

By GUNDELLA THE GREAT WITCH

ONE OF THE MOST fun ways to foretell the future is with wax drippings. All you need is a bowl of water and a candle. Holding the lighted candle over the bowl, you allow it to drip until the entire surface of the water is covered with floating bits of wax. Gazing into the bowl, it takes very little imagination to see initials, names, and even dates, that will prove to be important in the upcoming year.

It is believed that a mother can learn the sex of her unborn child by threading a new steel needle with red cotton thread and holding it over the veins in her left wrist. If the needle swings around and around in a circular motion, the child will be a girl. If the needle swings back and forth in a straight line, she will be blessed with a boy instead.

One custom still practiced is that of baking the New Year's cake of good fortune. Before the batter is poured into the pan, the cook adds a ring, a dime, a thimble, a key, and a shoe button (in recent times we have come to substitute a bus token.) All of these articles must be metal rather than plastic, so that they may be baked into the cake.

When the cake is cut and eaten, the diners can tell what the New Year holds for them by the prize they receive. The ring is symbolic of love, perhaps even marriage; the dime stands for riches, the thimble means poverty and hard times; the key stands for learning and wisdom; and the shoe button or bus token means that the lucky one who receives it will travel widely in the coming year.

ANOTHER MEANS of divination often employed on New Year's Day is that of domino drawing. Place all the dominos in a standard set ranging from double blank to double six, face down in a "bone pile" and mix them up thoroughly.

Each person should be allowed to draw and interpret no more than three dominos; any domino drawn should be interpreted and replaced and thoroughly mixed with the others before the next one is drawn. If the same domino comes up more than once for the same person, it intensifies the significance of the interpretation.

To interpret the dominos drawn, use the following traditional meanings:

Double-blank - bad luck in love and money; losses and grief.

Double one Happiness, love, and money.

Double two - success in business; thrift leads to prosperity

One-blank - harmony and affection.

Two-blank - beware of deception; someone close to you is hiding the truth.

Two-one - guard against an unbalanced budget



Three-blank - quarrels and controversy.

Three-one - danger of becoming involved in a lawsuit or scandal.

Three-two - love, luck and adventure; if you have children, be sure you don't neglect them.

Double three - Great wealth.

Four - blank - disappointment in love; if the subject is a pregnant woman, this denotes twins, triplets, or more.

Four-one - good family relationships, a happy home.

Four-two - changes are in order; you may move, change jobs, change husbands, etc.

Four-three - an uneventful year of modest security and happiness.

Double four - growth in cultural, intellectual, or artistic matters.

Five-blank - avoid the attentions of one unworthy of your love; choose all companions carefully during this year.

Five-one - a new addition to the family.

Five-two - a very busy social calendar.

Five-three - a calm and well-adjusted way of life; a comfortable year.

Five-four - deep love of a romantic nature.

Five-five - success in financial and material matters.

Six-blank - news of a death.

Six-one - problems between parent and child.

Six-two - a lucky domino for those who are honest; but it foretells great danger for those who are not.

Six-three - lovers' vows spoken.

Six-four - you will find what you have lost

Six-five - a new beginning; a new home, new business, new love, or a new hope

Double six - this year you will do well in all you undertake.

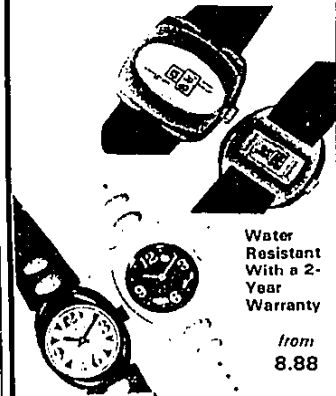
It is important to remember that no matter what means of divination you may choose to read your future, nothing that is predicted has to be. You have the power to change your future.

The only value in having your fortune told is to find what is likely to happen in your life if you continue along the paths you now tread. Then, if you do not like what is predestined, you may take the proper steps to reverse it, and redirect your future along more favorable lines.

No matter what the fates hold in store for you, may you all have a Happy New Year, and may the powers that be, be good to thee.

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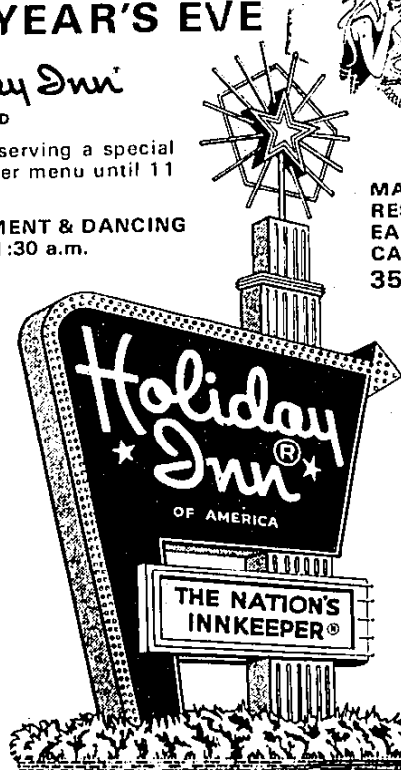
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