

Christmas heritage memories

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Tiny straw creations, woven together with fine string and reminiscent of snowflakes, went on the tree, while large ones were hung in windows or displayed against a contrasting background.

Spruce was the traditional green, used abundantly throughout the house. But a child never helped to decorate the tree. It was hidden behind the locked door of the living room, decorated by Mother while the family attended

Christmas Eve church services, and then displayed "in an experience you would never forget" with the doors flung open to reveal the tree in its candle-lit beauty.

"With real candles, you sit and enjoy the beautifully lit tree. One never just walks away and let it burn," warned Mrs. Bey. The Bey family still decorates their fresh evergreen with burning candles, carefully placed so as not to burn directly beneath an ornament or overhanging branch. More German families, according to Mrs. Bey, are adopting the perhaps safer, but not as majestic, use of electric candles.

"Baking is still one of my very favorite memories," she recalled. "And, every German housewife still bakes at Christmas."

Stollen, the customary fruit-filled bread, is baked many days ahead of time and set in a cool spot to "ripen" and blend flavors. Stollen never has eggs in it, and according to Mrs. Bey,

was never decorated with green or red cherries, contrary to some of today's cookbooks. It's richness came from lots of fresh butter, and almonds, raisins and lemon peel. Other children's favorites included chocolate-covered pretzels, marzipan, and anise-flavored sprungerle cookies, probably once decorated with animal symbols and used as religious offerings.

Within each country of Europe, and even within individual countries, slightly different customs are observed. In Switzerland, where Mrs. Bey's grandmother still lives, Christmas is strictly a family-oriented holiday. Religious observance always comes before any merrymaking and the Christ child appears as a radiant little angel, clad in white, arriving on Christmas Eve.

No sound may disturb the beauty and tranquility of the rural Swiss Christmas Eve, save the ringing of church bells. In rural canton areas, the ringing of the bells

Fulton Grange No. 66 makes Christmas plans

OAKRYN - The Fulton Grange No. 66 met November 27 at the Oakryn Grange Hall with Master Harry Baker presiding. Reports were given on the Pennsylvania State Grange meeting in Butler.

Mrs. Charles Wallace announced there will be an Attic Sale booth at the

Elwood Barnes benefit to be held December 8 and 9 at the Solanco Community Fair Building, Quarryville. Anyone having a donation toward the booth should bring them Friday evening, December 8 or the morning of December 9.

Mrs. Thomas Galbreath, lecturer, presented a Thanksgiving program.

A Christmas party with a \$2 gift exchange will be held on December 11. Allison Applet, the Grange's Miss Solanco contestant, will do a dance routine at the party.

The Grange will go Christmas caroling on December 22. They will leave the Grange Hall at 7 p.m. The youth committee will be in charge.

Not Necessarily

When shopping for diet foods, keep in mind that some low calorie items are not necessarily oil or sugar-free. In addition, not every diet-pack food will fit a low salt diet and some vegetables will save only a few calories per serving.

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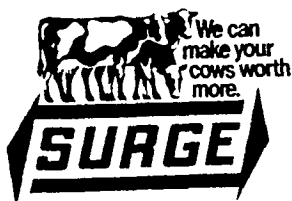
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