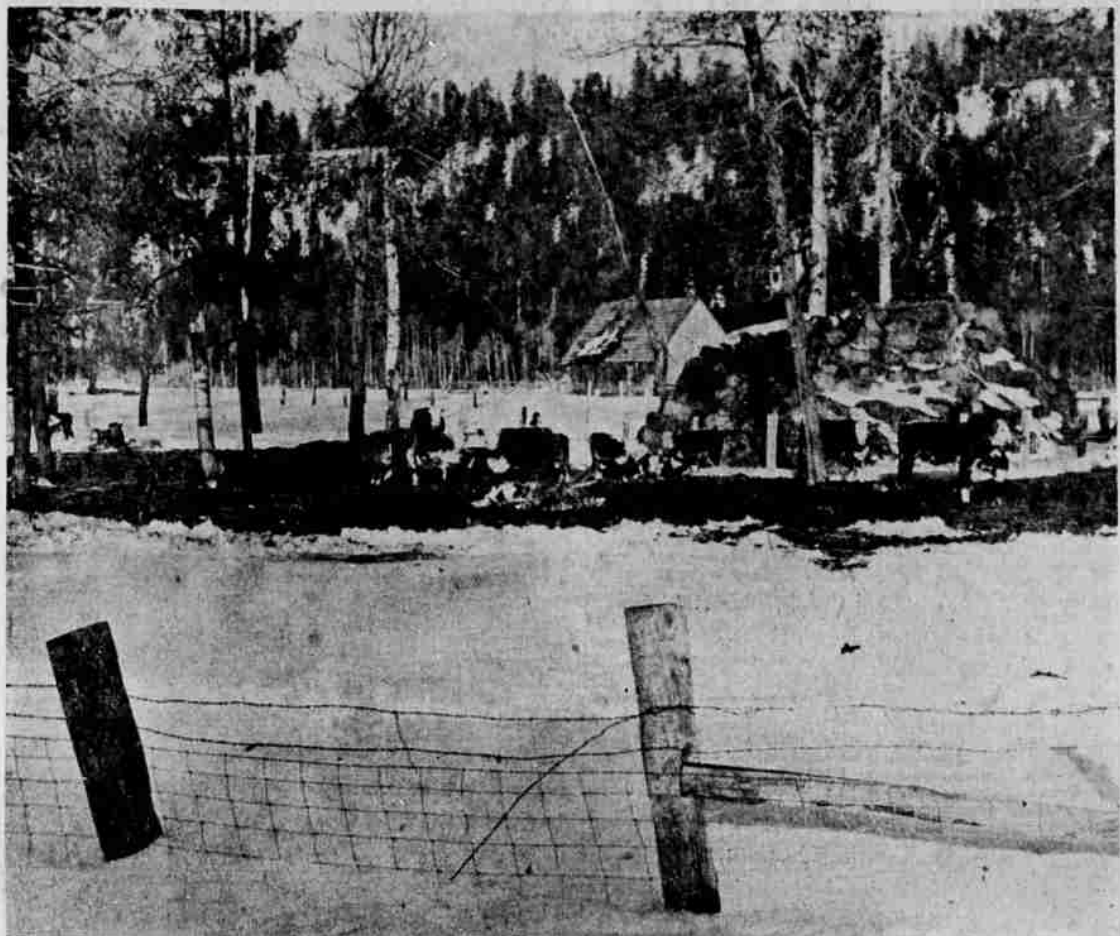




HAYSTACKS HUDDLED UNDER THE TREES with a covering of snow are a familiar sight this time of year. And so are the white-faced cattle waiting for the man to come around and dole out dinner.

Model Railroads Popular Childrens' Christmas Gift

Come Christmas morning, more model electric trains will be high-balling through American living rooms than real trains on actual railroads. Junior will be the engineer, Pop the conductor, and Mom—well, Mom will be the maintenance crew in charge of worry and cleanup.

The tiny roads will be more realistic than ever before in model-world history. You probably heard that last year, too, and maybe the year before. For the trend to miniature realism has been going on since 1900, when Joshua Lionel Cowen came up with his first toy train.

But each year the trend gets stronger, and this one is no exception. Every type of railroad equipment, from rolling stock down through trestles, has been copied and then refined for new degrees of modeling pleasure.

For the boy or girl who already has plenty of cars and track, there are such things as scale-sized trestles, with simulated girder construction. Or fancy remote control devices which switch cars, lower gates and regulate traffic signals.

A railroad, of course, needs a passenger depot, and one new model with automatic talking devices is a triumph of imitation. If you want the train to stop at the station, you press a remote control. When the train arrives, the conductor's train calls, the whistles, hisses, chugs and other sounds of arrival and departure are heard from within the station. When

sounds cease, the train resumes its trip automatically.

There also are stations for freight. One type, by Lionel, has two tiny redcaps who run in and out of a lighted station on tiny baggage cars. Another, by American Flyer, has two miniature workmen who feed small crates into a boxcar. The trainman lowers a chute into the boxcar's door, and the crates move one at a time, as fast as you press the button.

Realistic, too, are the water towers. Some have movable spouts which lower over the engine tender. Others have rising bubbles to simulate flowing water, and are painted in green-and-white checkboard patterns.

One new operating barrel car has barrels which move up the

car to the feet of a tiny trainman, then roll out to a roadside bin—all by remote control. Then there's the popular log car, which tilts up to roll off logs.

A two-unit Diesel engine, new to this year's market, has a powerful worm-drive motor which starts instantly and stops the engine on a dime. This is a blueprint replica of an actual full-sized switcher, even complete with air chime horn. And just the thing for night operation is an operating searchlight car. The searchlight revolves continuously, picking up current from tracks.

Also new this year is a "Silver Dawn" observation car, with tiny passengers and illumination. This, like each of the other cars, is adorned with authentic color heralds of the nation's leading railroads.

U.S. Mothers Gather Aids To Prepare Xmas Dinners

Two marvelous thoughts hover in the kitchen air as mother drags out her bespattered cookbook and her lists for Christmas Day: one, a turkey, crisp, shiny and brown, the moist meat falling away under father's knife as the family munches eagerly impatiently; two, a remnant whose bones look like the naked structure of a building, the last piece of meat gone from the platter, the last scrap of stuffing sought from its now-revealed hiding place.

The promise and happy fulfillment are both in her mind as she marshals forces for the big job. And no matter how many times she's prepared Christmas dinner, she wants to know and use the newest and best ideas and techniques.

In answer to a popular question, both the Poultry and Egg National Board and Frigidaire people agree that freezing a stuffed turkey, either cooked or uncooked, is not good.

If advance preparation is desired, these authorities suggest preparing the dry ingredients for stuffing the day before and storing them on the shelf.

As for the stuffing itself, the Poultry and Egg people concede that there is much variation in what goes into a stuffing—in the South, it's crumbled cornbread and pecans, almonds and hickory nuts; in the West, it's Oregon filberts; in Massachusetts, it's cranberries; and in the upper Midwest, it's walnuts and raisins.

For a good compromise—a recipe from the heart of the country—they offer Mrs. Harry Truman's recipe. This recipe will do for an eight to 10-pound bird.

All-American Stuffing
12 slices dry bread
1/2 pound butter
1 cup diced onions
1 cup diced celery
1 cup giblet stock
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 1/2 teaspoons poultry seasoning

Dry out bread in slow oven. Cut into half-inch cubes. Put butter into frying pan, add onions and celery. Sauté until light brown. Add giblet stock and let simmer for five minutes. Add bread cubes, mix and season with salt, pepper and poultry seasoning. The dressing should be somewhat moist so that it will be light and fluffy when done.

For the last word in turkey preparation, they offer these suggestions: After bird is eviscerated and cleaned, remove pinfeathers, singe if necessary, wash outside thoroughly, rinse cavity with cold water and wipe dry. Then make stuffing; rub cavity with salt just before roasting and stuff lightly by hand.

Truss legs, even if bird is not stuffed. Grease skin with fat. Cover top and sides with 'at-moistened' cloth. Place in pre-heated 325-degree oven. When turkey is two-thirds done, cut trussing string.

One more caution—do not sear, cover or add salt to the turkey. To tell when it's exactly done, beside using your cookbook's timetable, test to see if the drumstick moves readily or twists out of joint. Meat thermometer in center of thigh muscle should register 190-195 degrees when done.

Guide To Select Right Toy Told

The Toy Guidance Council offers a few simple recipes for selecting the right toy out of the appealing ads and arrays. Their authority is Emma Sheehy, who is associate professor of childhood education, Teachers' Advisory Committee.

Her general suggestions include: shop early; check Toy Guidance leaflets; don't pick toys that amuse you, but do consider the child's interests and needs.

Specifically, Miss Sheehy suggests:

For infants—unbreakable rattles, bath toys, soft rubber squeeze toys, washable dolls and animals and sound-making push toys. Guard against: sharp edges, loose parts that might be eaten, unwashability and unchewability. Try for toys with interesting textures, bright colors and parts small enough to be held in stubby hands.

CARE PACKAGES
You can spread Christmas joy overseas to needy families through CARE packages. Not only food, but clothing packages are made up and sent in your name. CARE stands for Cooperative for American Remittances to Everywhere, Inc.



SLEIGH BELLES — pose in mid-winter finery of velvet and white fur. The young models, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Whytal, are, Linda Beth, five, at the left; and Suana Lou, seven.

—Photo by Ferebee

Telephone Call Suggested Gift

One of the best Christmas presents in the book is a telephone call to relatives or friends who live at long distances. And if you follow the advice of the phone company, you'll save yourself time, money and trouble.

According to communications men, December 26 is the busiest day at central switchboards. So they advise that you place your calls before or after Christmas Day itself.

Telephone rates are reduced at night and all day Sunday, so take advantage of this economy. In addition, you should call your destination by number because it's faster. And be sure to jot down a list of things to talk about so that you're not tongue-tied to the state of the weather or "how-are-you" over and over again.

Sauces Dress Up Meat Fare

Many dishes can be fancied up for holiday fare with the judicious use of sauces.

Roast Beef Noel

Select a 3 to 4-lb roast of prime beef. Rub it with coarse salt. Crush some black peppercorns and press 3 to 4 teaspoons of them into meat. Roast in 300 degree oven without basting.

When done, sprinkle with 1 1/2 tablespoons of rosemary leaves and press them into the fat with a fork. Place roast on hot platter, surround with rings of broiled tomatoes and puree of spinach. Just before serving, warm 4 ounces of French cognac in a saucepan and pour it over the roast. Ignite the cognac with a match and serve while aflame. (This is from the French National Association of Cognac Producers.)

Tomato Sauce for Fowl

Place 3 ripe tomatoes in a saucepan with 1 sliced carrot, 1 sliced onion, a teaspoon of butter and some parsley. Salt and pepper heavily. Add 1 strip chopped raw bacon, plus 4 ounces dry vermouth. Cook covered for one hour on a medium flame. Stir often.

Then sprinkle tomatoes with flour. Add 1/2 cup clear meat broth. Cook for ten minutes more. Strain. Bring to boil again. Add 1 teaspoon butter when serving. (This recipe by Stock Vermouth Company.)

HOT PUDDING SAUCE

Put 2 cups dry white wine, 4 egg yolks and 2 whole eggs, 1 teaspoon lemon juice and 3 tablespoons granulated sugar in top of double boiler and heat over a low flame, until it boils. Remove quickly from fire to prevent curdling. (Created by Mrs. Hilde A. Putter of Paul Masson Vineyard, Saratoga, Calif.)



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