

Homestead Notes

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½ teaspoon crushed cardamon seed
½ cup nuts ground fine

Cream butter, add sugar, orange juice rind and egg. Beat until light. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Roll very thin. Cut with floured cutters. Bake in 425 degree F. oven for six to eight minutes. Makes 10 dozen.

Traditions shared or taken from Mexican traditions by Americans include chocolates, poinsettias and a turkey dinner.

"Weselych Swiat." Greetings from Poland. According to researchers who formulated the information presented in this particular display, St. Sylvester Eve, December 31 is traditionally the time when everyone can do what he wishes regardless of his station in life. Although Poland is now a Communist country and no longer officially recognizes the religious celebration called Christmas, many Poles still recall and keep traditions of the religious holiday in their homes.

The Star of Bethlehem is their most significant symbol. The first star to appear on Christmas Eve heralds the end of the Advent fast. A festive Christmas Eve supper is the focal point of the Polish celebration. According to tradition, there must always be an odd number of dishes.

However, the number of people partaking of the meal must be even or paired. Places are always set for absent members of the family and there is always a place for unexpected guests and one extra place of the absent Jesus.

Following the meal, the Star-man, a more religious version of Santa Claus (usually the village priest in disguise) appears to give gifts to good children and scold bad ones. Good children have to recite the Catechism to obtain a gift.

Polish meal is a meatless one in which a holy wafer called the "Oplatek" is broken and shared. A wheat pudding symbolizing harvest, honey, salt and bread signifying best wishes, good health and good luck are an integral part of the Christmas Eve feast in Poland. The Honey Kisses are traditional Polish sweets.

Polish Honey Kisses

1 cup sugar
½ cup butter
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon ginger
1 cup honey
2 tablespoons milk
3 and ½ cups flour
powdered sugar frosting
¼ teaspoon nutmeg

Cream butter, sugar, lemon peel and spices. Stir in

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milk. Stir in flour gradually. Roll dough to 1/8 inch thickness. Cut into fancy shapes with cutters. Bake at 350 degrees F. for eight to 10 minutes. Cool and frost with the following frosting:

¼ cup milk
2 cups confectioners' sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
dash of salt

"Froeliche Weinachten." Greetings from Germany. On the evening of December 5, the German children leave their shoes or stockings before the door or at the hearth. St. Nicholas will fill their footwear with goodies. If the children have been bad, St. Nicholas's helper, Ruprecht, leaves a switch which the parents use on the offending child.

Four weeks from Christmas Day the first candle in the Advent wreath is lit in the home. Each week an additional candle is lit until Christmas arrives.

Especially important to the German Christmas celebration according to the presentation given during this display is the manger scene or "krippe." Either the scene is made lovingly by hand by family members or purchased at great expense from a talented wood carver. Additional decorative touches to the German holiday

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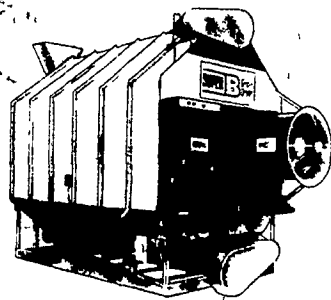
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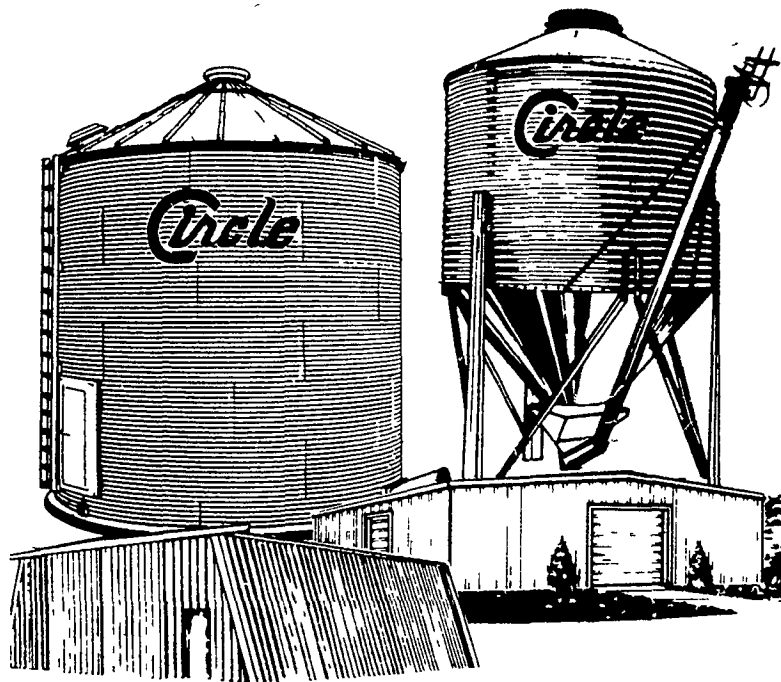
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