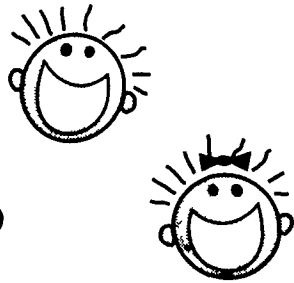


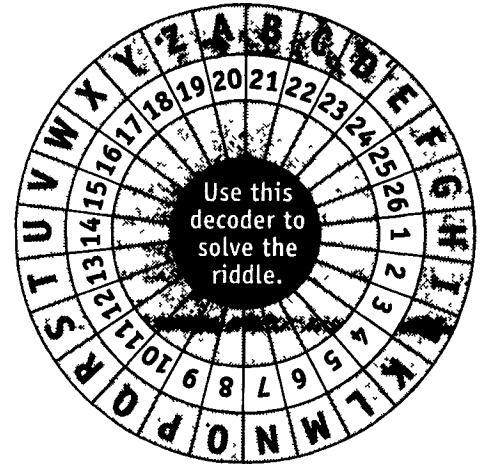
# Kids Korner



## SECRET CODE

Why do cows have bells?

13	1	24	2	11	1	8	11	7	12
23	8	7	8	13	16	8	11	4	



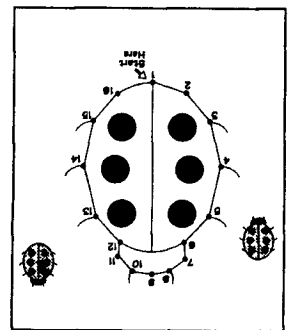
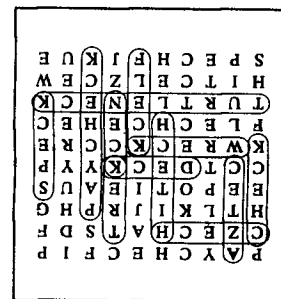
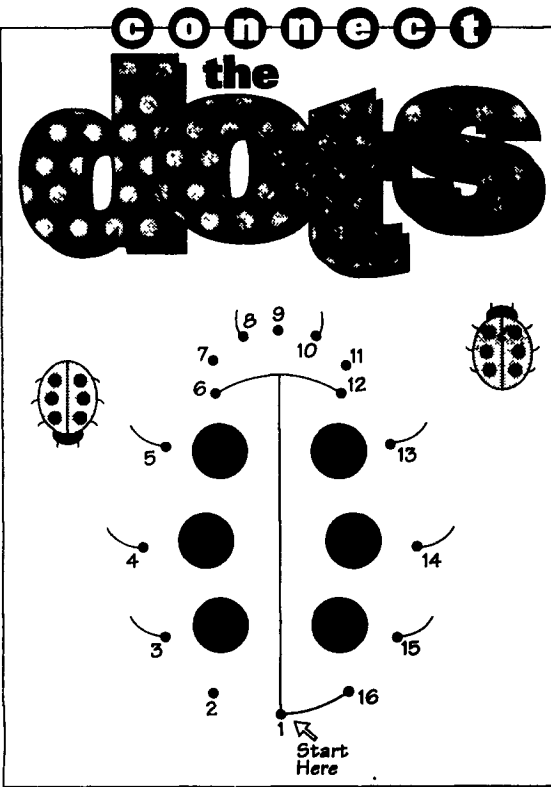
## SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- |       |          |            |
|-------|----------|------------|
| AZTEC | FLECK    | SPECK      |
| CHECK | HI-TECH  | TREK       |
| CZECH | NECK     | TURTLENECK |
| DECK  | PAYCHECK | WRECK      |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS

P A Y C H E C F I P  
 C Z E C H A T S D F  
 H T L K I J R P H G  
 E E P O T I E A U S  
 C C T D E C K Y Y P  
 K W R E C K C C R E  
 F L E C H C E H E C  
 T U R T L E N E C K  
 H I T C E L Z C E W  
 S P E C H F J K U E



## Oyster Stew At Grandma's House On Christmas Day

GAY BROWNLEE

Somerset Co. Correspondent

Going to Grandma's house on Christmas Day evening was lots of fun when I was growing up. Grandma was happy to keep a tradition of making oyster stew and inviting aunts, uncles, and cousins for a meal.

As soon as the relatives came inside from the cold, Grandma heaped their coats, scarves, and mittens on the bed downstairs where she and Grandpa slept.

For supper Grandma also fixed lettuce salad with homemade dressing and put out fancy dishes filled with cookies, potato candy, hardtack, peanut brittle, and pumpkin pie.

Potato candy is a really good treat. To make it, just squash a medium potato that has been boiled tender and peeled, or put a spoonful of leftover mashed potatoes in a medium bowl. Add a little vanilla for flavor. You may need a whole bag of confectioners' sugar. Mix it in by small amounts. Eventually, it gets thick enough to flatten with a rolling pin on a flat surface, like pie dough. Spread yummy peanut butter over it. Roll up like a jelly roll, slice thin, store in a candy tin with waxed paper or refrigerate and eat.

Back to Grandma's celebration. The table was not big enough for everybody to sit at together, so some relatives sat on the stairway built on the dining

room side of the living room wall.

The steps was a great place, high enough to watch the grownups below. The grownups talked and told fun stories to each other while the kids listened.

Grandma served the stew plain to anybody who didn't like the grayish, funny-looking oysters floating in the bowl with round oyster crackers.

The men would laugh and tease and say: "Oh, just swallow it whole," when a big spoonful of oyster went into their mouth along with the creamy liquid on the soup spoon.

There were lots and lots of dirty dishes to wash at the big white kitchen sink but kids didn't have to help. Grandma's daughters cleaned up for Grandma.

After supper the cousins went outside to frolic in the snow. There were more kids than sleds to go around. So they doubled up to slide down the long hill on a road near the big farmhouse.

First, the biggest and oldest kid laid down on the sled in order to steer it. Next, a smaller person laid on top of him and held on for dear life. They spread their legs wide so a third person could leap on after shoving them off with all his might. There was barely room for his knees.

Usually, when the sled picked up speed it was easy to lose your balance and topple off while it

shot on down the road. Everyone shouted and laughed and got up with snow packed in their boots around their socks.

When their parents made them come in again the children looked like snowmen. Icy crystals stuck fast to their coats, caps, hair, and eyebrows. Cheeks were rosy and chapped and noses were runny.

There was a spiky thorn bush Grandma stored year after year and brought out at Christmas for a colorful gum drop tree decoration.

The other thing about Grandma, she saved every piece of gift wrapping paper, string, and bows. There was a time, earlier, when people had very little money to spend. Like many others, they just used things again and again.

Today, after the neat presents are unwrapped, the oyster stew, candy, and pie are eaten, the best thing about Christmas is still the families that get together.

Grandma and Grandpa put a lot of love into Christmas because they always remembered that Baby Jesus was born in a very poor stable in Bethlehem. Grandma and Grandpa believed the three rich kings that brought expensive gifts to the Christ Child were a good example to do the same for others.

Wow!  
 Boy oh boy oh boy!  
 Merry Christmas!

## Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

**Can water make me sick?**  
 Water itself won't make you sick—it's what is in the water that you need to worry about!  
 It's very important that the water we drink be clean and safe. If it's dirty or contaminated, we could get awful-sounding diseases like typhoid, dysentery or hepatitis.  
 Many people who live outside of a town or city get their water from a well or spring. Older wells may have more bacteria—because of the way they were built. The groundwater itself may not be dirty, but an older well or spring could be acting like a funnel and things like chemicals or other impurities could seep in and contaminate the water.  
 Those of us who live in town may get water from one main water supply. Lucky for us, the waterworks people test the water on a regular basis. They make sure it's free from harmful bacteria that could come from human or animal waste, garbage or chemicals. If they find that the water supply is dirty and unsafe, they find ways to clean it. Boiling water is one way to kill harmful bacteria. When contamination occurs, the health department may require everyone to boil water before using it. Boiling the contaminated water for one minute kills disease-causing organisms.  
 Find out where your water comes from!  
 Scientifically yours,  
 Twig