

The Country Register™

Manitoba and Saskatchewan's Complimentary Guide to Specialty Shopping & Attractions

August/September 2024

Vol. 24, No. 6

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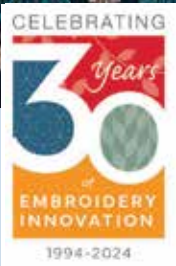
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Keeping In Touch

Cindy and Joe Ashfield <old.stuff@sasktel.net>

We are in the midst of a July heat wave as I take up my pen....the sort of weather that makes me feel rather lethargic. I try to get outdoors in the early morning and there is never a doubt about what might need attention. Right now, all is lush and green thanks to our rainy spring. Joe is truly the "wordsmith" in our family. He was the owner/editor of the *Whitewood Herald* for many years, but he also wrote stories about hunting and fishing for various publications, so I reached out to him and others for inspiration. All were mum, so here goes. When you read this, we will find ourselves moving ever closer to the fall harvest season. Our diminishing minutes of sun are noticeable now & I imagine parents and kids are considering school supply lists.

Have you made any plans for the upcoming fall and winter days? I like reading, so thanks to family and our library, I probably have enough books to keep me in reading material for a while. Do you have a favourite genre or author? I received notice the other day that a favourite author of mine, Louise Penny, who pens the *"Three Pines"* mysteries, has a new book available this fall. She is a Canadian author who worked for CBC Radio in the past. I have *"The Grey Wolf"* on order and when I am finished reading it I will donate it to the library. We do the same with our magazines as well. *"Prairies North"* is another that I read cover to cover. It's a great exploration of Saskatchewan, both the text and photography.

I suppose I have another question for you to ponder. Tablet or book, paper or magazine in hand? I tried a tablet when they were first becoming popular (mine was not "top of the line"). I found out that I preferred to hold the paper in hand. I try to do my part to be environmentally aware, so I pass my material along, saving only books that I know I will read again. There is often more to discover rereading a well written story.

Lately, if I am having a rest after lunch, I sometimes listen to an audio version of a Stuart McLean tale. Known as Canada's storyteller, McLean taught English at Ryerson and wrote his short stories, which for years aired on CBC Radio on Sunday afternoon right after the news. What a welcome break it was from the usually gloomy report I had just listened to. He took anyone's life and celebrated it with humour. His characters centred on a family of four who grew and changed just like our own families do. His brightly

painted tour bus could be seen travelling across Canada, stopping at various locations, with Stuart telling a packed house one of his stories. If you want to laugh out loud while reading, try *"Dave Cooks the Turkey."* You might also find this Christmas classic on the radio. Both of these authors paint such realistic pictures with words that I easily slip into the story with them, probably as a bystander.

I think that fall sometimes signals a busy season for young families and anyone involved with farming or gardening. However, fall paints our prairies with such a beautifully colourful palette I hope that you have time to enjoy it. If we have had a frost, then many of the summer annual flowers are gone for another year, but there are still some fall offerings that last well into winter & add to the yard once the snow comes. The fall air has a crispness that is not yet a bite & it is a great time for a walk. A drive in the country through the valley or along a country road is such a pleasure. For the gardener, your summer work with all the rewards, give you a reason to bask in some self-satisfaction...a-h-h.

Nature is going to rest as we prepare for the winter ahead, but for now summer is here and I hope that yours' is a busy and happy one. Our cities and towns across Saskatchewan have a whole host of special events to entertain you and our many lakes and campgrounds are beckoning you. Let's take time to enjoy the days ahead and I hope we'll visit again next time in *The Register*.



What is a contronym?

Single words with two contradictory meanings (they are their own opposites) are known as contronyms and are quite rare. Here are ten of them:

- Apology:** a statement of contrition for an action, or a defence of one
- Bolt:** to secure, or to flee
- Bound:** heading to a destination, or restrained from movement
- Cleave:** to adhere, or to separate
- Dust:** to add fine particles, or to remove them
- Fast:** quick, or stuck or made stable
- Left:** remained or departed
- Peer:** a person of the nobility, or an equal
- Sanction:** to approve, or to boycott
- Weather:** to withstand, or to wear away

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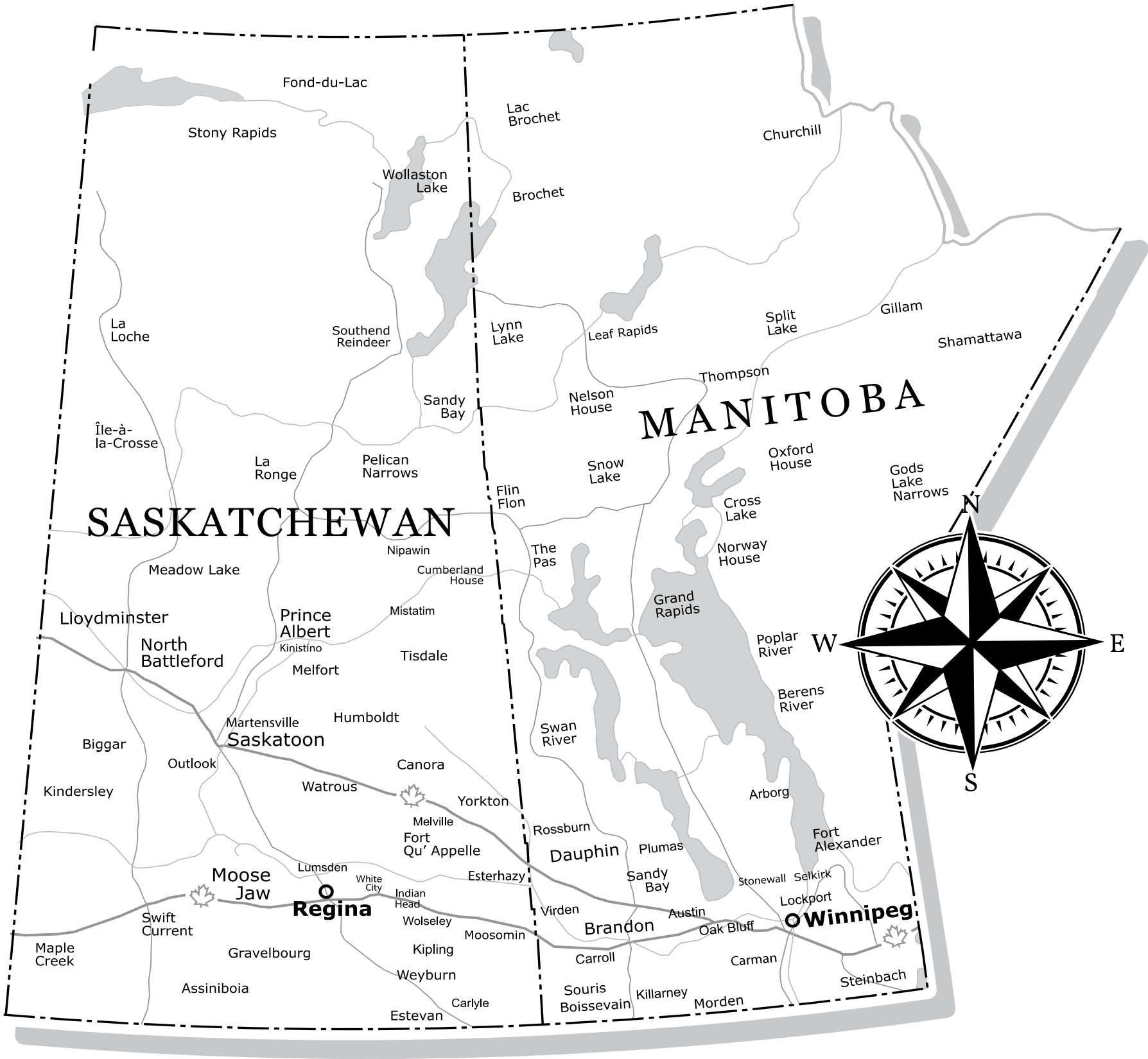
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SASKATCHEWAN:

Assiniboia:

Mistletoe Art & Craft Sale..... Pg.20

Carlyle:

Rusty Relics Museum Pg.22

Sew & Sews..... Pg.22

Esterhazy:

Erin’s Pharmacy..... Pg.14

Humboldt:

Haus of Stitches..... Pg.19

Misty Gardens..... Pg.19

Indian Head

Grace & Thyme..... Pg.23

Kinistino:

Prairie Charm Quilts Pg.15

Kipling:

Paperclip Cottage Cafe..... Pg.22

Maple Creek:

Kelli Dee Floral Pg.20

Martensville:

D & S Family Fabrics Pg13

Mistatim:

Cotton Meadow Fabrics..... Pg.15

Moose Jaw:

Quilters Haven Pg. 21

Moosomin:

Sew Creative & Interiors Pg.22

Nipawin:

Elaine’s Fabric & More Pg.15

Outlook:

Broderick Garden Centre Pg.21

Regina:

Corben Tours Pg.23

Access Communications Pg.23

Queen City Fall Market..... Pg.15

Bird Films Pg.23

Humble Life Acres Pg.23

Regina Antique Mall Pg.23

Saskatoon:

Century Textile.....Pg.11

Periwinkle Quilting and Beyond..... Pg.12

Prairie Lily KnittingPg.12

Sew Charming Crafts..... Pg.12

The Sewing Machine Store..... Pg.2, 13 & 24

Wolseley:

Tilli Beans Pg.22

Yorkton:

Colette’s Sewing Machines Plus..... Pg.14

The Wooden Spool..... Pg.14

North 40 Fabrics Pg.14

MANITOBA:

Arborg:

Sew Happy Quilts N More Pg.7

Ashern:

Mama Bear’s Quilt Shoppe Pg.3

Austin

Big Wheel Quilt Shop..... Pg.9

Brandon:

Brandon Sewing Centre Ltd..... Pg.24

George Strange’s Prairie Showcase..... Pg.6

Mama Bear’s Quilt Shoppe..... Pg. 3

Carman:

Mama Bear’s Quilt Shoppe..... Pg.3

Morden:

Aspen Grove Quilting..... Pg.3

Rosburn:

Gone Scrappin’ In Bloom..... Pg.7

Stanley:

Aspen Grove Quilting..... Pg.3

Steinbach:

Fay’s Fabric Villa..... Pg.9

Stonewall:

Up Along Quilting Pg.10

Swan River:

Empty Bobbin Quilts & Fabric..... Pg. 7 & 24

Thompson:

Needle’s Eye Fabrics Pg.24

Virден:

Flower Attic & Gifts Pg.10

Winnipeg:

Carellan Sewing Centre Pg. 2 & 24

KTR Sewing Centre..... Pg.8

OTHER:

PFAFF..... Pg.24

Camelot Fabrics..... Pg.3

Husqvarna/Viking..... Pg.2



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In This Issue

Keeping in Touch with Cindy and Joe Ashfield.....	Page 3
Map page.....	Page 4
Find this ad contest	Page 5
Reader Submitted Stories.....	Page 6
The Little Things.....	Page 7
Sudoku	Page 7
Countryberries.....	Page 8
Pickles are Such a Dill-Light	Page 8
Cooking for Two	Page 9
Appreciating the Art of Quilting for the First Time	Page 9
Kissed Quilts	Page 10
Reader Recipes.....	Page 10
2 Minute Lift: What Is Your Match?.....	Page 11
Random Acts of Kindness.....	Page 12
Easy Striped Baby Blanket	Page 13
Reflections on the Front Porch.....	Page 14
Summer Road Trip for Quilters	Page 15
A Cup of Tea with Lydia	Page 16
Kirby’s Korner	Page 17
Borderline Good.....	Page 18
Word Search	Page 20
How Well Can You Swim?	Page 20
Quilts in the Trees at Kelli Dee.....	Page 21
Growing Radishes on the Prairies: A Guide	Page 21
Crossword	Page 22

Recipes

Pickled Red Onions.....	Page 6
Cabbage & Meatballs.....	Page 9
Cutout Biscuits	Page 9
Green Beans with Bacon.....	Page 9
Hasty Pudding	Page 10
Flapper Pie	Page 10
Everyone’s Favourite Cookies (Brun Kaker).....	Page 16
Shrub	Page 15
Dill Pickle Soup	Page 19
Pickled Peppered Eggs.....	Page 22
Mustard Pickles.....	Page 23

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Stories of Yesteryear

Reader Submitted Stories

Over Time

by Judy Ann Stupak



Living "off the grid" sounds cool. It represents freedom, anonymity, and self-sufficiency. Yes. When you can drive half an hour to a city. When you can communicate instantly with the world via iPhone or social media. When you can visit family, shower and eat a nice meal in a local restaurant. Then living off the grid may be cool. Even fun.

Not so much in the 1930s when my mother-in-law was a child. Coming from Eastern Europe, my mother-in-law along with her sister, 2 brothers and mom were deposited on a farm in Central Canada and left to fend for themselves. Being 3 miles from town didn't matter. Few people there spoke their language anyway. Her dad, the only one who spoke English, left home for days/weeks/months on end in order to work in a distant mine. He did what he could to provide for the family. He was the one who did all of the monetary transactions. When he was not around, they just had to make do.

Over time, they cleared land to convert it from bush to farmland. Over time they added animals. Anything to move from the random provision of hunted animals to the self-sufficiency and the dependency of domestic animals. Cows meant you had meat, milk, cream and butter. Pigs provided meat, sausage and lard for baking and making soap. Chickens gave meat and eggs. And from geese you collected feathers.

Survival in a foreign land required adjustment. Everything revolved around the 4 seasons - planting, growing, harvesting and winter. Very, very cold winters. Storms where you did not leave the house for days on end except to feed the animals. Nights when the temperatures inside the house were so cold the water in pails turned to ice.

But winter evenings in Northern Canada are not only cold. They are also long, with almost 18 hours of darkness. Going out? That was feared. It was much safer inside. And there was always something to be done. After supper, bags of geese feathers collected from the fall 'harvest' were

brought out. As mother/children sat around the single source of heat for the house - a wood-burning stove, they stripped feathers until midnight when the last person going to bed would put a stick of wood on the fire for the night.

At first, the feathers were put into empty sugar or flour bags and sewn shut. These were pillows.

Later, the family became friends with neighbouring Dukabors who showed them how to sew rows on sheets of fabric and stuff channels with feathers in order to make down comforters.

At some point feathers were replaced with wool. Bags of wool were taken down to the river to be washed. They were then carded and rolled into sheets. A quilting frame was set up in the living room where it took up almost every square inch of space. It remained there for weeks until the quilting was done. In this case it was hand stitched (loosely) so that the tops could be removed periodically to be washed or replaced.

Remnants of this life remain. My mother-in-law still has the treadle sewing machine, her spinning wheel, wool carding equipment, down filled pillows, wool quilts, tea towels made of recycled flour/sugar bags circa 1950s hand embroidered pillowcases and cross stitch done on hand made linen fabric. For my MIL, the legacy of quilting was simple and traditional - you made what you needed, but nothing extra. The 'nothing extra' applied to everything. There was no time for the extra stitching of blocks. There was no waste of extra fabrics and there was no waste of energy/time making quilts you did not need.

We have – and still use some of the feather pillows, down comforters (that are way too hot in today's world of central heating) and wool quilts that keep us warm on winter nights. The down and wool provided by geese and sheep who lived 75 years ago still provide us with warmth and pleasure!

Pickled Red Onions

I first had pickled red onions in a restaurant, I asked if they could bring me another little bowl of them. I had to google how to make them once we were home, and was delighted to find out that they come together quickly. These are a staple at home for Mexico themed nights.

Serves about 6

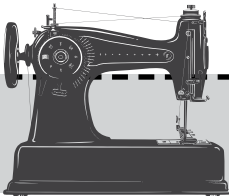
- 1 large red onion
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt



Thinly slice the onions and place in a medium, heatproof bowl.

Combine sugar, vinegar, water, and salt in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve sugar. Let simmer 5 minutes then pour hot pickling liquid over vegetables and give them a brief stir.

Cool to room temperature, transfer to a mason jar and refrigerate until cold. The pickled onions will keep about a month in the fridge.



Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine Manual from 1949.

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference dominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade.

When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so that your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.

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The Little Things

By Wayne M. Bosman

Life sometimes seems to go from one big thing to another. From car problems to Covid to rising prices, there is always another thing to grab your attention. Bad news sells, as any newsperson knows. Sometimes we enjoy scaring ourselves with the latest horror movie or disaster film. This story is not about that.

This is about something that happens in life that gives another effect. This is about the little things. You probably know what the little things are. Things done that take very small effort and get noticed just a little.

My wife, Kerri, is an artist of the little things. The 3” vase with a variety of flowers that sits in the middle of the kitchen table? It didn’t just appear there. She takes the time to choose each bud and surround them with some herbs from the garden. She chooses each herb for reasons that only she knows. Sometimes because of the scent, never overpowering, but just there. Maybe a sprig gets chosen because of its healing power according to traditional medicine. Because, after all, the kids are coming over and one or another has a little cold. At other times just because it caught her eye. The total effect goes almost unnoticed. It is just a little thing.

Mom notices. Once or twice a year we drive up from our home in North Carolina to stay with her in Wisconsin. Mom lives in the house that she has lived in since WWII, but at 103 she needs a little more backup. My

sister, Linda and her husband, Mike, have been providing that backup for years, so a couple times a year we come up to give them a break. We move in with Mom for a week or two and do our best to spoil her.

The first morning there, Kerri goes outside for flowers and brings in a 3” centerpiece. It sits on the kitchen table that has been in the same place since I was a child. Mom always notices. Her mother, she tells us, always did the same sort of thing. Probably for the same reasons.

We have little rituals done much the same way each day. Since we are both awake before Mom gets out of bed, we have time to get her newspaper and set it next to her plate at her seat at the table. On her plate goes her women’s multi-vitamin and a baby aspirin. A recent concession to her age is a Tylenol. A glass of water waits with her pills. Also on the plate is a small piece of coffee cake or kringle. Next to the plate is one banana. For over ten years, Mike has been making sure that she has a supply of bananas. A little thing. The list goes on.

After watching her struggle to break open a banana, I started cutting a little slit on the stem of next morning’s banana to make it easier for her. I never knew that she noticed until this evening. She mentioned it while we talked on the phone. She noticed that little thing.

Kerri is a firm believer. Mom thinks that Kerri is single-handedly keeping the post office in business because of her weekly letters. Birthdays don’t get forgotten. Children receive postcards when we travel. The brief excitement of real mail for the cost of a stamp. Adding another crop to the garden because someone is fond of it. Paying special attention to a plant that a family member chose and then sending pictures of the flower in bloom. Little things.

The little things soften the hard edges of the world. They can be the difference between subsisting and living. They are small acts of love and faith and appreciation for the gift of life.

Wayne M. Bosman is a retired auto mechanic living in Cape Carteret, NC. He has the good fortune to be married to Kerri Habben Bosman, who is a regular contributor. His email is wbosman1@gmail.com.

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6

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Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9x9 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Answer on page 21

Trivia

VENETIAN BLINDS

The famous world traveller of the thirteenth century, Marco Polo, was believed to be responsible for introducing Venetian blinds to the West. It is said he saw them in China and brought the idea back to Venice, where they acquired their Western name

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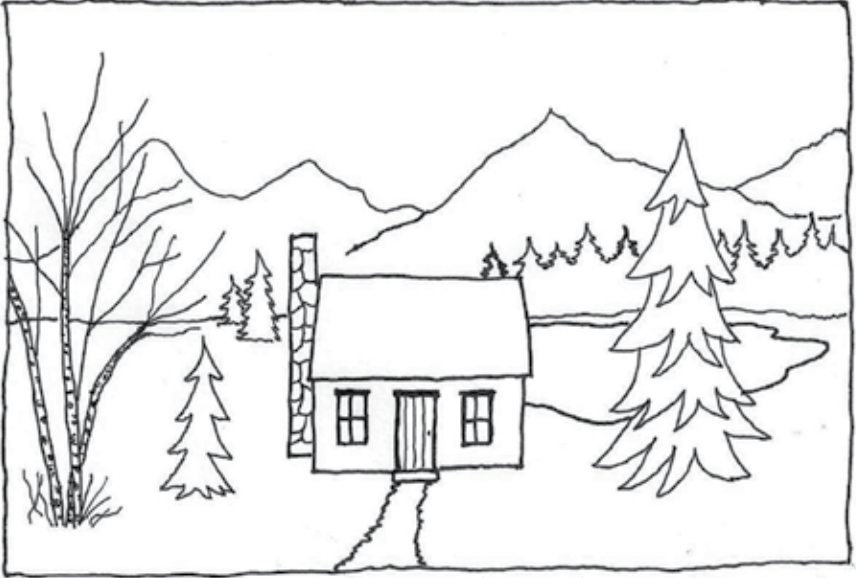
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Designed By Kathy Graham

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Pickles are such a dill-light

By Colleen Gust

Pickles have a rich history that spans centuries, cultures and cuisines. They were born out of the necessity for food preservation and have evolved into beloved staples on tables worldwide.

The art of pickling, or preserving food in a brine or vinegar solution, dates back thousands of years. Ancient civilizations such as the Mesopotamians, Egyptians, and Chinese practiced pickling to extend the shelf life of perishable foods like cucumbers, cabbage, and other vegetables. The process was essential for surviving harsh winters or long journeys. As trade routes expanded, pickling techniques spread across continents, influencing local cuisines, with each region putting its own take on pickling.

The pickling process typically involves submerging vegetables or fruits in a solution of vinegar, water, salt, and spices. This acidic environment prevents the growth of bacteria, effectively preserving the food. Brining pickles makes them last much longer than fresh cucumbers, but packing them in an air-tight container—is what really seals the dill. Fermentation, another method of pickling, which has seen an uptick in home cooks utilization, relies on the natural fermentation process of lactobacillus bacteria present on the surface of vegetables. This process not only preserves the food but also enhances its flavour and nutritional value.

Beyond their delicious taste, pickles offer several health benefits. They are low in calories and high in fibre, making them a healthy snack option. Additionally, pickles are a good source of antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, depending on the vegetables used. Fermented pickles, in particular, contain probiotics that promote gut health and aid digestion.

Pickles are incredibly versatile and can be enjoyed in various ways. They add a burst of flavour and crunch to sandwiches, burgers, and salads. Pickle juice is a popular ingredient in cocktails and savoury dishes. Personally, I use olive juice in a simmered chicken and tomato dish. Pickles are a meal staple in some cuisines, as they contrast with rich and savoury dishes. They have also gained importance in recent years with the rise of charcuterie boards. Remember that when you are assembling your charcuterie board that the pickle you got at a cheap price is called a sweet dill.

Did you know fruits like mangoes, watermelons and peaches can be pickled? You can use pickled fruit as a shortcut to "shrub"—a beverage usually made with fruit, sugar, and vinegar. While the acidic base of a shrub is typically a bit sweeter than the pickling brine, just add an extra spoonful of sugar or simple syrup to your glass. Try pickling prairie cherries (Evan's cherries) and add a few pickled cherries with a splash of their brine and simple syrup and sparkling water for a refreshing nonalcoholic drink. If you like kombucha, you'll probably like this. The other day, I accidentally dropped some pickles in my Hawaiian punch; I guess it is now trop-pickle.

Pickles are more than just a condiment; they are a testament to humanity's ingenuity in preserving food and enhancing flavour. Remember, it's not just the jumbo kosher pickle that is a pretty big dill.

Winnipeg, MB



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EDITORS' PICKS

BERNARDIN DILL PICKLE MIX

I was busy at my day job last summer and didn't have time to make pickles, so my husband came home with this. I admit I was skeptical because I am a pickle snob. While I admit the best part of this was my husband making the pickles, we were really pleased with the pickles. They were nice and crisp with a good dill flavour. So, this year, if you just have a few pickles or are new to pickle making, we'd recommend trying this product out.



GEM JAR LIDS

Bernardin, a well-known name in the canning industry, has announced the discontinuation of their Gem jar lids as of 2022. This decision marks the end of an era for enthusiasts who have long relied on these lids for their canning needs.



We have found a company (ForJars Canada) that is offering replacement Gem lids. We picked these up at our local Home Hardware.



Cooking for TWO



Cabbage & Meatballs

I think the dill pickles are the secret to this simple yet hearty recipe.
Yield: 2 servings

3 cups chopped cabbage
1 cup tomato juice
1 egg, beaten
1 small onion, chopped
1 Tbsp chili powder
1 Tbsp cider vinegar
1 Tbsp chopped dill pickle
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp pepper
¾ lb. lean ground beef

Place cabbage in a large saucepan; add tomato juice. Cover and simmer over low heat. Meanwhile, combine the egg, onion, chili powder, vinegar, pickle, salt and pepper. Crumble beef over mixture and mix well. Shape into 2-in. balls. Add to cabbage mixture. Cover and cook over low heat for 15-20 minutes or until meat is no longer pink, stirring occasionally.

Cutout Biscuits

These biscuits come out so light and fluffy.
Yield: 3 biscuits

1 cup flour
1 ½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
4 ½ tsp cold butter
¼ cup ginger ale
1 Tbsp sour cream
1 Tbsp mayonnaise

TOPPING:
2 tsp butter, melted
½ tsp sugar

Place flour into a small bowl. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In another bowl, combine the ginger ale, sour cream and mayonnaise; stir into flour mixture just until moistened. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; knead 8-10 times.

Pat out to 3/4-in. thickness; cut with a floured 2-1/2-in. biscuit cutter. Place 2 in. apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Brush with the butter, sprinkle with the sugar. Bake at 400°F for 9-11 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve warm.

Green Beans with Bacon

A different ways to liven up canned and frozen vegetables.
Yield: 2 servings

2 cups frozen cut green beans
2 Tbsp. canned mushroom stems and pieces
1 ½ tsp dried minced onion
1 bacon strip, diced
¼ tsp salt
¼ tsp butter
1/8 tsp garlic powder
1/8 tsp pepper

In a small saucepan, combine all ingredients; add enough water to cover. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cover and simmer for 13-15 minutes or until bacon is cooked. Drain.

We would like to thank a reader for the Cooking for Two suggestion. We always look forward to hearing from you and your ideas for *The Country Register*.

Appreciating the Art of Quilting for the First Time

By Susan Hodges

A few months ago, I invited my husband, brother and sister-in-law to attend a quilt show with me. They agreed, but probably more to humor me, than any real interest in the outing.

To say it was a transformative experience for them would be an understatement. Though they knew that quilting was my ‘hobby,’ they never fully realized the unleashing of creativity this so-called hobby entailed. They saw, through many examples, that piecing and quilting involved more than just a fabric puzzle waiting to be solved. They witnessed quilts as works of art in many forms.

In each of the quilts displayed, the quilter was leaving a legacy that was uniquely theirs. It was a piecing together of their stories, dreams and hopes into something tangible and beautiful as they answered the Voice within them urging them to create.

Some of the creations were simple with their presentation of clear shapes and color, others chose landscapes or replications of nature. Some illustrated family stories and some incorporated pieces of clothing from childhood memories or memories of those who have passed on. And others were artist’s creations playing with colors and unusual shapes.

In each entry, we witnessed the struggle the quilter faces between their logic brain and the artist brain. Our logical brain thinks in near, linear fashion working with known principles and a desire to make things neat and ordinary. Whereas our artist brain likes to put odd colors and shapes

together, by presenting tried and true things in new ways. This struggle continues as the artist creates and logic guides as the quilter blends the technical skills they have honed with patience, practice and commitment with new and untried designs.

Through the elements of design, the quilter offers us visual depth on a flat surface as they incorporate an assortment of lines, shapes, and colors to tell their story.

Through this display of over a hundred quilts, my husband, brother and sister-in-law saw graphically that the art of quilting is not just an “add on” to life. It is instead, a means to help the quilter articulate who they are and/or who they hoped to be as they combine little pieces of fabric into a grand design of shapes and colors.

You can experience this same opportunity of awe and appreciation of quilting art at the Busy Bees Honey of a Quilt show 2024 being offered Friday, October 4 through Sunday, Oct 6 at the Activity center at 610 Fairview Street in Fountain Inn. SC.

Susan Hodges is a member of the Busy Bees Quilters Guild in Fountain Inn, SC. She has been quilting for 10 years and especially likes paper-piecing. Susan and her husband relocated from Western NY to Simpsonville, SC to enjoy their retirement.

Trivia

This word has been traced to India. It is from Sanscrit, *goni*, meaning “sack” or “bag,” and is made from coarse jute fibres. Thus, when we say gunny sack, we are really saying sack-sack or bag-bag.

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KISSed Quilts: A new idea for using those pre-printed placemats

by *Marlene Oddie*

New fabric collections occasionally do a block print likely intended as a placemat. I’ve made several styles of placemats, but it seems that there is always a lot of binding!

Northcott’s new collection shipping now, Autumn Gathering, has such a print that lends itself to being reimagined as a quilt that could be used as a table topper.

This quilt design uses the printed placemats, a border print, two coordinates, binding and backing from the collection.

The pattern details the fussy cutting of the mitered border print. The center portion measures 40” and the overall size is 64” x 64”.

You can find this pattern on my website or ask at a local quilt shop near you. Be sure to tag us if you make



this up in these fabrics or something else. #fourplacemattabletopper

Happy Stitching!

Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA at her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts. She quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus, but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Fabric, patterns, kits and templates are available at <http://www.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene’s adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts> and <https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts>



READER SUBMITTED RECIPES

Hasty Pudding

Linda F., Morden

Oven: 350°F

- ¾ cup syrup
- ⅓ cup water

- 1 cup flour
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup milk
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ¼ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup chopped nuts

Combine syrup & water – bring to boil.

Combine remaining ingredients except nuts – mix till smooth.

Pour into greased 1 qt casserole.

Sprinkle with nuts.

Pour syrup mixture over batter. (do not mix)

Bake: 35-40 min.

Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream. Delish!

Flapper Pie

Lorraine T., Weyburn

A prairie classic, just like grandmother’s!

CRUST

- 10 graham wafers, crushed
- 8 soda biscuits, crushed
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- ½ cup butter

Combine graham wafer, soda biscuits, sugar and butter. Set aside 1 cup for topping. Pat crumbs in a 9” pie plate and bake at 350°F for 5 minutes. Set aside to cool.

CREAM FILLING

- 2 cups milk
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 eggs, split yolks and whites
- ½ Tbsp. vanilla extract
- 6 Tbsp. sugar

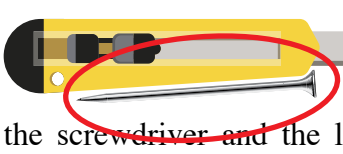
Pour milk in a heavy saucepan. Mix cornstarch and sugar. Stir into milk. Add slightly beaten egg yolk and vanilla. Cook, stirring constantly until the mixture boil and thickens. Pour into pie crust. Let cool. Beat egg whites, gradually adding sugar until peaks are formed. Pile gently onto cooled pie. Spread to edges, and swirl whites for an attractive finish. Sprinkle with remaining cracker crumbs and bake at 350°F until peaks are lightly browned.

Oh NO!!! Carl has a screw loose!!! Did you find Carl’s loose screw in our last issue?

Regular readers of The Country Register will know that Carl runs a small town store that sits smack dab on the Manitoba and Saskatchewan border, and that Carl fancies himself as a bit of a handyman, but his eyesight is not what it used to be. Can you help him find it? It looks like this.



This is not a contest, just some fun for you, our readers.



lint roller (w and grocery selection of the screwdriver and the lint roller, and

It was on page 10. Carl must have dropped it when he was looking for something in the junk drawer.

Virden, MB

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2 Minute Lift

TWO MINUTE READS TO FLIP OUR SCRIPT

BY: KATHY J. SOTAK

What Is Your Match?

You have plenty of fuel. What is your match?

I haven’t seen my regular hairstylist in a year. This week, we had a lot to catch up on. She could immediately see something was different about me, reflected through my eyes, skin and the way I held my shoulders sitting in her beauty chair – a bit more relaxed and set back than before.

I admitted that I’m in the middle of Transformation, with a capital T. In a nutshell, Transformation was inevitable as I ripped apart decades-old patterns, improved the quality of my thoughts, re-ordered my priorities and set new boundaries. I’ve been saying goodbye to prior versions of me, thanking them for their lessons, then bringing only the best pieces forward.

She got right to the point with this one question: *“Kathy, you had plenty of fuel. We all do. But what was your match? What was the spark that launched you into action?”*

I was speechless, with no answer to this perfect question. She was right. I’ve been walking around drenched in fuel as electric currents bent my way, begging for permission to be used in my metamorphosis.

What was my match, you are wondering? Anger. Locked away anger that wasn’t allowed to be seen. So, I decided let it be seen and let it be felt. I decided to let it out of my body and let the match of anger ignite my fuel. The anger burned away the stories on replay in my mind. The anger presented itself in the form of rancid heat of regret about precious years racing by with far too little lived. I used that fire to put a stake in the ground that I will not weave the same stitch over and over if it’s less than exquisite.

Now, the fire has burned my field and left only tall trunks of my

choosing. This barren, burnt field is a clean slate for the oasis of this new chapter. It is the perfect fertile ground for rebirth. Like the forest floor – sleepy seeds are choosing to awaken and turn into the wildest of flowers.

Now that the match did its job, what is the rain that washes away the soot and provides life to these dormant seeds? I’ll leave us with this poem, by Mary Oliver:

The Summer Day

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean—

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down— who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes. Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?

—Mary Oliver

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Random Acts

10 Years Later

by Maranda K. Jones

Black and white photographs with postage stamp edges frame the summer travel by car. They make me nostalgic for times gone by. My grandparents traveled with their siblings and children throughout national parks and spent their vacation time visiting family. My grandma Erma’s brother and sisters made her so happy. She loved visiting with them and always looked forward to staying with them at their homes. She spent a lot of time with Lem and Louise as well as Jack and Janet. She liked playing cards with them and thoroughly enjoyed giving her brothers-in-law grief. Their only brother probably enjoyed the break too.

Grandma and her five sisters knew how to get in and out of mischief. Some of the details were left out when they shared these old stories, but the looks they gave each other told us more than the words coming out of their mouths. They remembered. They smiled. They pretended to be sick to get out of doing the dishes. They hopped the train on more than one occasion. They would talk boys into giving them rides to the movies, and then they would ditch them once they got there. Whatever they were doing, they enjoyed being together.

Erma’s three sons made her very proud. She admired them for being both

scholars and athletes. She always tried to make it to their games, plays, and concerts, and she made each boy a scrapbook with their programs and newspaper clippings. Dennis said she even saved a less than perfect elementary report card, which stunned him. She knew Gary would have a good arm. When he was two years old, they were driving up Pikes Peak for a picnic. Halfway up the mountain, he threw the can opener out the window. She always argued with my dad about liking pickles. She insisted that he LOVED pickles, and Randy maintained that he did not, and does not, even like pickles. This debate was still going on up until her death. They did agree that he loved peanut butter sandwiches, and she made him one for school every single day. They all loved homemade ice cream and would wait excitedly at the oven with butter and jelly, waiting for the bread to be done baking.

Erma was an excellent cook and baker. Although her cakes were among the best, she was always frustrated that she could not replicate the burnt sugar cake that her mother-in-law used to make. She loved family celebrations, especially the beef and noodles with angel food cake that her sons prepared for her each year on her birthday in August.

Grandma admitted she yelled at her boys a lot, but she always enjoyed being a mother. Dennis loved to run through the pastures, and when he was six, he was running until he felt something give underneath his feet. He looked down and saw a coiled rattlesnake. He took off back toward the house, and when his dad got home, they killed it. He ended up sleeping between his mom and dad for quite some time after that.

While Grandma and Granddad went dancing, my dad and his brothers liked to watch horror movies on the black and white TV. When the movie was over, they would race back to their room. The last one there had to turn off the light. Erma’s husband was not her first love, for he was killed during the war, but her first impression of our granddad was definitely a good one. She thought that he was kind of cute. Then she went on and on about his good looks. He had nice looking hair! He had these curly eyelashes! They were married in Raton, New Mexico by a justice of the peace. She wrote, “I wore a suit and Harvey did too!” When they weren’t busy working, they enjoyed playing cribbage, going fishing, going dancing, and live music.

Erma’s childhood was full of live music, for her father played the harmonica, violin, banjo, ukulele, mandolin and guitar and her mother sang. They also had a phonograph when she was young. Like her sons, she enjoyed both academics and athletics. She read a lot when she got the chance, and always liked math, spelling, English and literature. She enjoyed the swings, teeter totter, playing ball and tag. She had only a few toys—toy dishes, an iron, and a doll with a rocking chair. She borrowed her brother’s bike and learned to ride it. She had many chores and many fond memories.

Grandma Erma’s mind remained strong even when her body grew weak. She enjoyed helping others however she could. She enjoyed her neighbors wherever she lived. She enjoyed the simple things in life.

Here we are, ten years later, left with only memories and photographs. She never hesitated to tell us how much we meant to her, and in her journal she wrote, “I know for sure I have the most beautiful family in the whole wide world. They are very caring, good, and really precious to me.”

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Maranda Jones’ new book Random Acts is now available at amazon.com

The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade!

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MEASUREMENT:
Approx 40" [101.5 cm] square.

MATERIALS
Bernat® Pipsqueak Stripes™ (9.8 oz/280 g; 284 yds/260 m) Dreamboat - *OR SIMILIAR*
3 balls

Size U.S. 10 (6 mm) circular knitting needle 36" - [91.5 cm] long **or size needed to obtain gauge.**

GAUGE/TENSION
10 sts and 20 rows = 4" (10 cm) in garter st.

INSTRUCTIONS
Cast on 2 stitches (sts). **Do not** join. Working back and forth across needle in rows, proceed as follows:
1st row: [Right Side (RS)]. [Increase (inc) 1 st in next st by knitting into front and back of next stitch] twice. 4 sts.
2nd row: Knit.
3rd row: Knit 2 (K2). Yarn over (yo). Knit to end of row.
Repeat (rep) last row to 140 sts on needle.
Next row: K1. Knit next 2 stitches together (K2tog). yo. K2tog. Knit to end of row.
Rep last row to 5 sts on needle.
Next row: K1. K2tog. yo. K2tog. 4 sts.
Next row: Knit.
Next row: (K2tog) twice. 2 sts.
Cast off.

The graduation day speaker delivered his commencement address. Point by point, he was both colourful and dynamic as he kept hammering home to the graduating class the importance of aggressive energy in attaining one's life goals. Finally, in a dramatic fashion, he highlighted his point. Thrusting his arm and forefinger far out to his right, he thundered: "What I am trying to tell you is that you're going to need an awful lot of what's written there on the door!" All eyes turned right as though at a given command and there, in bold black letters on the door was the single word "PULL." The speaker had quite forgotten which side of the door faced the assembly hall.

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Reflections of the Front Porch

By Janet Young

Prior to WWII, porches were a prominent architectural feature added to homes everywhere; especially for the homes in the south. The years before air conditioning was available people would sit outside to catch a few cool breezes on a warm summer night. Or, to start their day perhaps, by drinking their morning coffee on the front porch. A front porch was a welcoming and functional space where friends and family could gather to connect, converse, and if including neighbors a sense of community was created.

The porch was a gathering place where family photos were taken, where children played games - such as Jacks, where first kisses were exchanged on a star-studded night. The porch is where you get to meet and know your neighbors. For example, if someone walking their dog offers a quick hello, or perhaps a bright smile or friendly wave of the hand from a neighbor across the street who sees you relaxing on the porch, these are ways to connect one to the other.

Another example would be the porch as a gathering place for little

ones to come and eat their ice cream cone, or drink a refreshing drink of cold lemonade.

The porch is a perfect spot to sit outside and read a book. What better place to prop up your feet and read that novel you have been wanting to read. Or, how about journalling? This would be ideal for letting your creative juices flow as you feel the summer breeze and smell the roses surrounding your porch.

While we are at it, let's not forget the porch swing and the rocking chair, all attributes that helped to make the porches of yesteryear. The list could go on and on as we reflect on the influence the porch has had on thousands of families over the decades.

Yes, the porch is the bridge to the outside world. It is a welcoming place that offers community as we stated above, affords conversation, and enables a connection to family, friends and neighbors. As summer unfolds, if you are fortunate enough to have access to a porch, take advantage of the power of the lowly porch, and see what a difference it makes in your life.

Happy Summer.

- © Janet Young is a Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, Co-Founder of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association, and prior owner of Over The Teacup

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Trivia

Did you know the filling in Kit Kats is made from damaged Kit Kats?

The folks at the Kit Kat factory sure know how to recycle! Whenever a Kit Kat bar is somehow made imperfect during production like air bubbles or some other issue, the chocolate bar isn't thrown out. Instead, they are ground up into a fine paste and are part of a filling that's then incorporated back into the production process to create new Kit Kat bars!



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Summer Road Trip for Quilters

Please see
Corbin Tours
ad on
Page 23

For more than a decade, quilters and non-quilters alike have joined us on a variety of quilt-themed vacations to fabulous destinations like Missouri Star and the World’s Largest Outdoor Quilt Show in Sisters, Oregon. Whether a Quilt Guild, group of friends/relatives or singles looking to share a common interest, a quilt tour is the perfect escape while someone else takes care of all the details. Some quilters have joined us on multiple tours, and several are planning on returning again in 2025.

2025 marks the 50th Anniversary of The World’s Largest Outdoor Quilt Show, in Sisters, Oregon.

The Sisters Outdoor Show is internationally recognized as the world’s largest outdoor quilt show displaying more than 1300 quilts representing fiber artists from around the world. More than 10,000

visitors, from throughout the US and many foreign nations, flock to the beautiful mountain setting of Sisters, Oregon. The show began when founder, Jean Wells Keenan, hung a dozen quilts made by friends and family, along with her own, outside her quilt shop. A few more ladies brought their quilts, then a few more and so on until it became an annual event.

Although the show is the highlight, many other features are included, not the least of which, is the spectacular scenery of the Oregon Coast.

Join us in July 2025 for an unforgettable tour to celebrate the “Art of Quilting” and a landmark anniversary.



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SHRUB

A couple of years ago on our paper deliveries we stopped in at *Gone Scroppin in Bloom* and picked up a rhubarb shrub, which I really enjoyed. Shrubs have a bit of a zing to them, but I wouldn't say they are as vinegary as kombucha

- 12 oz. berries (such as raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, or strawberries), sliced or quartered if large
- 1½ cups (or more) white sugar
- 1 cup (or more) vinegar (red wine, white wine, apple cider, or unseasoned rice vinegar)
- Club soda or Sprite (for serving)
- 1-qt. glass jar with a lid
- Cheesecloth (optional)

Gently mash berries in a medium bowl with a fork or potato masher. Transfer to jar, add sugar, and stir to combine. Seal jar and let fruit mixture sit at room temperature, shaking a couple of times, until berries are very soft and falling apart and sugar is at least mostly dissolved, about 1 day (mixture should look very juicy).

Strain fruit mixture through a fine-mesh sieve (line sieve with a layer of cheesecloth if you want to remove all pulp and seeds) into a medium bowl; discard fruit. Scrape any undissolved sugar left in jar into bowl.

Add vinegar to syrup and stir to combine. Taste shrub and add more sugar or vinegar to your liking—it should taste both sweet and yet zingy (keep in mind the flavors will mellow as the shrub ages). Pour shrub into a clean jar; cover with lid and chill until flavors come together and mellow, at least 1 week.

Do ahead: Shrub can be made 6 months ahead. Keep chilled.

TO SERVE: Pour 2 Tbsp. shrub into a glass filled with ice and top off with club soda or Sprite; stir gently to combine. Garnish with berries and/or herbs if desired.

Puns about vegetables make me
feel good from my head tomatoes.

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Trivia

Happy Birthday!

You have a 50 per cent chance of sharing a birthday with a friend. In any group of 23 people, two people will share a birthday, according to the maths. To find the probability of everyone in the group having a unique birthday, multiply all 23 probabilities together, giving 0.493. So the probability of a shared birthday is 1 - 0.493 = 0.507, or 50.7 per cent.



A Cup of Tea with Lydia

The Fragrance of Sharing Tea

By Lydia E. Harris

Who doesn't love a little bit of this and that? And that is exactly what a tea party can be! Let's do a taste-test on a varie-TEA of teatimes.

1. A spot of tea and charcuterie!

My friend Kathleen had just returned from a 10-day mission trip to the Philippines with a team of eight people. As part of her home-based prayer team, I was eager to hear about her outreach and invited her for tea.

Since charcuterie boards with assorted foods are popular, I arranged most of the food on a pretty tray for us to share. It included crackers, two kinds of sliced cheese, thin salami slices rolled into roses and placed in small cups, cherry tomatoes and fresh strawberries. If desired, you could garnish the arrangement with edible fresh flowers. On the side, I served teacups with homemade cheesecake topped with whipped cream and blueberries.



While we sipped Blackberry Sage tea, I learned that Kathleen and the team had shared God's love with 2,700 prisoners in sixteen jails and prisons. They also distributed food, hygiene supplies and 1,000 Bibles.

Kathleen spoke to groups of prisoners each day and blessed the lives of truly desperate men and women. She shared her heart with prisoners and spread the sweet-smelling fragrance of God. I sent her home with a small heart-shaped German chocolate cake and fragrant lilies from the table arrangement, further spreading a wonderful fragrance.

2. A simple "thank-you" tea shares love.

My niece's daughter surprised me by ordering containers of Lyle's golden syrup online to be delivered to my doorstep. She knew I had run out of this important cookie ingredient. To thank her, I invited my great-niece and her mother for tea and cookies made with golden syrup. (See recipe for Everyone's Favorite Cookies) After our visit, I sent them home with the remaining cookies and the flowers that decorated the table. Flowers make the perfect reminder of the fragrance of friendship.

Later my niece wrote: "Thanks for the tea and cookies this afternoon! It was just the pick-me-up I needed."

3. Tea can put the happy in birthday, and it doesn't even have to be in person!



My niece delivered a tea party in a box from me to my older sister, Ruth for her 87th birthday. I kept it quick and easy with store-bought items including a colossal-sized piece of carrot cake, candles, several other treats and her favorite candy bar—Baby Ruth.

I tucked in napkins, a small bottle of sparkling cider and Harney & Son's "Birthday Party" tea, which she enjoys. This herbal tea brews a rosy pink color and has a fruity flavor. To brighten her apartment, I sent along a flowering purple and rust chrysanthemum plant with a perky floral bow.

I also mailed her a card, in which I wrote:



You're a Blessing!

Baking, cooking, sharing homemade English muffins
Loyal and loving—to family, friends and God
Evangelical—leading Bible studies and offering spiritual help to others
Souper, caring cook—making me a gallon of Mom's chicken noodle soup when sick
Singing—adding joy and praise to the lives of others
Industrious—helping in our yard and home
Never giving up—even on hard projects like recovering my chairs
Godly—testing my grandparenting Bible study with other grandmas before publication



You can adapt this idea to create your own card to bless someone.

Whether teatimes are simple, fancy, in-person or delivered, they can leave a lingering sweet fragrance for us and our guests. Who needs the fragrance of your love over tea.

From Lydia's Recipe File:

Everyone's Favourite Cookies (Brun Kaker)

I've yet to find anyone who doesn't like them. The key ingredient is golden syrup. (From *In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together*, Harvest House Publishers.)

Gather

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 T. powdered sugar
- 2 T. golden syrup (e.g. Lyle's)
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda

Make

1. Preheat the oven to 350°.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter, sugars, golden syrup, and vanilla.
3. In a medium-sized bowl, mix together the flour and baking soda.
4. Add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture, 1 cup at a time. Mix until blended. You may want to mix it by hand.
5. Divide the dough in half. Form each part into 2 long rolls, about 1½ inches around.
6. Place 2 rolls of dough on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake the cookies for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the rolls have flattened and are lightly browned.
7. Remove the cookies from the oven and place the cookie sheet on a cooling rack. Using a pizza cutter or knife, cut each rope into diagonal strips that are 1-inch wide. Allow the cookies to cool slightly before moving them from the pan to cooling racks. When cool, store the cookies in a covered container.

Makes 3 to 4 dozen cookies.

Tip: You can find golden syrup in some grocery stores shelved near light and dark corn syrup, and also online.

Lydia E. Harris is a tea enthusiast and the author of three books for grandparents: *GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids*, *In the Kitchen with Grandma: Stirring Up Tasty Memories Together*, and *Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting*, all available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



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I Wonder Could I Live There Anymore?

"Have you ever been awakened by the crowing of a rooster"

"While the night's dew is still heavy on the ground."

Bill Rice wrote the lyrics, and Charlie Pride sang them on his 1971 album *From Me To You*. Although the album came out in 1971, the song was released in May 1970.

Since I was born in the early '70s, I don't remember the song at the time of its release, but it was Pride's fourth number-one hit in a row.

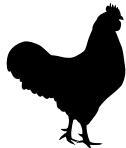
When I came across the song in adulthood, it really stuck with me. I love that I grew up on the farm and experienced everything that went along with it, some of it easy, some of it hard.

We never had a rooster on the farm, but we sure did have chickens. I remember driving to Weyburn, Saskatchewan, to pick up the box full of freshly hatched chicks. The box had finger-sized air holes, and we kids would sit in the car's back seat with the box between us and poke our fingers into the box just far enough for the young chicks to peck at our skin.

Once home, the chicks would be placed in what I remember as an old wooden truck box cover. The cover was placed on the ground near an electrical outlet on the side of the house. The young chick's new home was equipped with heat lamps and feeders that Dad had set up. I remember my young, curious mind being fascinated that the water did not pour out of the water feeder when it was turned over. Watching how fast the cute, fuzzy yellow chicks started to turn white and grow feathers was also amazing. You truly could see the difference in their growth every day.

Once they were old enough, we would move them, the ones that had survived anyway, into the chicken coop. In our case, the coop was an old threshing team mobile shed that, if my memory of the story serves me correctly, was used as a kitchen when the thrashing crews moved from field to field during harvest days of old. I'm not sure how the shed ended up in our possession. It may have been a family member who could have been part of the crew, or the crew just left it behind and never needed it again after harvest equipment evolved. The thrashing teams being no longer needed. I will never forget the smell of that coop on a hot summer day.

I honestly never remember having laying hens. We raised chickens for their meat. We must have had laying hens at one point in my childhood, though, because I vividly remember Dad punching a hole in each end of an egg and then filling it with tabasco sauce to teach the family



dog a lesson about stealing eggs.

I was pretty young, so my memory of events involving butchering chickens might be a little mixed up. Still, I remember being woken up early one morning, close to the end of summer, to catch chickens so Dad could behead them. We were then in charge of following the headless birds as they flopped around to prevent them from getting caught up in anything that could harm the meat, like a barbed wire fence.

Speaking of smells that stick with you, Every time I give one of our dogs a bath, I am reminded of the smell of dunking the chicken carcasses into a metal wash tub of boiling water to loosen the feathers for plucking. Burnt hair still takes me back to the smell of Dad burning off the pin feathers with a propane torch. The smell of Dad cleaning the gizzards is something that I have never experienced again, thankfully. All of that may sound messy and gross to some of our readers, but the worst part of the day came later when it was time to wash up after the long day of dirty birds, blood, guts and feathers. The bathtub would be full of cold water and chickens to soak before freezing. Washing up from the day would come down to the best you could do with a sink full of soapy, warm water and a washcloth.

That's where the part of the Charlie Pride song that goes, *"its nice to think about it, and maybe even visit, but I wonder could I live there anymore."*

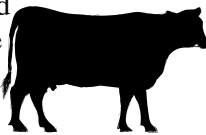
As mentioned at the start, I truly love that I grew up on the farm and everything it taught me, but I'm not sure I would want to live that way again.

"Well its time to rise and shine and start another hard workday. And get the cows in and start the milking chores."

I have advanced arthritis in my hands, so the thought of milking a cow makes me cringe. However, that was one of my chores as a kid. We only had two milk cows, but they provided more than our family of six could use. Each cow would give a good-sized metal pail full of milk twice daily. Thankfully, Dad always did the morning milking. My job was to go out after the family had supper and start the call "mmm boss." I have no idea where this, come get milked cow, call came, but it worked. That and the pail of chop, as we called it, in my hand. We usually had both cats and pigs in the barn during milking. They would both go stir-crazy waiting for their share of the fresh milk. The cats got theirs straight up, and the pigs had theirs mixed in with a few pails of chop. Chop was made by grinding grain and hay together into an almost powder in a machine I think we called a Chaffer, and then stored in the chop bin, which was a sort of granary the size of a large outhouse.

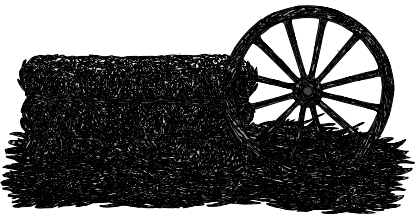


I remember one winter night, my brothers, who fed the rest of the cattle with large hay bales, dumped into a hay bin and then had the twine holding them together cut off. The order of things was for me to get the milk cows into the barn, and then they, my brothers, would feed the rest of the cattle. That night, they decided to get ahead of me. I struggled to get our older milk cow away from the hay until she finally turned around and head-butted me straight in the chest, knocking me off my feet and back quite aways from her. She was having none of my nonsense about being milked; she wanted hay. As I struggled to get my air back after having the wind knocked out of me, I decided to give up and ask Dad what to do. Dad had some interesting words for my brothers and told me to leave the cow unmilked. "She'll learn". It turns out the cow was so full of milk in the morning and in pain because of it that she was standing at the barn door waiting for Dad in the morning. She never didn't show up for milking again that I remember.



As far as those hay bales that we used to feed the cattle in the winter, it was only in my early teen years that we started to use the big round bales. Before that, it was all small square bales. Every road ditch, slough bottom and actual hay field was painstakingly cut with a sickle mower, or "sicklemore" as we called it. The hay would be left to dry for a few days. Never once in my childhood do I remember our fresh-cut hay being rained on, which can significantly reduce the quality of the hay. This dry hay would then be raked with a hay rake. Hay rakes of old were comb-like impairments that one person would ride on. The rake would need to be pulled by one or the other, a horse or tractor. In our case, it was a tractor, and this meant that the job took two people. I only remember using this type of hay rake once or twice, and I'm not sure if it was on our farm or someone else's. We had a working old-style hay rake, but I mostly remember using the star-wheeled type to create windrows for baling.

Baling was another long and tedious chore. Once again, The baler was pulled by a tractor, but this time, much like the sickle mower, the PTO, or power takeoff, needed to be used for the machinery to work. The PTO would turn a drive shaft that would run the baler's working parts. The picked-up hay would be slowly packed into rectangular-shaped bales. On their way through the bale chute, the baler would tie each bail with "binder twine," the next bale coming behind it would push it up a ramp and into a stooker. The stooker would tip each bale at a 45-degree angle and stack them into a triangle-shaped Stook.



We only had a five-bale stooker, but there were ones that held more.

After the baling was complete, the bale hauling started. We had a front-end loader on one tractor, and Dad had welded up what I remember us calling a stook fork. This stook fork replaced the usual bucket on the tractor and would fit under and between the bottom three bales in the stook. One of my brothers would run the stook fork, lifting and setting the stooks onto the hay wagon. The hay wagon was pulled along by this same tractor as we moved along.

Stacking bales was an art form. Each row of bales had to line up with the next, and one or two bales needed to overlap the row beneath to prevent them from tipping through rough fields and slough bottoms during transport. Once the hay wagon was full, it was pulled back to the farmyard and parked beside the bale stack. Each bale that we had just strategically placed was removed from the hay wagon to once again be perfectly stacked in an orderly pattern.

Stacking bales also meant throwing bales. Throwing bales was a way of getting the bales higher up the stack than where you picked them up from and to the person stacking them. Throwing was a lot like an Olympic athlete's deadlift motion. You would grab the bail by the twine holding it together, jerk it up onto your forearms and then use your strength to throw it up the stack. You needed a long-sleeved shirt for this job. And even with that, the pokey hay strands would rub your forearm skin raw to the point of bleeding. I never actually minded this until we got to the slough bottoms. Slough bottoms always had mint growing in them. The mint would burn your raw skin, making it even more raw with every bale thrown. Because of this, I hated the smell of fresh mint for many years after leaving the farm.

I probably do not fully remember these stories as they happened. Still, they are my memories, and I cherish them dearly. A lot of my childhood farm work was interrupted by my dad's battle with cancer for a couple of years. During these years, the cropland was rented out, and the bulk of the day-to-day farm work was done by neighbours trying to help my mother cope with 4 kids and a sick husband. Dad miraculously won his battle, and I was able to have him in my life until his passing many years later. It's important to know the difference between memories and longing. I'll enjoy my memories of living on the farm and leave the longing to do it again to someone else.

"I think about my childhood and of my old hometown. I don't really miss them like before. It's nice to think about it maybe even visit but I wonder could I live there anymore."



Borderline Mistake

by Kirby Gust

Summer jumped out of hiding this year like a schoolchild hiding on his friends, hoping to pop up at the last second to scare them. Carl wasn't startled by summer's arrival; he knew it was coming sooner or later. He had watched as the seed display in the store slowly dwindled to a few packets. Mostly left behind were packets of seeds that none of the local gardeners recognized, and they were leery of trying to grow something new in their limited garden spaces.

Carl also watched in amazement, as he did every year, how the massive shipment of seed potatoes he had brought into the store quickly disappeared one, two, sometimes five bags at a time. Carl has a good reason to always have lots of seed potatoes in the spring. You see, the first year he was in charge of ordering supplies for the store, supplies that included seed potatoes, he didn't order any. Seed potatoes, that is. It wasn't that he didn't try to order seed potatoes that year, for he just tried to do it in April.

Carl found the contact number for Prairie Seed Co. in Brandon in mid-April and thought to himself, "Spring is just around the corner; I better get on this." "Thank you for calling Prairie Seed Company," said a pleasant voice on the other end of the line when Carl phoned. "This is Jessica; how may I help you. "I need to order seed potatoes," said Carl. "How do I go about ordering 200 bags for retail sale?" "You have contacted the right place," Jessica said. "Let me just get some information from you." After answering a few of her questions, Jessica said, "I think we have you on file; just one second, yes, here you are...Borderline Goods. And what varieties were you thinking of for next year?" "No, no, no," said Carl. "I want them for this year, as soon as possible, in fact, as I already have

customers asking for them." "This year?" Said a confused Jessica. "Yes!" said Carl. "How soon can you get them to me?"

"At retail price, next week. At the wholesale price, this time next year." "Next year?" Carl uttered a little louder than he intended to. "I'm sorry," said Jessica, "is there something wrong?" Jessica explained to Carl that this year's wholesale orders had to be placed last year. That's how the seed company knows how many to order from the farmers that supply the seed potatoes. The supply and demand cycle for seed potatoes had never occurred to Carl. Carl thought ordering seed potatoes for the store would be the same as ordering other supplies from the food wholesaler. When he needed it, he ordered it. It always showed up.

Jessica explained that she could supply him with what he needed, but he would have to pay full retail, the same as he would have had he filled out the order form in the back of the seed catalogue and mailed it in. Carl could not see the benefit of buying seed potatoes at retail price, paying for the shipping and handling, and selling them for the same price he had paid for them. In fact, he would lose money because of the shipping and handling. Realizing this, Carl placed next year's order, thanked Jessica for her help and then hung up the phone, having no idea what he had just done.

All Carl would have had to do was mention his earlier conversation with Jessica to his wife Mary at supper that night, and all of what would eventually occur could have been avoided. Carl, in his defence, didn't think it was much of a big deal and had, in fact, forgotten about it already. He had sorted out next year's order, and all was well in his world.

The problems all started the next day at the store when the town gossip, Mrs. Finley, came in, or "Mrs. Finally" as the locals called her, because every time she came upon some gossip, she would almost burst until she could "finally" tell someone. Mrs Finley had come in to get her yearly supply of seeds. When she asked where her usual Yukon Gold seed potatoes were, Carl explained what had happened the day before. How he had called to order the seed potatoes and was told that he could only get them at retail prices. "I decided it wasn't a good idea to lose money on something as silly as seed potatoes." "As silly as seed potatoes???!!!" She burst out. "As silly as seed potatoes?" She said once again. "Wait until the town hears about this!"

And hear they did. Surprisingly, Mary's voice was on the other end of the line the first time the phone rang after Mrs Finley left. "Carl," said Mary when Carl answered the phone. "Yes?" Said Carl, sounding like he was asking a question. "What is this I hear about the seed potatoes?"

After Carl explained to Mary about his call to the seed company, she had only two words for them: "Call Jessica."

Carl was working alone at the store as usual, so by the time, the few customers that were already in the store and the few that had drifted in after his call with Mary had left. He picked up the phone and called Jessica. "Prairie Seed Company, can you hold, please?" "Yes," said Carl. Fifteen minutes later, he was glad to hear Jessica's friendly voice on the other end of the line. "Oh, am I glad to talk to you," Carl said. "I need to order some seed potatoes." It was strangely quiet on the other end of the line. "Jessica?" Carl asked. "Are you there"

"Yes," said Jessica. "How can I help you?" "Seed potatoes," Carl blurted out. "I need seed potatoes; I don't care how much they cost." "Ok," said Jessica. "Let me see here, we only have one variety left." "I'll take 'em," said Carl. "All 10 bags?" said Jessica. "10 bags," said Carl. "NO, I need 200 bags". "We only have 10 bags left," said Jessica. "it has been a hectic day around here, getting so late in the season for seeds and all. It seems like everyone called in today to get their seed potatoes." I know where they are all going thought Carl, and he was right. Once word had gotten out that he had forgotten to order and then refused to pay for shipping on retail-priced potatoes, every household and farm within

a 30-mile radius was on the phone to get their orders in. All of them having to pay the shipping and handling, which they were not happy about.

The following week, the reality of the whole situation fell upon Carl like a sack of potatoes. When the mail truck showed up, did I mention that Borderline Goods is also the town's post office? Did I also mention that all the seed potatoes that were ordered in the area last week were shipped by mail, each individually addressed and marked General Delivery? Everyone in the community knows what time the mail truck shows up. Once Mrs. Finley saw the boxes upon boxes marked Prairie Seed Co. being unloaded, everyone in town soon knew the potatoes were in. They all started to line up to get their mail. Carl hadn't had a chance to sort any mail when the lineup started. He had to announce that everyone looking to pick up their mail would have to return the next day. Carl was at the store that night well past midnight, sorting boxes upon boxes of mail. After only a couple hours of sleep, Carl arrived back at the store to find a lineup that had already started out the front door. The lineup was already out into the street and around the corner. It took all day to hand pick and hand over the parcels one by one as the line of people slowly grew smaller and smaller. After it was all over, Carl was able to close up for the day. He hit the No Sale button on the cash register to cash out, and that was when he realized he had not made one sale all day.

To this day, when someone mentions seed potatoes in Carl's presence, they all gawk at him with a disappointed stare. Carl expects everyone to say "seed potatoes" with disdain and then spit, like they do on *Corner Gas* when someone mentions Wullerton.

Potatoes are important to prairie families, and after that first year Carl has had “eyes” on the situation ever since .

Borderline Good is a series of fictional stories written by Kirby Gust. The stories are set in a fictional town on the Saskatchewan Manitoba border. All the characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

**Answer to Crossword
on Pg. 22**

D	R	I	F	T		T	A	C	T	I	C	S
I	A	E		L		E						O
O	V	E	R	S	T	E	P			M	A	N
E		M		Y		H				P		T
S	T	R	E	A	M			A	L	O	N	E
		R		O		B						N
W	E	D	S			L	E	E		T	U	T
	S			O		T				W		
	S	L	A	N	G			I	D	I	O	T
	E		N			I		C	H	A	P	T
A	N	T	I			C	H	A	P	T	E	R
	G		M			A		L		E	E	S
R	E	C	A	L	L	S				D	R	E

Dill Pickle Soup

When I was growing up, many of our neighbours were seniors who had immigrated from Europe and Russia, so I fortunately exposed to many different kinds of baking and snacks. That is probably where my love of creating recipes stems from – I'd taste a treat and try to figure out what was in it, and how they made

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 medium onion finely minced
- 1 large carrot grated on large holes of box grater
- 1 cup dill pickles cut in half lengthwise and then thinly sliced
- 5 cups chicken stock
- 3 medium potatoes peeled and cubed
- 5 Tbsp tablespoon sour cream
- 1 ½ Tbsp flour
- 6 Tbsp pickle juice
- 1 tsp salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- 4 Tbsp fresh dill, chopped

In a medium bowl whisk together sour cream, flour and the dill pickle juice.

Heat butter in large non-stick pan over medium heat. Add onion and carrot and cook until vegetables begin to soften, approximately 7 minutes. Stir in dill pickles and cook for 3 more minutes.

Meanwhile, add broth to a large stockpot and bring to a boil. Once boiling, add potatoes, reduce heat to medium low and cook for 10 minutes.

Stir in sautéed vegetables, salt, pepper, sour cream and flour mixture into the pot with potatoes and cook for another 5 minutes or until potatoes are tender when poked with a knife.

Remove from the heat, and serve garnished with fresh dill.

Trivia

Did you know goosebumps are caused by a muscle?

At the base of every hair follicle are tiny fan-shaped muscles called Arrector pili. These muscles contract when the body is cold in an effort to warm the body up and cause a person's hair to "stand up straight" on their skin aka goosebumps.

Humboldt, SK



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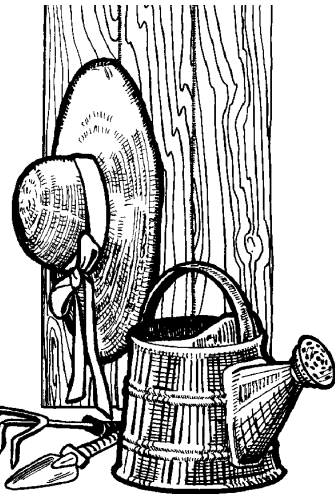
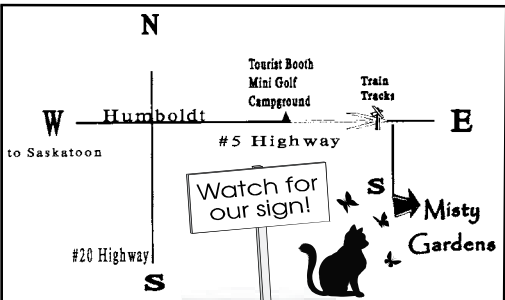
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Amanda Brown
Education Consultant for Janome Canada

- 9:30 am - Cut, Sew & Press for Success
- 10:30 am - Hemming and Mending like a Pro
- 11:30 - So Many ways to quilt your quilts
- 1:00 pm - Notion News - see the newest notions on the market
- 2:30 pm - Applique Made Easy
- 3:30 pm - Tips & Techniques for Making Bags.

Friday, September 20, 2024

10:00 am - Finishing your Quilts



Glynn from Taylor's Sharpening will be here Thursday for all you sharp ening needs. If you can't be here that day just drop off your scissors and knives before and he will have them sharpened and then you can pick them up after.

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How Well Can You Swim?

by *Becky Van Vleet*

Now that summer is upon us, the call from my grandchildren begging me to take them to our neighborhood pool is loud and clear. And frequent! All boasting aside, I'd say they are all pretty good swimmers, mostly self-taught. But then again, I'm their Nana.

Swimming has played a pretty significant role in our family through the years. My husband was a lifeguard in his teen years. All four of our daughters became competitive swimmers, competing on swim teams. Three became life-guards.

When they were much younger, I'd jump in the pools we frequented right along with them, but I was never very confident. Basically because, well, I never learned how to swim. So, I finally signed up for a beginner adult swimming class at our local YMCA years ago. Do I dare say I took the class twice? I finally gained a little confidence when I learned to tread water and no longer feared the deep end of swimming pools. Through the years, I'd practice strokes when no one paid me any attention. I'd watch my daughters swim, and I'd try to mimic their strokes. And finally, through hard work and perseverance, I learned the fundamentals of swimming. Today, my grandchildren think their grandmother has ALWAYS been a swimmer. And I never tell them otherwise!

But to answer the question, "How Well Can You Swim?", I'd say I'm about average. In the early part of my, uh, ahem, seventies decade, I lap swim every Tuesday morning. I know the basics—back, side, breast, and crawl strokes. Truth be told, I never learned how to dive. It kinda scared me. If you're thrashing about in the water, you may not want to count on me to rescue you.

But I'll never forget hearing the story about my father, Walter Troyan, saving my uncle from drowning many years ago. Unfortunately, I didn't hear this story until after his death. I would have liked to ask him more about it. My Uncle Thornton, my mother's oldest brother, shared this story with me.

In the summer of 1946, WWII over, my father was a newlywed, and he'd been discharged from the Navy, having served on a cruiser. He and my mother lived in Indianapolis but would visit her family in southern Indiana. My mother was the oldest of nine children, so the eight younger siblings were still living at home.

At this time, the Thomas family had no running water, so baths were mostly taken in a small metal tub inside the house. Or, just wherever one

could get a bath. And countless natural pools of water, called stripper pits, were not too far away. The area was called Thousand Islands, land that had been mined for coal and didn't fill all the way up with water, so the many mounds of peaks looked like a thousand islands with individual pools of water.

One day in that long ago summer, my father and my mother's two younger brothers, Thornton and Paul, dirtier than pigpen from working all day, and no good place for a bath, headed to Thousand Islands to refresh and cool off. The stripper pit pools were fairly clean, considering the kind of "pool" they were, and the glistening waters invited many, back in the day.



The three young men knew it was best to only walk out to chest height water depth, but no further because of drop offs. But on this particular day, Paul, about thirteen years old, went out a little too far, lost his footing, and started to drown. My father went into action right away. With gargantuan effort, he dove down deep and pushed Paul up from the bottom, and when they both surfaced, my dad tugged at his neck to pull him to safety. Paul had a boatload of water in his mouth and slung his head around, gasping and coughing, frightened to death. Witnessing this harrowing scare, Thornton was beside himself.

When all three returned home, they had quite the story to tell my grandmother who was more than a little terrified just listening to the episode, even though her son's life had been saved.

My Uncle Thornton says to this day he greatly admired the courage of my father, still new to the family, to risk his own life to save his young brother-in-law. His words: "Becky, your dad was an excellent swimmer. He knew just what to do. He didn't even have to think about it. I think he learned his great swimming skills from serving in the Navy."

So yes, I highly doubt I could rescue another swimmer in trouble. But I'm sure thankful my father could!

Becky Van Vleet, a retired school administrator, lives near Colorado Springs with her husband, Troy. They are the parents of four grown children and enjoy spending time with their nine grandchildren. Becky is a children's picture book author, and her website is devoted to family stories and creating memories: www.beckylvanvleet.com.

BREVITY

*During one of his discussions, a small-town minister said,
"In each blade of grass there is a sermon."
Later that afternoon, one of his parishioners discovered the good man
pushing a lawn mower about his garden and paused to remark:
"Well, parson, I am glad to observe you engage in cutting your sermon short."*

In Your Suitcase

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other.
Use the word bank below.

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

SWIMSUIT	HAT	PANTS	SHOES	SWEATER
DRESSES	JACKET	SANDALS	SHORTS	TSHIRTS
FLIPFLOPS	MAKEUP	SCARF	SOCKS	TOILETRIES
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Quilts in the Trees at Kelli Dee



Quilts in the Trees began in 2017 in partnership with Cat’s Meow Quilts as a celebration of Canada’s 150 Birthday. The Garden Centre is shaded by large poplar trees, making perfect hanging spaces for all manner of quilts.

The first year, quilts were gathered locally and from as far away as Weyburn and Calgary. Some were hung up in the empty greenhouse, but we found that this was too hot for a sunny July day. That year we had over 100 quilts as we allowed quilters to enter as many as they liked. That was a few too many quilts for a one day outdoor event, so we have limited the number we take in. A local quilt group, the Chokecherry Quilters, usually show up to lend a hand with the set up and take down and they usually stay around to chat with folks as they pass through the displays.

So, learning as we go, we have continued to have a show in 2018, 2019 and 2023. We have no contests or judging. Sometimes we take in vintage quilts with interesting stories. We have Christmas quilts, table runners and other needle work, whatever a fibre artist has to show. We have had knitters and seamstresses who sell their wares under tents outdoors.

Overall it is a fun day and our guest just love looking at all the interesting projects. It is a cool respite from all the busy celebration activities on Jasper Street.

This year, **Celebrate Maple Creek** hosted by the Maple Creek Chamber of Commerce will be held on **August 17**. We will be ready to go at 1:00 until 4:00. Please join us for a day of small town fun.

Growing Radishes in the Prairies: A Guide

Radishes are a fast-growing, cool-season crop that can thrive in the unique conditions of the prairies. With the upcoming cooler days and nights, now is the time to scatter some radish seeds. Summer is so short, that it is hard to believe we are coming to the end of the growing season.

BEST RADISH VARIETIES

- Several radish varieties are well-suited for prairie conditions:
- Cherry Belle:** A classic red radish with a mild flavor and crisp texture. It matures quickly, usually within 22-28 days.
 - French Breakfast:** An heirloom variety known for its elongated shape and mild, slightly sweet taste. It matures in about 25-30 days.
 - Easter Egg:** A mix of different colored radishes, including red, purple, pink, and white. This variety adds a splash of color to salads and matures in 28-30 days.
 - Watermelon Radish:** This variety has a green exterior and a vibrant pink interior. It has a sweet, mild flavor and takes about 55-60 days to mature.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS

- Radishes prefer well-drained, fertile soil with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0.
- Loosen the Soil:** Use a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of at least 6 inches, allowing roots to expand without obstruction.
 - Add Organic Matter:** Incorporate compost or well-rotted manure to improve soil fertility and structure, which helps retain moisture and provide essential nutrients.
 - Avoid Compaction:** Ensure the soil is not compacted. Raised beds can be an excellent option to avoid soil compaction and ensure good drainage.
 - Maintain Moisture:** Radishes require consistent moisture to develop properly. Water the soil evenly to keep it moist but not waterlogged.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Radishes are cool-season crops and thrive in the mild temperatures of spring and fall:

- Temperature Range:** Radishes grow best in temperatures between 50°F and 70°F (10°C to 21°C). They can tolerate light frosts but will bolt (flower prematurely) in hot weather.
- Frost Protection:** In early spring, protect seedlings from late frosts with row covers or by planting in a protected area.
- Planting Time:** For spring planting, sow radish seeds as soon as the soil is workable, usually 4-6 weeks

before the last expected frost. For a fall crop, plant seeds 4-6 weeks before the first expected frost. Succession planting every couple of weeks can ensure a continuous harvest.

GROWING TIPS - A common problem in our yard is is that the radishes are all tops and no bulbs. We’ve discovered that excessive nitrogen, the rapid onset of hot weather, or overcrowding are common causes of this.

- Thinning:** Once seedlings emerge, thin them to 1-2 inches apart to ensure enough space for root development.
- Mulching:** Apply a light layer of mulch to help retain soil moisture and reduce weed competition.
- Pests and Diseases:** Watch out for common pests like flea beetles and root maggots. Use floating row covers to protect young plants and practice crop rotation to reduce disease risk.

HARVESTING

Radishes are ready to harvest when their roots are about 1 inch in diameter. Harvest promptly to avoid pithiness or splitting. For fall radishes, harvest before the ground freezes.

CONCLUSION

By selecting the right varieties, preparing the soil, and monitoring weather conditions, you can enjoy a bountiful harvest of this versatile and flavorful root vegetable. Radishes are not only a quick and easy crop but also add vibrant color and fresh taste to your meals. With the right approach, your prairie garden can be a thriving source of this delightful vegetable.

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PICKLED PEPPERED EGGS

This recipe is on my Christmas baking list as a friend loves them, and that is what he wants for Christmas. He saves the pickled onions and peppers for putting on sandwiches.

- 2 quart jar (or smaller jars, if you are giving these out)
- 12 hard boiled eggs, shelled
- 1 yellow pepper, seeded and cut into strips
- 1 red pepper, seeded and cut into strips
- 1 green pepper, seeded and cut into strips
- 1 large onion, cut into rings

BRINE

- 2 cups white vinegar
- 1 cup water
- ¼ cup white sugar
- 1 Tbsp of pickling spice, tied in double layer of cheesecloth
- 1 tsp. table salt

Arrange the eggs and the peppers and onions a few at time, mixing them for colour as you fill the jar.

BRINE: In a medium saucepan, bring all 5 ingredients to a boil over medium high heat. Stir frequently. Boil 5 minutes. Toss out the spice bag. Pour over the egg mixture. Brine must cover completely. Cover and store in refrigerator a minimum of 1 week before serving. Keeps at least 6 months.

Trivia

Did you know extreme ironing is an actual sport?

Extreme ironing is an extreme sport in which people take ironing boards to remote locations and iron items of clothing.

According to the Extreme Ironing Bureau, extreme ironing is "the latest danger sport that combines the thrills of an extreme outdoor activity with the satisfaction of a well-pressed shirt."

Founded in 1997, this challenge proves that it's not for the faint of heart! Competitors have to press shirts in unexpected locations like high up in trees, hanging over cliffs, or paddling white-water rapids.

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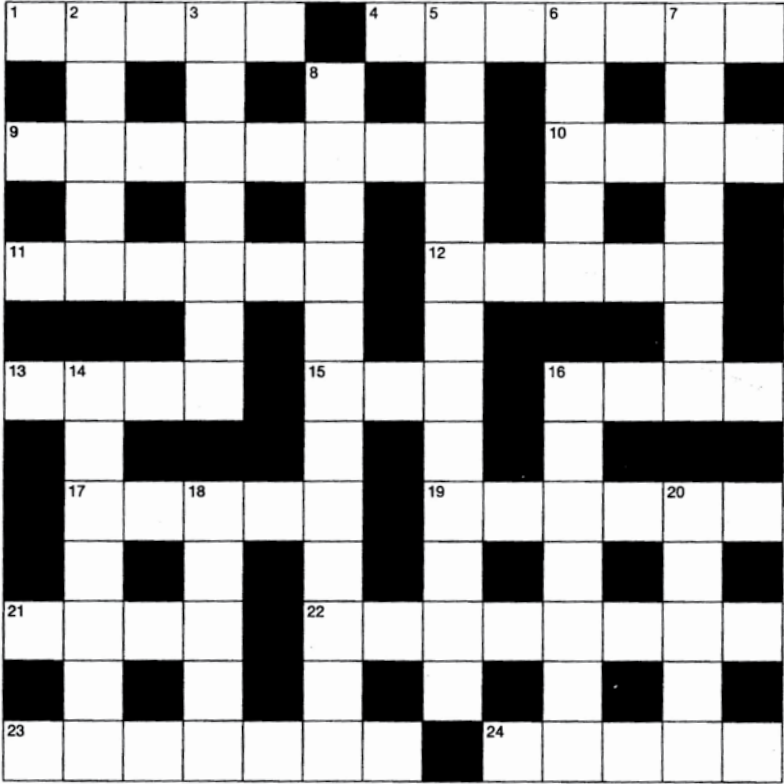
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CROSSWORD - ANSWER ON PG. 18



ACROSS

- 1 Float (5)
- 4 Strategy (7)
- 9 Exceed a limit (8)
- 10 A lion's neck hair (4)
- 11 Flow (6)
- 12 Solo (5)
- 13 Forms a union (4)
- 15 Hammer horror actor, Christopher (3)
- 16 Swan Lake attire (4)

DOWN

- 17 Informal language (5)
- 19 Imbeciles (6)
- 21 A person who is against something (4)
- 22 Sections (8)
- 23 Remembers (7)
- 24 Put clothes on (5)

- 5 Like in a dictionary, eg (12)
- 6 Pace (5)
- 7 Satisfied (7)
- 8 Related to word origins (12)
- 14 Extract (7)
- 16 Tremulous bird chirp (7)
- 18 Inner self (5)
- 20 Becomes worn out (5)

Jokes

I can't remember any sewing jokes, I'm running out of materials.

My friend composes songs about sewing machines. He's a Singer-songwriter.

How did you know the thief was a seamstress? She seemed to be following a pattern.

What do you call a gathering of quilters? A block party.

A clean house is a strong sign that the sewing machine is broken.

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MUSTARD PICKLES

8 cups beans, cut into 1 ½ inch lengths
SPICE MIXTURE
1 tsp turmeric
½ tsp dry mustard
½ cup flour
2 tsp salt
2 cups brown sugar
1/2 cup white vinegar
BRINE
2 ½ cups white vinegar
1 cup water
1 Tbsp celery seed

Boil the beans in water until just tender. Drain and cool.

Mix together the turmeric, dry mustard, flour, salt, brown sugar and ½ cup of vinegar.

Bring to a slow boil 2 ½ cups vinegar, water and celery seed. Add in the spice mixture. Cook about 5 minutes until thickened.

Mix in the bean and bring to a boil.

Pour into sterilized jars and seal.

Trivia

NYLON

As the story goes, the term nylon was given to a product created by its inventor, who worked on developing it in both New York and London. By taking the first letter of New York and combining it with the first three letter of London, one get the word nylon.

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Trivia:

QUACK

This word is an abbreviation of the seventeenth-century Dutch quacksalver, meaning a medical charlatan or a maker of ointment who boasts or quacks about the superlative virtue of his own product without knowing anything about medicine or its practice. Like the duck, the quack is one who makes a big noise over nothing.

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