Christmas in the tropics - a blend of ethnic customs

BY JOAN KINGSBURY Christmas in the tropics! Warm sun, sandy beaches, bathing suits and shorts. This is what the Christmas season is like in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Suzane Wenk-Wolff's hometown.

Suzie, who's family still resides in Sao Paulo, moved to the United States with her husband, Kai, vice-president of operations at Offset Paperback, about a year

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and a half ago. Since Sao Paulo has many Italian and German people living there, Christmas customs are a blending of several ethnic groups.

Typically, the large Christmas dinner is eaten at midnight, when Christmas Eve becomes Christmas Day. Many people serve ham decorated with cherries, cloves and peaches. Potato salad is a favorite, often molded in a loaf pan,

good served with gravy. Those who serve ham make a chicken pie to serve while those VACUUM CLEANER SON COMMEN choosing turkey serve a shrimp pie. SERVICE • SALES • PARTS

Panetone, a bread made with raisins and candied fruits, is an Italian bread that graces every table. For dessert German cakes, apple pie or chocolate mousse are served.

shrimp. A whole fish,

baked and artfully ser-

ved, is also a feature of

Farofa, a dish made by

browning dry Farina in a

pan, then adding sliced

bacon, black olives,

parsley, onions, plums

and mashed hard boiled

eggs is found on every

table. Suzie says this is

the Christmas table.

Santa Claus does come on Christmas Eve and the children open their gifts then. While the children are out of the room, parents spread gifts under the tree. Then with a ringing of bells signaling that Santa has

come and gone, the little ones happily rush in to open their gifts. The ringing in of the

New Year is also special with parties celebrating the occasion. Parties are large, often with as many 3 egg yolks as 300 guests invited. The Music Box

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Suzie says costume then decorated with parties, which are a popular New Year's Eve tradition, are loads of fun.

Suzie says that she enjoys life in the United States. The Wenk-Wolff's have two sons Luis, 31/2 and Patrick age 2. Both boys speak Portuguese and German while Luis also speaks English. Both Suzie and Kai are fluent in languages. Suzie speaks English, Portuguese, German, French, Italian and Spanish while Kai speaks English, German, Portuguese and French. The boys babysitter, Luiza Leite, also resides with the Wenk-Wolffs.

If you would like to treat your family to some tropical treats for Christmas this year Suzie suggests three recipes, Panetone, Salpicao Tropical and Sweet Milk Caramel. Salpicao Tropical is an extremely popular salad while Sweet Milk Caramel is simply made by boiling sweetened condensed milk in the can then allowing it to cool. Suzie says this is delicious served with white cheese.

PANETONE 1/4 c. sugar 1 T. yeast, heaping 34 c. warm water ½ t. vanilla

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Suzane Went-Wolff and Luiza Leite

1 t. grated lime rind 1 t. salt 3½ c. flour ½ c. butter or margarine,

room temp. two thirds c. raisins, seedless one third c. candied fruit 2 T. butter, melted

Dissolve one teaspoon sugar in warm water with yeast; mix, let rest 10 minutes. Put egg yolks

and remaining sugar. Put two cups of flour into the mixture, beat

(beaten) into vanilla and

mix with lime rind, salt

well. Little by little adding flour 1/4 cup at a time, add remaining flour. Mix

Flour a board, knead dough for 10 minutes on floured board until smooth and elastic. Put in a greased bowl and let rest until double in bulk about 1 hour. Punch the dough down, mix in raisins and candied fruits by hand, kneading the fruit in.

Grease a 3-pound coffee can. Put dough inside can, cover with a towel and let rise 45 minutes. Brush with melted butter.

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees, this is very important since oven must be hot when Panetone is put in the oven. Place Panetone in the oven, lower the temperature to 325 degrees. Bake for 45 minutes. Brush with melted butter. If top darkens too fast, cover with aluminum foil.

After removing from the oven brush again with melted butter, cool. SALPICAO TROPICAL 2 pineapples, cut in half 3 oz. plums, chopped

1½ oz. raisins 11/2 oz. peanuts or nuts

1 c. mayonnaise

1 T. Karo syrup 2 T. mustard

Remove pineapple from shell, leaving shell intact. Cut up pineapple fruit, add to chopped plums, tuna, raisins, nuts. Mix with mayonnaise and Karo syrup and mustard. Put salad into pineapple shell. Decorate as desired.

SWEET MILK CARAMEL 1 can sweetened cndensed

milk boiling water

Bring water to a boil on the stove. Make sure that the boiling water is covering the can. Boil the can for 11/2 hours without opening it. Remove the can from the boiling water and let stand until cool. This is very important since the can will explode if opened when warm. Best if boiled at night, then opened the next morning. This makes the milk into a caramel. Suzie says this tastes delicious served with white cheese.

What's Cookin'!

DALLAS SCHOOLS Dec. 15 - 22

WEDNESDAY--Baked macaroni-cheese or peanut butter-jelly sandwich w-cheese stick, carrot stick, chilled pears, milk. Bonus: Baked soft pretzel.

THURSDAY--Dallas Christmas Dinner--Roast turkey wgiblet gravy, bread dressing, whipped potatoes, cherry red cranapple gelatin salad, ice cream cup, milk. FRIDAY--Breaded fish on roll w-cheese stick or baked

pizza (2 slices), cole slaw, orange wedge, milk. MONDAY--Meatball hoagie or hot dog on roll w-celery stick, buttered macaroni, green beans, cherry gelatin,

TUESDAY--Oven roast pork or peanut butter-jelly sandwich, whipped potatoes w-gravy, rosy applesauce, milk. Bonus: Sugar donut.

WEDNESDAY--Chicken noodle soup w-vegetables, Italian hogie w-lettuce-tomato, or ham-cheese sandwich, fresh fruit, milk. Bonus: Baked brownie.



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RAGGEDY ANN & ANDY PLAYSCHOOL Dec. 16 - 21 WEDNESDAY-Tuna sandwich, chips, carrots, fruit,

apple juice. THURSDAY--Macaroni-cheese, mixed vegetables, jello,

FRIDAY--Egg salad sandwich, chips, carrots, cookies, milk.

MONDAY--Hot dogs, yellow beans, sliced potatoes, fruit, milk.

TUESDAY-Beef-a-roni, bread-butter, pudding, milk.

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOLS Dec. 15 - 24

Junior High & Elementary

WEDNESDAY--Meatball hoagie, corn chips, green beans, pudding, milk.

THURSDAY--Christmas dinner--Turkey-gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, cranberry sauce, Parker House rollbutter, ice cream, milk.

FRIDAY--Batter dipped fish on bun, tartar sauce, potato puffs, cabbage salad, pineapple tidbits, milk.

MONDAY--Toasted cheese sandwich, tomato rice soupsaltines, applesauce, donut, milk. TUESDAY--Taco's w-trimmings, corn, peaches, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Beef stew over noodles, pickled beets, Parker House roll-butter, fruited jello, milk.

THURSDAY--Pizza or peanut butter-jelly sandwich, potato chips, carrot-celery sticks, Christmas treat, milk. FRIDAY-Merry Christmas.

Senior High

WEDNESDAY--Meatball or deli hoagie, corn chips green beans, fruited jello, milk.

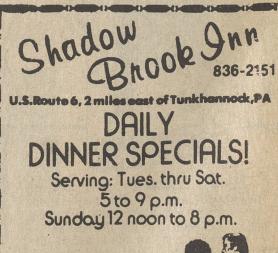
THURSDAY--Christmas dinner--Turkey-gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce, Parker House rollbutter, ice cream, milk.

FRIDAY-Batter dipped fish on bun, tartar sauce, potato puffs, cabbage salad, pineapple tidbits, milk.

MONDAY--Ham patti of pork bar-b-q on bun w-relish, cheese squares, French fries or small salad, pears, milk TUESDAY--Hoagie w-trimmings, tomato rice soupsaltines, apple, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Burrito w-chili, Johnny cake, peaches,

THURSDAY--Pizza or peanut butter-jelly sandwich, pototo chips, carrot-celery sticks, Christmas treat, milk. FRIDAY--Merry Christmas.





Sat., Dec. 18

Gene Boylan

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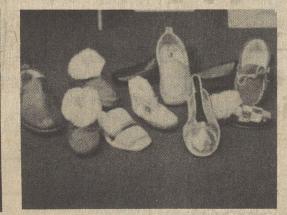
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