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## Interest to Women

PREPARING TID-BITS IS NO  
STRAIN ON THE HOSTESSMarjorie Mills Suggests Use of Gay Colored  
Salads, With Pimento, Cherries, Olives and Peppers --- Some Printed Menus.

(By Marjorie Mills)

If you are planning to entertain informally during the holiday season and you don't wish to go to the trouble of an elaborate dinner, remember the excellent possibilities offered in an attractively arranged buffet—decorated appropriately in the spirit of the season. That is a most appropriate place to serve your Christmas fruit cake and holiday cookies. Refreshments, of course, must be in keeping with the spirit of the occasion, whether the party is to be held before or after the 25th. Preparing such foods needn't be a strain on any hostess, for she has lots of things at her fingertips that will give the necessary atmosphere. The gay Christmas red and green that will dress up dishes are not hard to find—cranberries, cherries, pimento, beets, parsley, olives, salad greens of all sorts, pickles, green peppers will supply the wanted colors. And then there are the vegetable colorings.

Most Christmas parties will end with a buffet supper, so we're including several suggestions for them today, along with Christmas dinner and "Watch Night" supper menus.

There's plenty of chance for individuality in buffet supper menus. There might be trays filled with assorted cold meats and cheese with lettuce cups holding red cranberry molds or cherry gelatin molds filled with fruit or vegetables. Cold sliced turkey or chicken is a good companion to cold sliced ham. Serve with a hot bread, corn sticks or rolls. Or, if you wish, the buffet table may contain a hot dish. For a festive touch, add chopped green pepper and pimento to chicken a la king or turkey a la king. A huge baked ham, garnished with wedges of pineapple and sections of maraschino cherries on a bed of watercress is another buffet possibility. And there's such a dish as creamed shrimp and corn served in scallop shells.

Salads will carry a heavy part of the burden of feeding Christmas party guests. They can be substantial ones that are the main dish of the supper, or light ones to accompany hot sandwiches or a hot creamed dish. And the good old sandwich loaf can take on appropriate trimmings for the Christmas party. Make the fillings red and green, using such things as minced ham, olive or pickle fillings, chopped beets. Then decorate the top, after having coated it with cream cheese, with Christmas trees or poinsettias or wreaths made from parsley, pickles, pimento and beets.

Other sandwiches can be cut in the shape of trees, Santas, wreaths or bells. Use a sharp knife and a paper pattern or use cookie cutters.

## Christmas Buffet Menus

I  
Creamed Shrimp and Corn  
in Scallop Shells  
Chicory Salad with Pimento  
Garnish  
Tiny Hot Biscuits  
Coffee

II  
Currant Jelly  
Fruit Cake

II  
Jellied Tongue  
Christmas Pickles  
Creamed Potato  
Corn Sticks  
Holly Salad  
Christmas Cookies  
Coffee

III  
Christmas Sandwich Loaf  
Assorted Sandwiches  
Jellied Tomato Salad  
on Watercress  
Plum Pudding  
Brandy Hard Sauce  
Coffee

IV  
Oysters Mexican Style  
Sweet Potato Puffs  
Christmas Bell Salad  
Hot Buttered Biscuits  
Quince Jelly  
Poinsettia Cake  
Coffee

Holiday Midnight Supper  
I  
Crab Meat au Gratin  
Tomato Jelly Ring with Waldorf  
Salad  
Finger Rolls  
Stuffed Celery  
Olives  
Santa Claus Cake  
Punch  
Coffee

II  
Oyster Stew  
Toast  
Pickles  
Slices of Fruit Cake  
Christmas Wassail  
Cocktail Party Menu  
Christmas Tree Canapés  
Ripe and Green Olives  
Celery  
Esquirtes with Cheese Spread  
Assorted Cocktail Crackers  
Cheese  
Salted Nuts  
Coffee

Children's Party Menu  
Christmas Tree Cake  
Vanilla Ice  
Cream  
Mixed Hard Candies  
Ribbon Candy  
Christmas Canes  
Christmas Dinner Menu  
I

Oyster Cocktail  
Roast Beef  
Yorkshire Pudding  
Gravy  
Mashed Potato  
Mince Pie  
Cheese  
Coffee  
Salted Nuts

II  
Fruit Cup  
Roast Duck  
Fruit Dressing  
Mashed Sweet Potatoes  
Buttered Carrots  
Apple Jelly  
Raisin-Cranberry Pie  
Coffee

III  
Chilled Tomato Juice  
Crown Roast Pork  
Cranberry Sauce  
Sweet Potatoes in Sherry  
Tiny White Onions  
Christmas Cauliflower Salad  
Plum Pudding  
Hard Sauce Stars  
After-dinner Mints  
Coffee  
Salted Nuts

IV  
Clear Consomme  
Spinach Balls  
Roast Turkey  
Sausage Stuffing  
Giblet Gravy  
Cranberry Jelly  
Cauliflower, Bread Crumb Sauce  
Baker Squash  
Chestnut Puree  
Grape Juice Freeze  
Mince Pie  
Cheese  
Coffee  
Salted Nuts and Raisins  
Fruit  
Candies

LET "MODERATION" BE THE  
WATCHWORD AT CHRISTMAS

(By Arthur Dean, Sc. D.)

If you have children in your home I know you are putting your time, your thoughts and most of your money towards making their Christmas a never to be forgotten occasion. The moment when these small figures in pajamas come upon the Christmas tree

and all the rest of Santa's bounty is the happiest one of your holiday. A little care and discretion will maintain this Christmas cheer right on through the day—yes, and even to the next day.

On the other hand, if your idea of a Christmas present to the youngsters is a complete disregard of all rules and regulations for the day bedtime is likely to find things around your house in a sorry state.

The early morning celebration should be for the children alone. The exchange of presents between adults at the same time only adds confusion to the scene.

Give the children their dinner alone. It can be made a festive occasion for them by serving their usual food in a special manner and letting them have their favorite dishes. 'Samples' and 'tastes' of the fare served at the adult Christmas table should be absolutely taboo.

An outing in the afternoon to try out the new doll carriage, automobile or velocipede, early supper, and bedtime at the usual hour will conclude a perfect holiday for the children and leave the adults a long, unworried, evening for their own festivities.

This programme will insure a painless "Day after Christmas."

The above plan completely takes care of children under six years of

IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING  
FOR YOUNG AND OLDCynthia Proctor Explains a Snowball Contest  
Suitable for All Ages, How to Run a Christmas  
Relay and Other Pleasing Pastimes.

(By Cynthia Proctor)

Christmas day is almost here—with its carols and holly and general good cheer. Every one feels in a celebrating mood. Most requests today are for games for children—large parties for church and club groups. It must be remembered that a large children's party at Christmas time usually encompasses many age groups. There may be children present who are just able to walk, and others in the upper grades of grammar school. For that reason many games are impractical—they are too old for some children and too young for others.

One game which will suit almost all ages is a snowball contest. For this you will need a sheet, in the centre of which has been sewed a circle of black cloth about a yard in diameter. Concentric circles are marked on this black section so that it resembles a target. Hang the sheet up against one of the walls. The "snowball" is a tennis ball which has been dipped in flour.

Divide the children into two groups one the red team and the other the green team. Members of the two teams throw the ball at the sheet alternately. Whenever the ball strikes the black centre, it will leave a white mark, thus showing the score made by the thrower. The bullseye should count ten, the next circle five, and the outer circle three. After all have tried their luck, the side with the highest score wins.

With the wide variety in ages, the distance from the sheet should be regulated according to the age of each thrower.

## Christmas Relay

This is another good game for large groups—played with as many teams as you like. Ten on a team is a good number. One very exciting race is played with the covers of penny match boxes. The leader's nose is inserted into one end of the match cover. He must then carry it across the room on his nose, without touch-

ing his hands to it, touch the opposite wall, carry it back and pass it to the next person on his team. The match box must be passed from nose to nose, without assistance of the hands. All children enjoy a visit from Santa Claus, especially if he comes laden with gifts for everyone present. The gifts may be simple—candy canes, toys, and tiny dolls. Almost an hour's fun may be spent in giving out these gifts.

## Singing

Christmas carols are most appropriate to a youngster's Christmas party, and as they are familiar with songs, most children love to sing them. At one party, the children were told that Santa Claus would come only if they sang the well-known "Jingle Bells" loudly enough. The song was repeated three times before Santa appeared.

Christmas charades can be acted by a few of the older children for the others to guess. Words such as "holly wreath," "mistletoe," and Santa Claus can all be worked into skillful word pictures.

## Safety Bells

This is similar to that old favorite "Marching to Jerusalem." Cut out some large red paper Christmas bells (cut out more than there are players) and pin them about the room—on the walls, the chairs, davenport or any suitable place. Pin a few high up so none of the children are able to reach them. Music starts and the children move about the room. Suddenly the music stops and everyone makes a scramble to touch a bell. Anyone who is left without a bell within his reach is obliged to sit on the floor in the centre of the room and watch the others.

Remove one or two bells from the wall, then start the music again. Continue the game as before. Each time the music stops, someone else is left out until finally only one remains.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?  
ASKED LITTLE VIRGINIA  
THIRTY-NINE YEARS AGO

The following letter which was written to the New York Sun nearly forty years ago by a little girl named Virginia O'Hanlon, has since gone the rounds of the papers at Christmas time. The New York Sun and other papers have hundreds of requests each year to publish the letter. The Daily Mail is amongst those who have received such requests. It is also interesting to know that Virginia O'Hanlon, the author of the now famous letter is still alive. She still believes in Santa Claus.

The letter is as follows:  
(New York Sun, 1897)

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

"Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says if you see it in the Sun it is so. Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?"

(Signed) Virginia O'Hanlon.

"Virginia: Your friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They

age, and I won't offer any further ideas for their entertainment. Children so small should not be given, or taken to, parties. If circumstances should make it necessary to take a small child to a party, make his stay as short as possible.

One mother I know decided recently to give a party for her daughter's sixth birthday anniversary that would "make the neighborhood sit up and take notice." She purchased cake, candy, ice cream and soda water with amazing practicality, then doubly insured the social success of the occasion by hiring a merry-go-round for the afternoon. Some children quit and went home to be put to bed, and others just took "time out" and went back, but it was quite a few days before the "joie de vivre" returned to that block.

Let "moderation" be the byword in all your holiday planning for young folks—older children as well as very small ones. Don't let older ones exact too much of you. If they want parties, make them take care of the preparations. Once the idea of elaborate and expensive entertaining takes hold of a boy or girl (as evidenced by a girl), there is practically no stopping it. Many bitter adolescent tears have been shed over the recollection that wasn't "entered like Susan Brown's," or the dress that didn't "cost as much as Sally's."

Begin this Christmas by keeping all entertainment within the bounds of common sense.

think that nothing can be that is not comprehensive by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be of men's or of children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they exist, and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas how dreary would be this world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginia. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the earth would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in the fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys to catch Santa Claus but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real thing neither men nor children can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not. But that is not proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive nor imagine all the wonders that are unseen or unseeable in this world.

"You tear the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside. But there is a wall covering the unseen world that not the strongest man who ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view the picture of supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all the world there is nothing else so real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus. Thank God he lives, he lives forever. A thousand years from now, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now he will continue to make glad the hearts of childhood."

With reference to the above which has been copied by papers all over America, the New York Sun, a couple of years ago, stated that they had 16,000 requests that year for copies of the above. It might be of interest to readers to know that the little 7-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon still lives with her father, Dr. Phillip O'Hanlon, in the very same house in which she penned her note 39 years ago. She still believes in Santa Claus.

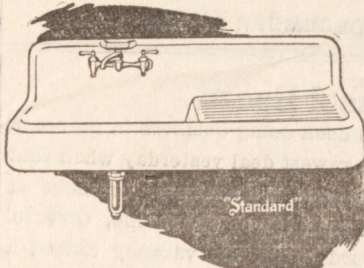
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