

Holiday feast

(Continued from page 1B)

GINGERBREAD HOUSE

To make the gingerbread dough assemble the following ingredients:
 1/2 cup solid white vegetable shortening
 1 cup old-fashioned molasses
 4 cups all-purpose flour (sifted)
 1/4 cup sugar
 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 1/4 tsp. baking soda
 1 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
 1/4 tsp. salt

Melt shortening and then add the molasses and 1/2 cup warm water. Mix in dry ingredients until smooth. Chill several hours. Roll dough out in small amounts to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut out pattern and transfer to a greased and floured baking sheet, making sure to straighten the pattern pieces as you lay them on the sheet. Bake in pre-heated oven (350 degrees) for about 10 minutes or until golden brown.

The recipe makes one large house or about 4-5 small ones. Assemble house using Royal Icing (below).

ASSEMBLING THE HOUSE

1. Bake each piece, making sure the windows, doors, etc. are cut out before baking.
2. Cook baked pieces on a flat surface.
3. With pastry tube and royal icing, frost or decorate each piece as you desire. Except for the large house, decorate all pieces before assembling. The icing hardens fast, so have candies, etc., ready to apply once the icing is put on the house parts.
4. Once all the parts are decorated, squeeze a row of frosting onto the base or board, the width and length of the house. It will look like a letter L.
5. Pipe icing on the base and side edge of the end piece and the side piece. Bonding both edges makes a better fit.
6. Put end and side pieces into piped lines on the base, making sure the sides are touching. Hold for a minute until they feel set.
7. Do the same thing with the other side

and end piece until house is up. Now you are ready for the roof.

8. Pipe icing onto the upper edges of the ends and one side wall (half the house). Put one roof piece on, making sure it is set before letting go. Make sure it is in the right position to match up other half of the roof also. Hold on to the roof for a minute or two so it will not slide down. If you have it heavily decorated, the weight of it may make it harder to stay up and may cause you to hold it in place longer. DO NOT RUSH THIS STEP.
9. Repeat the process in Step 8 with the other half of the roof. Again, do not rush. If you plan to use heavy decorations on the roof, it might be best to decorate it after the roof has set for several hours.
10. Pipe all edges to cover the seams. Licorice can be used nicely here for some added detail.

Happy building and merry Christmas.

Spendthrift fire

A crackling fire may make your home cozier, but it also can be a drain on your energy-saving efforts. An efficient fireplace flue will draw out 20 per cent of the already-heated air of the house every hour—even when there is a roaring fire.

If you won't read these 7 signals of cancer... You probably have the 8th.

1. Change in bowel or bladder habits.
2. A sore that does not heal.
3. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
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5. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.
6. Obvious change in wart or mole.
7. Hoarseness or change in voice.
8. A fear of cancer that can prevent you from detecting cancer at an early stage. A stage when it is highly curable. Everyone's afraid of cancer, but don't let it scare you to death.

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ROYAL ICING

- 3 Tbs. meringue powder
- 1 pound confectioner's sugar (four cups)
- 6 Tbs. warm water

In a heavy duty mixer, beat all ingredients at medium speed for 7-10 minutes until icing forms stiff peaks. Keep icing stored in an airtight container. Needs no refrigeration. Whip up before using again. It dries out quickly so do not leave exposed to air. Keep decorator tip on damp towel during use to prevent hardening.

save energy

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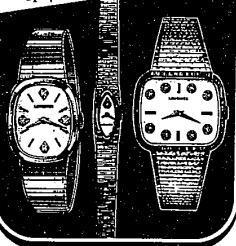
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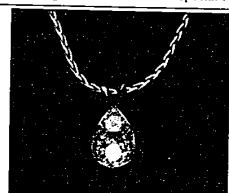
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