# Ida's Notebook by Ida Risser

Almost Thanksgiving and we do have a lot to be thankful for again this year. We are both able to hop out of bed in the morning, which is more than a lot of people can do. Recently we've been visiting folks in hospitals and nursing homes, which helps us realize our blessings.

This year our gardens have given us ample produce and I canned and froze 344 quart of fruit and vegetables. The only crop that was not ample was the

sweet corn, which the raccoons ate. The other week someone asked what I still had in my garden. Till I was finished mentioning Swiss chard, tomatoes, radishes, parsley, peanuts, sweet potatoes, broccoli, squash, leeks and lima beans, they probably wished they had not asked. This year we dug several bushel of sweet potatoes and so our friends are sharing the crop.

My houseplants are finally all in the house. This year there are only 84 on the windowsills and in the two bay windows. They keep me busy in the winter as the blooming ones do drop their blossoms, and I must water them quite often.

And, there are nine baskets of different kinds of bulbs and tubers in the basement. Not everything has been dug up as I really have too many as they multiply each year. If I only knew someone who wanted red cannas as I will leave them outside to freeze.

This year our daughter in New Jersey has invited us to her home for Thanksgiving. I shall miss putting a big turkey in the oven and making all the extra dishes. Maybe I can make some things to take along to her



### Cook's Question

(Continued from Page B8)

ANSWER Lynda Bell, Lincoln University, wanted a recipe for gingerbread with warm caramel sauce, which had appeared in the "Dinah Shore Cookbook," printed in the 1970s. Thanks to Bonny Ray, Derry; Ginny Wolf, Middletown, Md.; Stephanie Binner, Westminster, Md., and others for sending recipes.

#### Gingerbread With Caramel Sauce

- 1 cup molasses
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 eggs, beaten separately
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 2 cups flour (scant) 1 cup boiling water

Mix molasses, baking soda, and spices. Add sugar, butter, flour, and water; beat well. Add egg yolks and fold in whites. Pour in a greased ring mold and bake in a 350 degree oven for 35 to 40 minutes. (Don't worry if batter seems thin, it's supposed to be).

Caramel Sauce:

- 2 egg yolks
- 1 cup cream
- pound light brown sugar
- tablespoon butter
- teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Add egg yolks and cream to sugar. Cook until creamy in double boiler. Add butter. When cool, add vanilla and salt.

Serve on a large round platter with bowl that fits in the center of the ring after the gingerbread has been unmolded. Gingerbread and sauce are even nicer when served a little warm. Serves 8.

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