

Zippers Outclassed

Everywhere You Look: Buttons

By GRACE BANKS
Observer Staff Writer

"Button, button, who's got the button?"
Why Mrs. Helen Goodwin, of course; not only one, but

thousands—in boxes, in drawers, on cards and in glass cases.

In 1942, a neighbor gave her a Madonna and Child button and invited her to visit a button club. This was the start of this fascinating hobby for Mrs. Goodwin.

Although it is generally conceded that buttons have been used in Europe since the Dark Ages, the question of exactly when they were invented has caused considerable controversy.

Garments worn by the ancient Egyptians, Assyrians, Chinese, Greeks and Romans were usually secured by a clasp, buckle, sash or similar device. Any button-like object used was ornamental not utilitarian.

Buttons, she found, are made of various metals, pearls, machine-carved and hand-carved with eucalyptus or steel trim, overall, rubber, tin, china, porcelain and various colored glass.

Then there are the buttons with pictures of scenes, fruits, flowers, famous people and animals. Some pictures come from famous paintings and stories.

China and stencil buttons were used on gingham and calico dresses.

Satsuma buttons are hand-painted on ceramic by the Japanese using three mouse-hairs to paint the design, after which they are glazed and fired three times. Many have seven faces depicting the seven gods.

Buttons made of horn are

inlaid with silver, gold and pearl. Sewing coat buttons picture animals, riders and crests. Others are in ivory, silk or reversed painting under glass.

"The rarest buttons are the odds made for the inauguration of George Washington and the locket button which holds two small snapshots," says Mrs. Goodwin, who staged her most valuable button is a Wedgewood.

Her latest additions are the "Beetle" buttons showing the four "Beetles" under a watch crystal.

She has lived in Redford Township since 1933 and has two sons, Robert and Kenneth, and three grandchildren.

Mrs. Goodwin is chairman of the Log Cabin Button Club, treasurer of the Mayflower Button Club, member of Michigan State Button Club, the National Button Club, Sunshine Button Club, St. Petersburg Button Club and Florida State Button Club.

She has judged both the National and Florida State Button Conventions.

Garden City Belles Honor Mrs. Worley

Mrs. Violet Worley of the Garden City S.O.S. chapter of Buxom Belles was honored by her fellow members this month when she lost 30 pounds to exceed the goal she had set herself 10 months earlier.

Chapter president Jeanne Hutchinson presented Vi with her tiara while her three daughters-in-law watched.

Mrs. Worley's daughter, Betty Hinkel, headed the committee that provided the decorations, and refreshments. Other committee members included Jane Skrent, Shirley Hermansen and Lorraine Kangas.

The S.O.S. Chapter meets on Thursdays in the activity room of Garden City East high school. For further information interested women may call GA 7-0220 or 427-2834.

Livonia Women Hold Yule Party

Mrs. Herbert Winegarden, 29181 Grove Ave., Livonia, hosted the Livonia City Women's Club at a Christmas gathering following a restaurant luncheon Thursday, Dec. 15.

The women enjoyed Mrs. Winegarden's lovely and unusual decorations and punch and cookies served by her granddaughter, Sandy Koss. Organ music was played by Mrs. Claire Schuur.

Members brought gifts to be taken to the "forgotten children" at the Plymouth State Home and Training School. This is the third year the club has participated.

Women on The GO!

by MARGARET MILLER

If Christmas spirit can be measured by the joy of children—and surely that's a good yardstick—then the big house at 13441 Danbury in Plymouth should be the merriest you could find.

It's the home of Joe and Jean LeBlanc and 16 of their 17 children. The family was reduced by one last summer when big sister Jeannie married and went to Detroit to live.



THERESE, ANN AND DANNY LeBLANC

The pleasant new home and the brood that fills it present at any time of year a happy picture of what family living can be. But especially at Christmas, there seems a special spirit here.

Attractive, slim and untruffled, Jean LeBlanc settled down with the three preschoolers who keep her company during the day and named off the family—with only a couple of slight hesitations.

"There's Jeannie, who is 23 and now Mrs. Mitchell Sysko," she said, "and Dorothy, 22; Joey, 20; Jim, 19; Don, 18; Jon, 17; Peggy, 15, and Tim, 14."

"When do you get to me, Mommy," one of the wee ones wanted to know.

"In a minute, dear. Now, let's see, Tom, 13; Sue, 12; Donna, 10; Mary Jo, 9; Michelle, 8, and Patrick, 6. And now you three, Therese, almost 5; Danny, almost 4 and Ann, 2."

"Annie's getting rather spoiled," her mother confided. "It's the first time we've had a two-year-old without a younger baby."

What is Christmas like in a family with so many children? There's the hustle and bustle of any family home—only more so.

The LeBlancs need two Christmas trees to gather around. One in the living room and another in the spacious family room. Instead of stockings, they line up 17 small white boots "mostly as decoration."

Christmas presents opening gets pretty complicated, Mrs. LeBlanc said. The older ones open their gifts Christmas Eve, and the younger ones in the morning.

"With so many wrappings being ripped off at once, we don't know who to thank for what," she added. "So we've tried to make a rule that all the youngsters keep the tags with the presents. A couple of years ago, one of the girls said she'd been sure to keep the tags—and there they were, neatly stacked in a box."

One Christmas tradition with the LeBlancs is to take some of the younger children to downtown Detroit for a visit to toyland and Santa. How many make that trip? "Well, usually none or ten."

The family eats dinner together each night in a huge kitchen, big enough for two school lunchroom-type tables with benches.

"Now that some of the older ones are working, it seems we rarely sit down together, though," Mrs. LeBlanc said a bit sadly. "I liked it better when they were all here at night."

Daytimes, the clan scatters to five different schools in the area. One

In Liberia

Liberians use an oil palm in place of the traditional fir as a Christmas tree. The palm is decorated with red balls, other palm leaves and ferns.



THIS PHOTO of the Joseph LeBlanc family—daughter Jeanie now is married, and baby Jilly was snapped two years ago. Oldest Ann, shown on her mother's lap is two.

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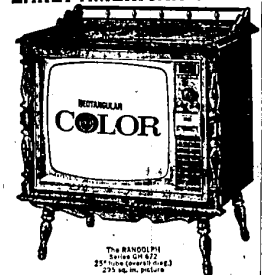
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