

Cookbook

Ethnic customs and recipes shared with Westmoreland students

BY JOAN KINGSBURY

Recently, the third grade classes at Westmoreland Elementary School have been studying various ethnic customs as a part of their social studies curriculum. Under the very capable guidance of Kathleen Reiss and MayClaire McCarthy, the children have enjoyed this interesting social studies unit. As Christmas draws near, the children have heard about various ethnic Christmas customs, among them the German customs remembered by Rose Marie Kravits, who was born and raised in Germany.

Rose Marie lived near the Austrian border, so she learned to ski at a very young age. While growing up, Rose Marie spent a great deal of time with her grandmother. It was from her grandmother, who kept a baking board, cookie cutters and utensils for Rose Marie, that she learned to bake the beautiful gingerbread houses she makes each year.

Rose Marie's gingerbread houses are truly beautiful, decorated with white icing, candy canes and Christmas candy. Last fall, Rose Marie taught a gingerbread house workshop at the Trucksville United Methodist Church, where 30 to 40 gingerbread houses were put together.

The Christmas season begins on the first Sunday of Advent. The evening before Dec. 1 the Advent Angel brings an advent calendar to children with little windows that are opened daily until Christmas arrives.

When Christmas Eve finally arrives, businesses are closed down at around 2 o'clock in the afternoon. A worker is given a 1 3th pay for a present. Often in the afternoon, children are taken for a walk or to the movies to get them out of mom's hair for awhile.

In the evening prior to dinner, each child is dressed in his or her best clothes. The Christmas tree is never put up and decorated until Christmas Eve. Real candles, not

electric lights, are used on the tree. Midnight Mass completes the evening.

On Christmas morning, everyone sleeps late, then opens their presents brought by the Kristkind or Christ Child. Roast goose is always served for Christmas dinner along with potato dumplings. Christmas is a real family celebration, a time for happy reunions.

New Year's Day, which was Rose Marie's grandmother's birthday, was a special family day for her relatives when the family would again hold a happy celebration.

Although this is how Christmas was celebrated by Rose Marie and her family, she stresses that the holiday is celebrated in different ways depending upon the area in which one lives. Some children put out their shoes for St. Nicholas to fill with goodies on his feast day, Dec. 6. Bad children receive coal in their shoes. Although St. Nicholas is similar to Santa Claus in appearance, his clothes are brown not red. If a child is lucky enough to have St. Nicholas come to his home in person, he must recite a poem or sing a song before he can receive a gift.

Baking cookies and gingerbread houses at Christmas is a tradition with Rose Marie, something she really loves to do. Since her three daughters have been old enough, they too, have

decorated gingerbread houses. Instead of sending Christmas cards, Rose Marie gives cookies and the gingerbread houses to her lucky friends.

So that our readers can add a little touch of Germany to their Christmas this year, Rose Marie is sharing three recipes with them, Schwarzwald-Kirsch Torte or Black Forest Cake, Lebkuchen and Macaroons.

SCHWARZWALD-KIRSCH TORTE (Black Forest Cake)
1 Duncan Hines Devil's Food Cake Mix, cut into 3 layers
cherry brandy
whipped cream
maraschino cherries
raspberry jam
grated chocolate

For bottom layer: sprinkle with cherry brandy, spread with whipped cream, top with cut up maraschino cherries.

Layer 2: top layer one with layer two, sprinkle layer 2 with brandy, then spread with raspberry jam.

Place third layer on top of second layer. Top with whipped cream also spread whipped cream on the sides. Decorate the top with cherries and grated chocolate.

LEBKUCHEN
3/4 c. honey
3/4 c. br. sugar
2 T. margarine
1 egg
1/2 t. orange rind
3/2 c. flour
1/2 t. salt



GINGERBREAD HOUSE—Kathleen Reiss a German-born Rose Marie Kravits display a handmade gingerbread house used in Ms. Kravits' presentation to the Westmoreland Elementary third graders. Kravits

1/2 t. baking soda
1 t. cinnamon
1 t. allspice
1/2 t. nutmeg
1/2 t. ginger
3/4 c. candied fruit
3/4 c. slivered almonds
Heat honey, sugar and butter in a saucepan until butter melts; do not boil. Cool somewhat, add egg

and orange rind and flour which was mixed with the baking soda and spices. Fold in almonds and fruits. Chill at least overnight or up to 3 days. Cut dough into four parts. Roll each part 1/2 inch thick, cut with cookie cutters, then bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Spread

with glaze while still warm.
GLAZE
1 c. powdered sugar
2 T. hot water
Combine and spread on hot lebkuchen.

1 c. sugar
1 t. almond extract
1 c. shredded coconut
2 c. corn flakes or rice krispies
Combine ingredients. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 8-10 minutes. Remove from sheet when completely cooled.

MACAROONS
2 egg whites
1/2 t. salt

Just Around the Corner

Joan Kingsbury 675-0835

Anyone wishing to take a trip to New York to see the Christmas Show at Radio City is in luck. A bus trip for Jan. 2 still has some seats available. The

bus will depart from the Martz terminal at 8 a.m. and will leave New York City at 4 p.m. Seating for the 12:30 show at Radio City has been reserved. For more information, call Joan Ruth at 675-1550. Cost of the trip is \$25.50.

Mrs. Florence Crump, a familiar figure for many years at the Back Mountain Memorial Library, is recovering from a fractured hip. Hope you are feeling fit as a fiddle by Christmas, Mrs. Crump.

Congratulations to Edward Havrilla, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Havrilla, RD 5, Shavertown, who has been selected to participate in All-Eastern Band. All-Eastern Band will be held in Boston, Mass. in February.

As a senior, Edward has been a member of the Lake-Lehman Band for six years. During that time he has been selected to participate in district band three years, regional band two years and all-state band two years. Ed has also been a member of district and regional orchestra.

Good luck to Ellen Nagy

who was recently appointed volunteer coordinator of the Leader East Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Kingston.

A native of Trenton, N.J., Ellen received a bachelor of science degree in education from Mansfield State College and did graduate work in Counseling at Mansfield State College and did graduate work in Counseling at Mansfield State College and Penn State.

Ellen taught secondary English for several years and was the administrator of Presbyterian Child Development Center, Wellsboro.

Ellen and her husband Carl, vice president, Commercial Loan Department, United Penn Bank, reside in Dallas with their two daughters.

Annette and Alex Rebar's son, Alex III, appeared on Channel 28's program Voyagers last Sunday portraying the Sheriff of Nottingham. Alex, who lives in California, is a writer and works for MGM in Hollywood. He has also appeared in The Incredible Hulk and Chips. How exciting for them all! His father is the well

known Lehman photographer.

Best wishes for a happy life to Mr. and Mrs. Brian Scott Johnson, Trucksville, who were recently married in the Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Scott is the former Mari Lynn Rogers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Rogers, Shade-tree Road, Trucksville. Brian is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson, 90 Carverton Road.

The Johnsons enjoyed a trip to Orlando, Fla., before taking up residence in Trucksville.

Santa will be bringing toys to brand new little babies at the homes of Linda and William Lloyd, Mary and David Yonkowski, and Denise and Joseph Rosentel, parents of little girls and to the homes of Mary Kay and Kevin Covert, Laura and Joseph Vanjura and Corrine and Joseph Mattie who have new little boys. Congratulations to all the new parents! Believe me, there is nothing like a new baby to brighten up your holiday season. As the mother of three, one born on New Year's Day, I'm definitely speaking from experience.

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