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Holiday Recipe

"My recipe for cut-out Christmas cookies was given to me about 35 years ago from an employee at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club. It makes 12 dozen. I have made these cookies with my children every holiday since 1973 when my oldest child was only 2 years old. They are now 33, 30, and 29 and still enjoy this tradition. Now there is the added fun of sharing it with grandchildren, Jaden and Cole."

Christmas Sugar Cookies

- 2 cups margarine
- 3 cups sugar
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 6 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp vanilla

Cream margarine and sugar, add eggs, and then remaining ingredients. Chill several hours or overnight. Bake for 8-10 minutes at 425 degrees. Do not roll the dough too thin.




From left, Jaden and Cole decorate cookies during the holidays of 2003

Holiday Tradition

"Growing up it was a tradition to hide a pickle, wrapped in foil, in the Christmas tree. Whoever found it first was allowed to open a special gift. The gift was usually something nice that everyone would appreciate, like an Atlas."


-Kevin Culloty
Hometown: Washington, D.C.



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INGREDIENTS:

- 2 1/2 cups white sugar
- 6 cups water
- 2 (3 ounce) packages strawberry flavored gelatin mix
- 1 (46 fluid ounce) can pineapple juice
- 2/3 cup lemon juice
- 1 quart orange juice
- 2 (2 liter) bottles lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage

DIRECTIONS:

In a large saucepan, combine sugar, water, and strawberry flavored gelatin. Boil for 3 minutes. Stir in pineapple juice, lemon juice, and orange juice. Divide mixture in half, and freeze in 2 separate containers. When ready to serve, place the frozen contents of one container in a punch bowl, and stir in 1 bottle of lemon-lime soda until slushy.

Holiday Photo



"Every year on Christmas morning we would take a picture of the kids in front of the tree. It was, and still, is tradition that they have new pajamas every year for the photo."

-Jean Roach
Hometown: Royal Oak, MI

From left, Elizabeth, Missy, Hoss, and Andrew

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Holiday Memory



"It was a special time for us children even though we never received many toys. There were seven of us. We all believed in Santa, or Weihnachtsmann (as he is called in Germany), but he came not down the chimney, but walked from one house to the other. We would not see him, but heard his voice (my dad's). We never saw the Christmas tree until Santa had been there. There were real candles on the tree.

We have two Christmas days. On the 1st we would go to church while our mom would prepare dinner. She would roast a goose, and the day before she would get the dough ready for the Christmas Stollen (a German fruitcake). It was so big that we had to take it to the bakery to be baked off. Afterward we had to bring it back on an ironing board. All the neighbors did likewise. We didn't have pies.

After dinner we would assemble in the living room where my dad had the Kackeloven going and we would get the instruments out and sing Christmas songs. There was no TV. The lights were turned off and only the tree was lit up. It was called the 'Daemmerstunde.'

Each of us also had a Christmas plate filled with nuts, candy and marzipan. We could eat it at our own leisure, but had to watch out that it didn't get eaten by other siblings. The neighbors would come out and we wished each other 'Frohe Weihnachten.'

-Elfriede Robinson
 Hometown: Germany

Hometown Shopping in Leelanau County

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Holiday Memory



"My mother, who was from the South, continued the tradition of calling, "Christmas Eve Gift" on Christmas Eve. The first one to say it in the morning was allowed to open a present on Christmas Eve instead of waiting until Christmas morning. Even though my mother passed away in 1997 and the children are grown, when the family gets together for the holiday, we still say Christmas Eve Gift, hug each other good morning, and think of her."

-Sue Stephens
Hometown:
Mt. Clemens, MI

Holiday Tradition



"Every Christmas Eve since I can remember our family sings Christmas songs with the "Sing Along With Mitch" Christmas album. We have gone from the record to the tape to the CD. Now our celebration includes our original family plus brothers- and sisters-in-law and grandchildren.

While singing the *12 Days of Christmas*, we have the men sing the even verses, the women sing the odd verses and each respective group must stand while singing their part. It's hilarious every year!"

-Michael Long
Hometown: Traverse City, MI

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Holiday Recipe



"Every holiday season we bake and decorate "Ethel's Sugar Cookies." They are the most delicious sugar cookies anyone in my family has ever tasted. We love to come together and decorate them and often give them as gifts.

Ethel's Sugar Cookies

¾ cup shortening
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
2½ cups flour
1 tsp. Baking powder
1 tsp. salt

Directions
Mix all ingredients. Chill
1 hour. Roll and cut.
Bake at 350 degrees for
8-10 minutes. Decorate
as desired.



From left, Tom, his daughter Sophie, and sister-in-law Carrie decorate a batch of Ethel's Sugar Cookies.

-Tom Wyatt
Hometown: Hillsdale, MI

Holiday Tradition



"Every year my two sisters and I get our kids together with Grandma and Auntie and bake & decorate Christmas cookies. It sure is a mess, but what a good memory and tradition for all of our kids.

Linda Cote
Hometown: Oxford, MI

Holiday Photo



Watson gets into the spirit of the season with festive antlers and his pride barely intact.

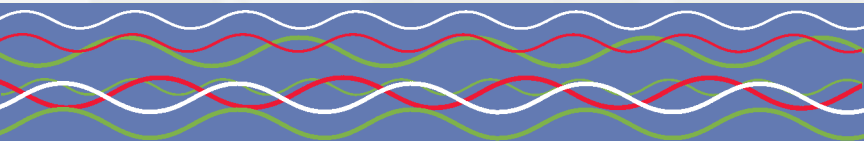
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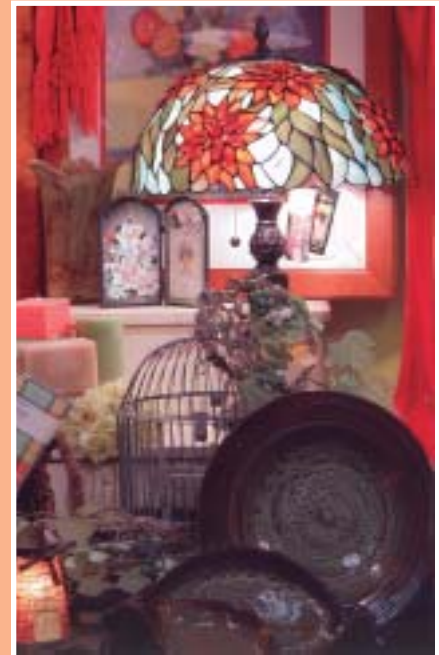
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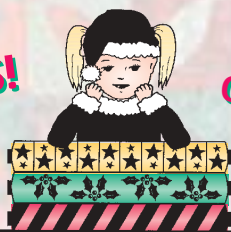
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Tree Lighting - 6 p.m.
Santa's House Open - 6-8 p.m.

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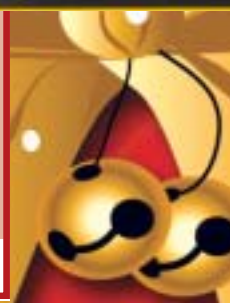
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Holiday Memory



My sister Nancy and brother-in-law Bob made the decision that year to go to Fort Wayne, IN from Deep River, CT and spend the holidays with my parents. Nancy and Bob have six children and their Christmastime always revolved around the children and families coming to their home. Nancy and Bob had never spent a Christmas without their children and we knew this year would be an adjustment for them.

afternoon of Christmas Eve and we headed to the airport in Grand Rapids. Our daughter Lisa and son-in-law Larry Godt would be flying in from Orange County, CA. Our travel time was limited so we hoped their flight would arrive on schedule and it did! We piled Lisa, Larry and luggage into the van - already a very tight space - and continued our "road trip."

time for Lisa and Larry to celebrate Christmas Day with Larry's family. Our "Secret Christmas Mission" was accomplished in 24 hours!

-Betsy Allen

Hometown: Ft. Wayne, IN

My husband, Maurie, and I talked it over and we came up with an idea that would take major planning, good weather conditions, a family team effort, an airline running on schedule and the "secret" mission to be accomplished in 24 hours! We decided to organize a trip for Nancy and Bob's children to visit their parents in Fort Wayne. It would be our "Christmas Road Trip," a round trip from Traverse City to Fort Wayne and back. We knew we would be spending many hours in the van, and after all it was Christmas, so we had a small Christmas tree with battery-operated lights and a picnic basket with many Allen Christmas food traditions.

We arrived at our parents home around 10:30 pm, just as they were thinking of heading to the 11:00 Christmas Eve church service. The game plan was to pull into the driveway with no lights on, exit the van quietly (extremely difficult for the Allen family) and place the big refrigerator box at the front door. Everything went according to plan except the refrigerator box. We hadn't measured the box and at 6' 5", son Matt, didn't quite fit. On top of that, the kids had a very bad case of the giggles. You try getting a refrigerator box over four adult children with bells in their hands! We thought we were doomed to discovery, but we got ourselves in control. Maurie and I rang the doorbell and hid in the bushes. Daddy opened the front door and on cue the kids rang their bells. What a surprise! Dad called Mom, Nancy and Bob to the door. He pounded on the box and said, "What is this, a new refrigerator?" The kids started laughing and the box fell over.

We went into the house getting hugs and kisses, never did go to church, and had a wonderful Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning we had our breakfast, loaded up in the van and headed for Traverse City. We arrived back and safe and sound in



The Allen family, Christmas 1988

Christmas time evokes many memories, but the Christmas of 1988 will always stand out as a special one in the Allen family.

Maurie, Jason and Matt closed the store on the

Warm Conversations

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HOLIDAY FAVORITES



CRANBERRY NUT BREAD

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup white sugar
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup chopped cranberries
1/2 cup chopped nuts
1 tablespoon orange zest
1 egg
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
3/4 cup orange juice

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease one 9x5 inch loaf pan. Combine the flour, sugar, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Add the cranberries and chopped nuts, stir to coat with flour. Combine the egg, oil, orange juice and grated orange peel. Add the egg mixture to the flour mixture and stir until just combined. Spoon the batter into the prepared pan. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 50 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Let bread sit for 10 minutes and then remove from the pan and place on a cooling rack. Let cool completely before slicing.

GINGERBREAD PANCAKES

INGREDIENTS:

3 cups all-purpose flour
6 tablespoons baking powder
3 teaspoons unsweetened cocoa powder
1 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3/4 teaspoon ground cloves
6 tablespoons ground hazelnuts
3 cups milk
6 egg whites
6 tablespoons dark molasses
6 tablespoons vegetable oil

DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl sift together the flour, baking powder, cocoa, ginger, cinnamon and cloves; stir in hazelnuts. Set aside. In a medium bowl whisk together milk, egg whites and molasses. Make a well in the dry ingredients and pour wet ingredients into it. Stir just enough to moisten; batter will be lumpy. Heat a lightly oiled griddle or frying pan over medium high heat. Pour or scoop the batter onto the griddle, using approximately 1/4 cup for each pancake. Brown on both sides and serve hot.

HOLIDAY BRUNCH CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS:

1 (16 ounce) package ground pork breakfast sausage
12 eggs
1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
1 (10.75 ounce) can milk
1 (4.5 ounce) can sliced mushrooms, drained
1 (32 ounce) package frozen potato rounds
1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

DIRECTIONS:

Place sausage in a skillet over medium-high heat, and cook until evenly brown. Drain, and set aside. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. In a large bowl, beat together the eggs, condensed cream of mushroom soup, and milk. Stir in the sausage and mushrooms, and pour into the prepared baking dish. Mix in the frozen potato rounds. Bake in preheated oven for 45 to 50 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese, and bake an additional 10 minutes, or until cheese is melted.





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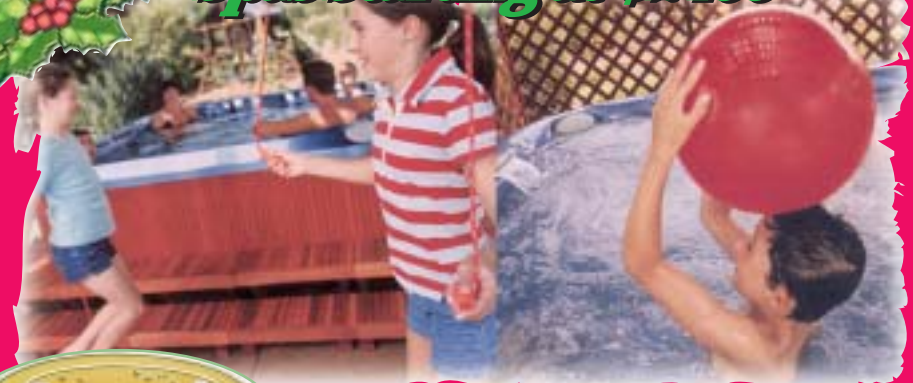
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