



Small Worlds Around Us

Lynn W. Watkins By

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Now We Can Celebrate 100 Years of Chewing
 "They" whoever "they" are—missed the boat when they overlooked dedicating a week or even a single day to the centennial observance of the first American manufacture of that now-popular masticatory article, "chewing gum."

It was in the year 1860 that an enterprising individual had the bright idea of mixing chicle with paraffin, sugar and flavoring extract, and started a big business.

Thomas Adams, who started it, certainly wouldn't recognize his brainchild if he were to come back and see what has happened in just a hundred years.

Many years before Adams' time, down in Central America, the Maya Indians somehow discovered the elastic and long-lasting properties of a sap that exuded from the sapodilla tree. It was a tree that grew everywhere in Mexico and in the tropical Americas, so it was an easy step, even for those primitive people, to discover the chewing qualities of the sapodilla's chicle.

They were fond of the rusty brown fruit, so sweet and juicy, so sweet, in fact, that sapodillas have been called "a pear with brown sugar."

Wad of Gum
 Whenever the tree was wounded or the bark was split, a white, sticky, milk-like sap exuded. A tablespoon of it, flavored with some of the sweet pulp of the ripe fruit, was a delicious, long-lasting wad of chewing gum.

So it was only natural that Maya children, as well as adults, spending as much time around and near the sapodilla tree as they probably did, found that chicle was chewable.

It was natural that a tree yielding such delicious fruit should be introduced into the United States, where, in the extreme south of Florida, the tree flourishes.

Today, the fruit with the rusty-brown skin and yellow, fragrant, very sweet flesh should become a useful ornamental in southern Florida. An analysis of the fruit of the sapodilla tree reveals the fact that the ripe fruit is 14 per cent sugar, and is rich in vitamins A and C.

The ripe sapodilla taste a great deal like melted brown sugar. Some say it has a flavor like maple sugar. Today, in its native land where once the ancient Maya Indians lived alone, the gathering of chicle for the later inclusion in chewing gum is big business.

A V-shaped cut is made in the bark of the tree. From this injury issues the thick, white sap in a steady drip that may have given somebody the idea of drawing a silly TV commercial about what occurs in a human stomach when "acid drip, drip, drips" from a tiny faucet.

The latex, gathered in pails, is boiled down much the same as the sap from the maple tree. Crude chicle is hard, brittle and rosin-like, but softens easily when warmed even in a person's mouth. It mixes readily with sugar or various flavoring extracts, and is a commodity of tremendous economic importance.

Maybe the old Maya Indians, like many people in our own time, found that gum-chewing had a tendency to relieve nervous tension, or that the chewer could concentrate his attention better or for longer periods while working his jaws on a wad of elastic, pleasant tasting chicle.

Anyway, the chicle of the sapodilla tree, from the sap or juice from the unripe fruit, has become pretty important, either as an exercise for the jaws, the good of the teeth, or as something to "talk through."

Those old Maya Indians really started something we could get our teeth into.

Note To Santa Brings Donations

CHICAGO (UPI) — "Dear Santa," the note began. "I am a little boy 12 years. I would like a little present as we are very poor and our Santa hasn't enough money for presents this year."

It was signed, "Norman McKell, Daktown, New Brunswick, Canada."

The note was written on a weather-beaten scrap of notebook paper and tied with black thread to a Christmas tree delivered in Chicago. The tree was purchased by a trucking firm, Central Motor Lines, for its offices.

The firm, working through Illinois Bell Telephone Co., learned Norman's father was still hospitalized from wounds received in World War II.

The employees of the trucking and telephone firms began collecting donations.

SAFEMWAY ECONOMY CENTERS

EFFECTIVE AT ASHLAND SAFEMWAY AND MEDFORD WEST MAIN SAFEMWAY ONLY!

Safeway Sells Only Quality Merchandise... Priced Much Lower Too!

CAL-DAK KING SIZE TV TRAYS
 Three popular patterns - Lido, Tapestry, Autumn Leaves
\$1.00

Terry Wash Cloths Pkg. of 2 **37c**
TERRY TOWELS 3 for **97c**

Early American PRESSCUT GLASS
 Serving dishes 10 1/4" salad or fruit bowl, 13 1/2" serving trays, 7 1/4" candy jars with cover, 9" console bowl.
 Your Choice **88c**

REMCO MOTORIZED MONKEY GUN
 For Jungle Guerilla Warfare Use 2-Dsz. Batteries **4.87**

YAHTZEE An exciting game of skill and chance. Fun for the entire family. **\$1.77**
MONKEY HELMET Adjustable visor, tinted lens, adjustable antenna, fits all head sizes. **\$2.47**
MONOPOLY The Parker Game of real estate and trading game equipment. **\$3.97**

10 LITTLE INDIANS TV RADIO
 High quality music movement, cannot be overwound. See and hear musical picture stories. Non-toxic finish. Safe and happy play. **\$2.92**

ELDON GO CART RACEWAY **\$7.97**
 2x4 Foot track, operates on batteries or power pack, remote control. Thrills and spills of the big road race. Racing in miniature, new exciting action sport. Sets up in minutes.

Mouse Trap Game
 Two to four players of any age throw dice and take turns setting up the Mouse Trap... the mechanical wonder of the age! Now, try to trap the other player's mouse! Ready?
 Careful! Twist the rank and see the amazing chain reaction of moving parts... whack, ploaf, bump, whoops! oops! splash! Tick-tock!... whee, ya got him! "MOUSETRAP!" **\$4.97**

No. 100 KODAK INSTAMATIC Camera Outfit **\$12.95**
 This colorful gift outfit contains everything for taking day and night snapshots. Complete with camera, cartridges, flashbulbs and batteries.

Wonderful Gift Suggestions!
BEACON ELECTRIC BLANKET
 Double bed size, single control, 74% rayon, 20% Acrylic, 6% nylon. Two year guarantee. Pink and Beige. **\$9.97**

WEST BEND or REGAL WARE PARTY PERCOLATOR
 30 Cup size, fully automatic, faucet handle for easy pouring. Perfect for the large holiday gatherings. **\$8.97**

COOKIE JARS
 Colorful decorated pottery jars, avg. 7 1/2 inch diameter by 11 inches. Wide variety in design. **\$1.89**

MEN'S & LADIES' CLOTHES HANGERS
 Men's Suit Hangers, Pkg. of 5; Ladies' Skirt Hanger, Pkg. of 3; Ladies' Suit Hanger, Pkg. of 4; your choice **97c**
 Ladies' Dress and Blouse Hangers, Pkg. of 4 ea. **67c**

G. E. CLOCK RADIOS
 With snooze-alarm, automatic wake up to music, 4 tube plus rectifier, 4" Dynapower speaker. Antique white. **\$17.97**

Suggestions for Trim A Tree
Indoor Light Sets by Heiferts
 25 Light Set **\$2.77** 15 Light Set **\$1.77**

Outdoor Light Set by Heiferts **\$2.99**
On-A-Lite Outdoor Light Set **\$3.97**
 The lights you place anywhere on the cord. 14-light set.

Tree Stand Adjustable, heavy gauge steel, with water container to keep your tree fresh. **1.39**
Color Wheel On-A-Lite, 12 1/2" diameter wheel, adjusts to any angle. **\$5.97**
Weatherproof Floodlight Holder U.L. Approved, complete with 4 inch lawn spike and outdoor cord... **\$1.87**

G.E. FLOOD LAMPS
 Enhance the beauty of your tree
 Indoor Asstd. Colors **\$2.98** Outdoor Asstd. Colors **\$3.98**

Tinsel Icicles Fireproof, heavy foil drooping icicles naturally. 300 Strands Pkg. **19c**
Angel Hair Non-irritation, extra soft, FIRE PROOF. White, green, pink or blue. **24c**
5-Bell Cluster With Ding Dong lamps. Frosted, for indoor or outdoor decoration. **\$2.97**
Snow Spray White and pink. Beautify your tree with snow. Big 12-oz. can. **49c**

Flocking Kit See-Set. Soft pink aroma. Fire retardant. Complete with gun. FLOCKING REFILLS, 1 LB. BAG \$1.27 **\$2.77**
Revolving Tree Holders U.L. Approved all steel construction, baked enamel finish, for indoor use, for artificial trees up to 6' tall. **\$5.97**

Jack Frost Magic Icicles For Christmas window frosting, dries 20-30 minutes into myriad of crystals. Easily removed. 11-oz. spray can. **97c**
Nativity Sets For your Christmas scenes... **59c**

Prices in this advertisement are effective Thursday, Dec. 19 thru Tuesday, Dec. 24.

HD-5 PRESTO DELUXE HAIR DRYER
 Five heat settings, bouffant adjustable bonnet, clip on lid with mirror, nail dryer vent, beautiful carrying case **\$15.86**

HD-3 PRESTO HAIR DRYER
 Large bouffant bonnet, two heat settings, adjustable waist or shoulder strap **\$9.97**

PRESTO MANICURE SET
 Professional manicure and pedicure care, easy to operate. Fabric cover matches dryer. **\$4.89**

BATTERY OPERATED GIVE-A-SHOW PROJECTOR
 Featuring Flintstones and Pebbles, Huck, Yogi, and others on 112 Color Slides giving 16 Shows!
 Now, give 16 exciting cartoon shows of favorite TV characters! Big full color pictures up to 3 ft. square! Uses 3 "D" Batteries, not incl. As advertised on TV! **\$3.99**

Ant Farm 6" high x 9" wide. Includes hand-book, stock certificate and sand. **\$2.68**

GILBERT ERECTOR SET You can build anything with an Erector Set. **\$14.88**

GLO-STARS Makes every light on your tree a glowing star, fits all C-6, C-7 1/2 string sets, for indoors and outdoors. **67c**

ON-A-LIGHT SOCKET Place lights anywhere on cord. U.L. approved for indoors and outdoors. Weatherproof. Uses any C7 1/2 lamp. Pkg. of 3 **57c**

A GRAND GIFT No. 400 CUCKOO CLOCKS
 Imported hand carved—Cuckoos and gongs on the exact hour and once on the half-hour. **\$10.88**

YOU BUY MORE FOR LESS AT YOUR SAFEMWAY ECONOMY CENTER