaps it was an age of living at its best. The round, plain, gray kitchen table to us has become a symbol of that kind of living in the spacious wood frame house high atop a hill overlooking the harbor.

## Farm & Garden

### Grants Pass Herd Wins Top Honors

Twenty leading herds from California and the Northwest competed for the top honors in the Angus breeding cattle classes of the 1963 Pacific International Livestock Exposition, recently concluded in Portland. They exhibited more than 100 head which were judged by Herman Purdy of Pennsylvania State University, University Park.

As grand champion bull he selected the calf champion, Hoots Bardoliermere 70, an entry of Hoots Angus Ranch, Grants Pass, Ore. The Hoots herd also showed Hoots Bardoliermere 30 as the senior champion bull of the event and they won first prize in the get-of-sire class with entries sired by Hoots Bardoliermere.

Haystack Angus Ranch of Longmont, Colo., captured the junior and reserve grand championship of the bull classes with Haystack Sir Galahad and they also won the reserve bull calf championship with Haystack Panarama 75. In addition, they placed first in the junior get-of-sire entry list with calves sired by Panarama of Eastfield and won the trophy for the best ten head of Angus at the show.

Selected as the reserve junior champion bull was Mr. George 27 CN, exhibited by Carl Nielsen, Middletown, Calif.

Rancheria Angus of Hat Creek, Calif., won the senior and grand championship of the Angus heifer classes with Blackcap of JR 9th, and they won the reserve senior championship of the bull classes with Bardoliermere Rea 7.

The calf champion and reserve grand champion heifer, IA Blackcap 2132, was exhibited by Island Acres Farm, Klamath Falls, Ore., with the reserve heifer calf championship purple ribbon going to GVR Missy Magdoliermere, shown by Glacier View Ranch, Rockport, Wash.

Washore Angus Farms of Oregon City, Ore., won the junior championship of the heifer show with Washore Gammer, and Georgiana 51 CM, exhibited by Kendra and Marden Wilbur Jr., Davis, Calif., was the reserve junior champion heifer.

El-Bo Ranch of Elk Grove, Calif., showed the reserve senior champion heifer, Elbo Elegant Epponia.

### 1,709 Cattle Sold At Midway, Market Active

A total of 1,709 cattle were sold at the Midway Auction yard, Friday, Nov. 15. Owner - Manager Bill Bray said the market was extremely active with lots of buyers attending.

Good to choice steer calves, 350 to 400 pounds, were selling at \$26 to \$27.40. Medium steer calves in same weights went out at \$22.50 to \$25.50. Calves weighing 420 to 475 pounds sold for \$24.50 to \$26.50. Steer calves weighing 500 to 550 pounds sold for \$22.50 to \$24.50.

Good to choice heifer calves sold for \$22 to \$24.50. Medium heifer calves went out at \$21 to \$23. Heifer calves weighing 500 pounds sold for \$20 to \$21.50.

Good and choice yearling steers, 500 to 600 pounds, sold for \$22 to \$24.40. Medium quality steers in the same weights sold for \$20 to \$22.50. Steers weighing 625 to 700 pounds sold for \$21 to \$23.10. Heavy steers sold for \$17.50 to \$20.

Yearling Heifers  
Good to choice yearling heifers sold for \$19 to \$20.80. Medium heifers sold for \$17 to \$19. Holstein steer calves, 325 to 380 pounds, sold for \$17.50 to \$19. Holstein feeder steers went out at \$15 to \$16.50.

Cows with calves sold for \$150 to \$190 per pair. Springer cows sold for \$125 to \$185 per head. Fat cows sold for \$13.50 to \$15.75. Utility cows sold for \$11.50 to \$13.50. Cutters went out at \$10 to \$12. Cannors sold for \$7 to \$11.

"We believe this market compares equally with any market on the west coast at the present time," Bray said. "Our next feeder sale will be announced soon for the early part of December."

### Small House Burns In Morning Blaze

A small house at Buncom at the junction of Little Applegate and Sterling Creek Roads burned to the ground yesterday, the Jackson County Sheriff's office reported.

They said that the house was owned by Lillian Hukill, who was not at home and was not available.

Cause of the fire was not known.

## Local Dog Kennel Trains Sled Dogs

By MARY ALICE BRUSHA  
"Wooton's Knotty Pine Kennel," at 3184 Old Stage Drive, Medford, is the home of one of the latest champion Malemute sled dog on record.

Champion Arctic Frost of Erowah, or Frosty as he is most commonly called, finished his championship at Petaluma, Calif., May 5, 1963. He is three years old, stands two feet, four inches tall, and weighs 130 pounds.

This is the only kennel of registered Malemutes between Redding, Calif., and Portland, Ore. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wooton, who with the help of their four children, care for nine sled dogs, eight Malemutes and one Samoyed.

Working Team  
All the dogs at the kennel are working team animals, and are rotated in the team to give each dog lead team experience. So far Frosty has stayed highest on the totem pole in that respect.

When he isn't busy with the sled, (which is an original Alaskan freight sled) he can be found playing with the children, or resting comfortably in the Wooton home. He graduated from the Obedience Training School and always conducts himself as the perfect gentleman.

This big hunk of canine is a grey and white bundle of kindness. He never has a ruffled expression on his beautiful masked face. When he is spoken to he actually seems to be saying, "Hi-to-you."

Because of the size of the Malemute some persons are of the opinion that this breed of dog is vicious. The Wootons deny this and also rumors that the Malemute is related to the wolf. They say these two animals are as far apart as it is possible for any two animals to be.

Frosty recently appeared at the Wilson school, and at the A.B.C., kindergarten in order to let the children observe the true nature and actions of a well trained sled dog.

The Malemute in the Rogue Valley is a dog far from his native homeland. It is one of the oldest breed of sled dogs. The name Malemute came from the native Inuit tribe,

who settled along the Kotzebue Sound in Alaska. The origin of these people, and their dogs has never been definitely ascertained.

For many years the sled dogs were the only draft animals used by the Eskimos. Even today in some parts of the frozen north, they are the only means of transportation. They are endowed with tremendous strength. A team of these dogs is capable of pulling extremely large loads. The record weight pulled by one dog was 3,100 pounds at the "Sweepstakes" in Nome, Alaska.

At the head of the dog team, where the Malemute excels, he exhibits a proud and stately carriage. He is an aggressive leader. When properly trained is able to fill any job requiring the services of a dog.

Wooton has taught the oldest son, Ricky, to drive the sled and the other children go along for the ride. The sled is equipped with front wheel steering, and brakes.

The Wootons have been long time boosters of sled dog activities and were instrumental in the recent organization of the first sled dog club in this area. The group held its first meeting in October, at the Wooton home, and elected officers for the coming year. They are: Dick Wooton, chairman; Marilyn Wooton, secretary; Al Hooker, publicity and photographer.

All persons interested in sled dog activities are asked to call 664-3445. It is the club's aim to participate as a group in "play days" with 1-3 dog sprints, lead dog competition, weight pulling, children's short distance races, and possibly some long distance trials. If and when races are conducted in this area they will be held at the Mt. Ashland ski resort.

Some 20 persons attended the first meeting of sled dog owners, it was noted then there are three breeds of these dogs in Medford. They are Alaskan Husky, Alaskan Malemute, Siberian Husky and Samoyed. Coming locations of races announced were: Jan. 25-26, 1964, Hoo-Doo Ski Bowl, Feb. 8-9, Mt. Hood, Feb. 22-23, Seattle; March 21-22, Bachelor Butte.



YOUNG SLED DOG — This young Husky is one of the sled dogs raised and trained by a local kennel. These dogs are gentle with children and are good watchdogs, their owners claim.

## RANCHER RETURNS

MONTAGUE — Leonard Shelley, rancher of the Little Shasta area, has returned home from two weeks spent at the Rogue Valley Hospital in Medford after undergoing surgery there. He is much improved and hopes to be at work again soon.

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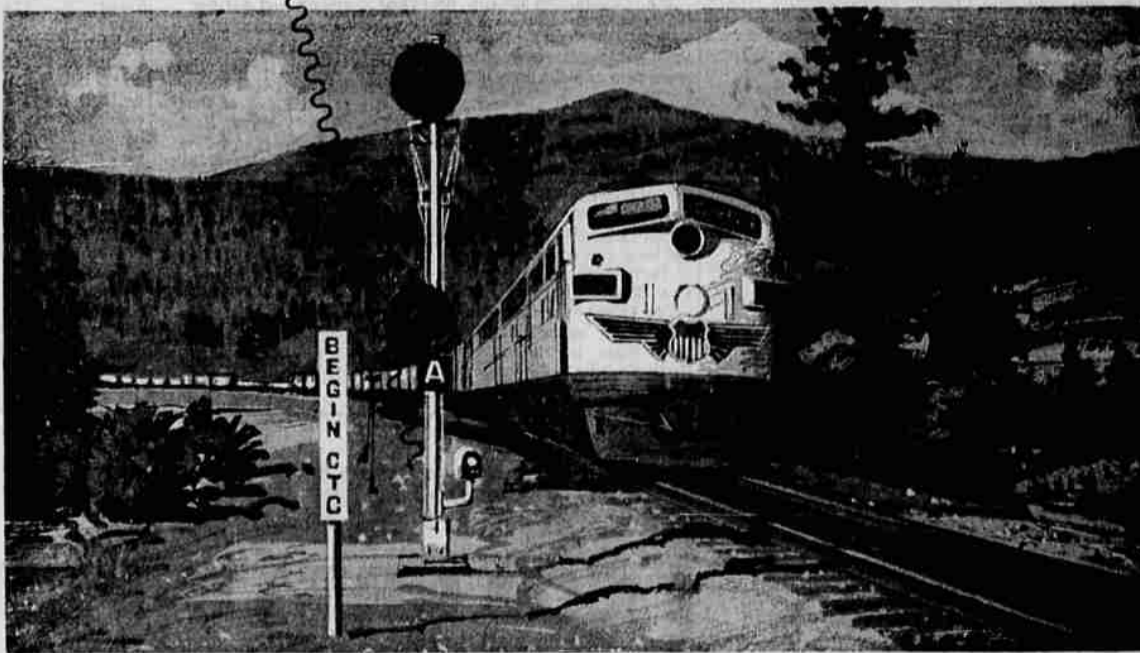
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