

Bread, Roses Make It 'Home, Sweet Home'

By SANDRA GRISHAM
Special Writer

Rose-covered cottages are not a thing of the past. Neither is the tradition of baking bread every Saturday.

At the approximately 50-year-old home of Mr. and Mrs. George Gillingham, 708 E. Lincoln, Birmingham, both exist as if they just stepped from the poet's page.

Mrs. Gillingham, 68, the oldest of 10 children, began helping out with family chores early in her life and is proud of the fact that she has been making bread in large quantities every week since she was 12 years old.

SHE AND her husband, George, 71, grew up in Manistee (in the Upper Peninsula).

They moved to the Birmingham area about 20 years ago. Gillingham worked in various shops in the area and served as a sexton for the Presbyterian Church for nine years prior to his retirement five years ago.

As parents of two sons, they have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. James, one of their sons, lives across the street from them at 683 E. Lincoln, Birmingham. Their other son, Wallace, lives in Bad Axe.

WHENEVER BREAD is made, James and his family are assured of at least one loaf. The rest is used by the Gillinghams or put into their deep-freeze for later use.

"Just take it out of the freezer about 10 hours before you want to use it," he said, "and it is as good as if it were just baked."

Both of them love home-made bread and both work at making it in quantities up to nine loaves each week. Gillingham boasts that he

can eat at least a half a loaf at one sitting.

Hot Coffee Stains Difficult to Remove From Wool Fabrics

A series of tests have been conducted by the National Institute of Dyeing on coffee stains. Here are some interesting facts about the morning eye opener from the laboratories of the Institute.

Spilled hot coffee is more difficult to remove from clothing than luke warm or tepid coffee. Furthermore the coffee stain may be harder to remove when the drinker uses cream and sugar. Especially in wools.

Coffee presents less of a problem to the dyer when spilled on cotton and synthetic fabrics. But in many cases this stain is practically impossible to remove from silks and wools. Particularly when spillage occurs with hot coffee.

WORK BEGINS on the bread with the buying of flour, which the couple does when prices are most advantageous to their budget.

After stocking up on the necessary ingredients, they wait until Saturday to bake.

Early Saturday morning, they head for their kitchen and begin the task that will take most of their day. Gillingham mans his station at their bread mixer as his wife prepares the ingredients.

THEIR BREAD mixer appears to be a cross between a bucket and a cement mixer. It is made of heavy metal. Theirs was made in New Britain, Conn., but the apparatus is — to the Gillingham's knowledge — no longer manufactured.

Mrs. Gillingham adds the ingredients while her husband turns the crank on the mixing machine.

Their recipe for a nine loaf production begins with two cakes of compressed dry yeast dissolved in lukewarm water.

Next, they pour one quart of "quite hot" water into a bowl over one-and-one-half tablespoons sugar and an equal amount of salt. This is put into the mixer with one rounded tablespoon of shortening.

ONE QUART of lukewarm water is added to the dissolved yeast mixture which is then added to the mixer.

As Gillingham turns the crank on the mixer, his wife aids flour, a little at a time, until the mixture "stirs up clean."

At this point, the stirring apparatus is removed from the machine and the dough is placed in a warm spot to rise until it is rounding. This usually takes from one-and-one-half to two hours.

Mrs. Gillingham kneads the dough down and then lets it rise a second time—another hour and a half or two hours.

NOW THE bread must be handled as little as possible as it is divided into the nine greased loaf pans.

At their home there is a special technique used in baking the bread. Altogether, the loaves are in the oven about one hour and 10 minutes.

The oven is first set at 300 degrees for 20 minutes. Then Mrs. Gillingham rotates the position of the loaf pans after which the temperature is lowered to 250 degrees for the remainder of the baking time.

BOTH OF them keep busy and are very proud of each other's activities.

Gillingham, an avid gardener, planted rose bushes at the back of the house some years ago. They have thrived to such an extent that they not only climb up the traditional rose trellis, but continue up the house, over the roof and up the television antenna.

Cultivating his own "rose-covered cottage" was not enough, however. He began growing dahlias. Last summer he tended a bronze dahlia which grew to a height of

five feet with a bloom nine-and-one-half inches in diameter.

"I had to tie the stem to the fence to keep it upright," he beamed.

He also has a three-ring strawberry garden in the back yard and about 50 tulips which will bloom in the spring.

AN AMBITIOUS man, he is not alone in his enthusiasm for doing constructive things.

Mrs. Gillingham embroiders and crochets. She has done about 100 pillow slips, according to her own modest estimate. Many of them have been given as gifts.

There is a home of love. Visitors can't miss the bonds that tie their family together. The aroma of fresh bread permeates each room. Hand-embroidery work can be found throughout the house. African violets and philodendron grow side by side as if each were trying to outdo the other.

And in the living room, pictures of the Gillinghams, their parents, brothers and sisters, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren cover the walls and piano.

They eagerly point out photos of favorite members of their family.

"They live a life that might be called, in many ways, old-fashioned. But it is a fashion that could well stand imitation."

"I should be informative, objective, positive in tone, and take into account the attitude of the student," Mills says.

THE EDUCATOR suggests that both the teacher and the parent should prepare for the conference. In one school, teachers hold out any preparation on either side, practice conferences with each other. One first grade sends out an

elaborate check-list before the parent-teacher conference.

"If the interview involves a high school student, sometimes the student and his parents can benefit from sharing in the conference with the teacher. In any case, to walk into a conference cold, without any preparation on either side, could be a disappointment," he says.

Need to Prepare For Conference With Teachers

Face-to-face in conference with the teacher, parents can learn best just how their child stands, says William H. Mills, University of Michigan assistant professor of education.

Mills says he feels a parent-teacher conference should be a shared discussion, supplementing the report card parents receive from the school at the end of each marking period, and should be conducted in a free period when neither the parent nor the teacher is hurried to end the interview because someone else is waiting.

The popularity of detergents has reversed the soap-detergent ratio of some 12 years ago.

Today, about 85 per cent of household washing products are detergents, five per cent soaps.

Twelve years ago only one household in 10 used detergents. Detergents were developed after housewives complained that soap wasn't getting their clothes clean.

The majority of soaps sold today are light-duty type used mainly for baby clothes, woolsens and lingerie.

"Keep only the more nourishing kinds of snacks readily available in the kitchen," says one dietitian, "and let nature take its course. The whole family will benefit nutritionally."

After-school snacks for children have a qualified nod of approval from professional dietitians at the University of Michigan Medical Center.

They say the snacks—whether food or drink—should always provide some of the calories, vitamins and minerals necessary to good all-around nutrition, yet should not spoil the child's appetite for his evening meal.

How mom can manage these two requirements is a trick in itself.

THE U-M FOOD specialists turn thumbs down on such snacks as candy, soda-pop and potato chips.

They recommend instead fruit juice, vegetable juice or milk; crackers with peanut butter or meat, cheese or peanut butter; raisin cookies; fresh fruit, carrots, celery or even cucumber wedges for casual but nutritious "munching," cereal and milk.

They even offer mom a way to circumvent demands by small fry for the outlawed soda-pop and candy.

Homemaking

After-school Snacks Okayed by Dieticians

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"I CAN eat at least half a loaf at a time," Mrs. Gillingham cranks the apparatus as his wife adds the ingredients. He also takes care of most of the gardening—with special emphasis on roses, dahlias and tulips—while Mrs. Gillingham does embroidery work.

4-D THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC Dec. 13, 1962

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BREAD—FRESH from the oven, hot and golden—is a weekly delight at the home of the George Gillinghams, 708 E. Lincoln, Birmingham. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Gillingham make nine loaves each Saturday. One of them goes to a son, James, who lives across the street from them. The rest are either eaten immediately or frozen for later use.



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The housewife who doesn't like to decorate the Christmas evergreen tree too soon before Christmas Eve can still achieve a holiday atmosphere by setting up a hospitality tree several days before the holiday.

The holiday tree is a well-shaped, leafless branch which is liberally decorated with cookies, candies, and all sorts of holiday goodies.

A building block, covered with bright wrapping paper, makes an ideal base. Homemade or store-bought cookies and goodies are placed like ornaments on the "tree."

In order not to have guests consider the holiday tree merely an ornament, a gaily decorated sign may offer greetings of the season and invite guests to help themselves.



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