



An Old Idea Plus

A Party

DO YOU pride yourself on being an enterprising hostess. February, with its three holidays, offers you a real challenge. Washington's birthday, Lincoln's birthday, and Valentine's Day coming so close together may tax one's ingenuity, but there are many games and contests which can be staged which will vary the usual routine of dancing and cards at either large or small group parties. Parties are inclined to go a little stale after a while if the only entertainment for the evening is dancing to the radio or playing bridge or hearts.

Remember the parties you used to go to at the church? You played "Wink 'em," "Musical Chairs," and other active games and enjoyed yourself to the utmost. That kind of game is becoming increasingly popular again, and even the college students are taking it up now.

"I'm Going to Europe" is a game to test one's ability of catching on quickly. The leader, whose initials we will say are W. B., begins the game by saying, "I'm going to Europe and I'm going to take a watch and bracelet along." Each person in line must name 2 articles, each of which begins with one of his initials, before he can go to Europe. You'll be surprised at how long it takes some people to understand why they can't go to Europe too.

For those people who are feeling hilariously patriotic, the game of "Hooray" is a good one. The leader, who has had just a little preparation, gives a speech, during which he uses the name of Washington (or any other name may be selected). Every time the chosen name is mentioned and the leader raises his right hand the crowd shouts "Hooray!" If the left arm is raised, the crowd claps; if both arms are raised, the crowd leaps to its feet cheering. Anyone making a mistake must take his place beside the leader. At the end of the game the leader will no doubt have half of the crowd standing with him. As an "ice-breaker" this is unequalled.

A display of intellectual ability has a stimulating effect upon a party. Assign each person to write a stanza about some particular person or thing. Appropriate subjects for a party this month would be Washington, Lincoln, or a Valentine greeting. This is another good cure for stage fright, and who knows—maybe you'll find a budding poet or poetess among your select group.

Any number of games are on the market right now which provide considerable entertainment. Games such as monopoly, categories, or politics will be enjoyed any winter evening when the mercury reads minus ten.

Another game, a little more subdued than others, is "Mind Reading." This is fun, providing only a few of the participants have played it before. One person leaves the room and the group decides on one object which they will all concentrate on. When the person returns, the leader, who must have had an understanding with him previously, points to objects and says, "Is that it?" When the right object is reached he says, "Is this it?" The exchange of the word "this" for "that" is the signal that the object at which the leader points is the correct object. The person answers "yes" to the great mystification of all those uninitiated into the game.

Perhaps your group is one that dotes on dinner parties. Eventually these get just as tiresome as dancing and card parties. But if you want to retain the dinner idea, why not liven it with a few novel things such as place cards containing pictures of the guests? Candid camera snapshots would be ideal. If it is impossible to get enough to go around, ordinary snapshots could be used; but to make them more interesting, cut pictures of people in cartoons or advertisements from magazines. Replace the head of the person in the magazine picture with that of the guest. The pictures need not be typical of the individual, in fact, more fun could be had if the pictures were decidedly out of character for the person whose head is to be pasted on them.



SALLY RAND may almost be forgotten, but her bubble dance remains a box-office attraction. In keeping with the mode, why not give a bubble dance for your next party?

The first essential for a bubble dance is bubbles. As bubbles are a perishable commodity, gather together many white, blue, lavender, and pink balloons as a substitute. High school or college chemistry laboratories are equipped with hydrogen gas and pressure pumps with which to inflate balloons. Hydrogen is one of the lightest gases known,



so, filled with it, your balloons will stay up until all the gas leaks out. They remain inflated for the entire evening; some may still be up the next day. Release them in the dance hall. Air currents will make them drift around. Focus colored spotlights on them and you have quite convincing bubbles.

Perhaps the greatest authorities on bubbles, real honest-to-goodness bubbles, are children. Paint or cut out and pin the figure of a child blowing soap bubbles on a curtain behind the orchestra. In front of the musicians' stands place large facsimiles of soap chip boxes.

To start the fun off, give each guest a soap bubble pipe which whistles or makes some noise. If you have an artistic touch, you might hand out programs in the shape of a bubble. One of the dances may be a bubble-breaker dance in which a balloon is tied to each lady's ankle with a comparatively short string. If anyone is left at the end of the dance with an unbroken balloon, she should be awarded some appropriate prize (maybe a box of soap chips).

Refreshments should be frothy or foaming—root beer; punch made with grape juice, lemon juice, and ginger ale or one made with lime sherbet in grape juice or ginger ale.

Decorating the house is a point often forgotten by the hostess when she is planning a party. Years ago when our

Ingenuity Equals Remember

by Beth Cummings



parents were young, they went to much bother to decorate their homes for their parties. Why don't you try it once? The music will seem gayer and more lively, the conversation brighter, and the whole party more successful when the rooms are attractively decorated. Ideas for decorating for a Valentine party are especially colorful.

For a quick and brilliant transformation of plain walls and ceilings, nothing can surpass red and white crepe paper streamers. A large double heart may be arranged as a receptacle around a chandelier or suspended from the center of it. From this streamers may radiate to opposite sides of the room and be fastened at the ceiling molding. If the streamers are allowed to hang the full height of the sides of the walls, the ends could terminate with appropriate emblems as hearts cut from red paper; cupids, with bows and arrows; and other similar decorations.

If more plain walls are preferred, strips of crepe paper cut out in garland effect may be hung just below the moulding, leaving the remaining wall space without decoration.

Streamers over doorways and windows may be arranged hanging straight down, cut in points or curves, draped back or arched. Paper hearts or perhaps pictures of a king and queen pasted on cardboard may be suspended in the center. Red and white fringe made from crepe paper could be used in place of window shades. Straight bands furnish heading for the tops of the windows and doorways.

Light fixtures may be made the center of attraction if several are trimmed alike with the predominating colors and special motifs of the occasion. Light, shining through fringed crepe paper, makes a lovely soft glow about the room, an ideal atmosphere for a Valentine party.

Perhaps a decorative centerpiece that takes a very small amount of time to fix would add just that touch needed to make your party a little different from the old "get-together-and-eat" idea. Keep the arrangement simple and if you want to be smart, use mirrors. Colored mirrors would be ultra-smart. Work out an arrangement on the mirrors that will be appropriate for the theme of your party. If it is a George Washington party, you might use a modernistic tree with red gum drops to imitate cherries. For favors and place cards combined, use miniature tree trunks with small hatchets

stuck in the tops of them; names of the guests can be written on the handles of the hatchets.

You might give a party in honor of St. Valentine, a serious Roman priest martyred in the third century and who would undoubtedly look with amazement upon the frivolities which have come to be associated with his name. Use your mother's lace table cloth, underneath it place red paper or red material to show through. For the centerpiece you could use a shallow white pottery bowl full of red and white sweet peas, but remember not to use too many flowers; this is a failing common to amateurs. The first and last advice of professional florists is against using flowers too profusely.

You who have been planning for quite some time to have a spread for your

corridor should do it this month. What could be more novel than a Valentine spread? Shape thin slices of sponge cake for each serving. Place a layer of ice cream between slices and on top. Pour butterscotch sauce over all and sprinkle with salted pecans. To carry out Valentine colors use strawberry ice cream and top with whipped cream.

Or if you prefer an artistic note with your food at your Valentine celebration, hearts are for Valentine's Day. Try a canape heart. Cut the bread in heart shapes. Toast the slices and spread them with cream cheese mixed with chopped olives. With scissors cut smaller hearts from pimientos to lay on top of the canapes. If you know where you can get a pastry tube, pipe cream cheese around it to form a lacy edge "For My Valentine."

Dan Cupid Counts His Candles

by Jean Reis

DO YOU remember how thrilled you were when the little boy who sat in the seat behind you in grade school gave you a valentine that said, "I love you?" Have you ever wondered how our present Valentine's Day customs originated?

As to the origin of Saint Valentine's Day people today know very little. They do know, however, that that day has been celebrated since approximately the third century.

Many people believe the following



story: Claudius, emperor of Rome in the third century after Christ, made a law forbidding marriages because he always had a difficult time getting married men and men in love to go to war. They did not make good soldiers.

At that time Valentine was a priest.

When young lovers brought the sad news to him he felt sorry for them. He began marrying couples secretly.

After some time the word got around to the wicked emperor who immediately ordered Valentine to be put to death. Thus Valentine died, a martyr to love.

The church made Valentine a saint, while Roman youths and maidens set aside the day to do him honor. Since that time Feb. 14 has come to be known as the "day for all true lovers."

It is the opinion of some that the connection of the popular customs and Valentine's Day was made because at that particular season of the year in Rome a feast was held. At that time all young maidens' names were put in a hat, and young men drew one name. Then the young man treated the girl whose name he had drawn, and danced with her. This often resulted in a love affair.

After the death of the beloved Valentine, the people wished to pay some honor to him. They then decided to change the day of the feast to Saint Valentine's day.

At one time this day which was dedicated to Dan Cupid ranked with Christmas and New Year's in importance, but no longer. Perhaps the young men of today are finding better ways of finding their "one and only" without leaving it to chance.