



One of the sweetest experiences of welcoming new members into the family is learning and incorporating some of their time-honored family food traditions into your own repertoire of holiday requirements. You may think you have no traditions; matter of fact, some folks pride themselves on non-traditional celebrations.

But wait — just listen when you tell someone about holidays of your childhood. How many times do you catch yourself saying “We always...?” Yep, that’s a sure clue to a tradition even if you didn’t realize you had established one.

Special foods, traditionally served only at the holidays, are common in almost every family. Ethnic menus may seem strange to those of us raised in the turkey and dressing mode, but who wouldn’t enjoy Dolores Fitzmaurice’s family’s Mexican feast? Homemade tamales would get my vote over turkey any day. The Goscha family gathered after midnight mass for Christmas breakfast at grandma’s house and Teresa told me she’d better serve spinach quiche or face an insurrection. A friend of Swedish heritage introduced me to sour cream raisin tarts made only for New Year’s Eve. German households served an anise flavored cookie called pferneusse.

Sage and onion dressing with celery is the food that makes it a holiday dinner for me. We called it dressing; did your family call it stuffing? Giblets or no giblets? Soft or crispy? Cornbread, oys-

ters, chestnuts, sausage? The variations are as wide as the world. In my husband’s family it was fresh bread stuffing made with sweet cream, allspice and raisins. Quite a shock the first time I tried that with roast goose, their holiday meat of choice. In Louisiana I found rice and pecan dressing, rich and delicious but not what I called dressing.

Daughter-in-law Shannon introduced us to a new holiday tradition when she joined our family. Here’s the story in her own words: This time of year I always have to bring out my favorite holiday recipe. It’s called “Grandmother’s Famous Cranberry Bread” and it’s been my special tradition to make it for Thanksgiving since I was in 3rd grade! It really did begin when I was a third-grader; after I had checked out a book from the library called “Cranberry Thanksgiving”, by Wende and Harry Devlin. It’s a story of a grandmother, a little girl and a secret recipe for a bread they made together.

The book included the recipe for this famous bread, so I copied it down on a piece of Big Chief notebook paper and tried it out that year (with my Mom’s help). It turned out to be pretty good! From then on, I’ve carried this handwritten recipe with me and make the bread each Thanksgiving and sometimes at Christmas. To make this tradition even more special, a couple of years ago, my husband found a copy of this book (long out of print) and presented

it to me for my birthday.

Mama’s Christmas treats were also baked — applesauce cake, date pinwheel cookies, and mince-meat pie. As a thank you for shelling out the black walnut crop every year, Mom made a batch of black walnut divinity especially for LeRoy. She made many other candies and cookies to share with neighbors and friends, but that divinity was his little taste of heaven. Aunt Florence, on the other hand, specialized in panocha which is the best candy in the world to my taste. Peanut brittle was LeRoy’s project for his office staff each year. It smelled so good I’d have to leave the house when he was cooking it. And, oh, how our family enjoyed the cookie and candy plates from the cooks in the school kitchen and Doris Winteroth’s Swedish tea ring, which came to us when LeRoy was junior high principal.

The memories associated with traditional foods are almost as delightful as the flavors. Keep those happy times going strong in your home, or start some new ones if you are lacking in that department. Every child should have a storehouse of holiday happiness to take with them when they establish a home of their own. Don’t leave your flock with an empty memory bank.

NOTE: Yes, some of these recipes will be forthcoming in Cook’s Corner.

## Colorful entries



Dana Paxton hung up more colored pictures outside the Norton Telegram’s office for the Telegram’s Coloring Contest on Thursday afternoon. The last day to turn in pictures is Monday, Dec. 15. Pictures can be dropped off at either the Telegram’s office or at the Almerna Market.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

# Long-time Elmwood Speedway promoters retire

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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Don and Paula Bolt, Jennings, have undertaken “Thunder Promotions” for the last 12 years, but now are retiring from the business at the Norton Speedway.

“We’ll both still help with the races at WaKeeney and Hays, and still be involved in racing,” said Mrs. Bolt. “We have a lot of good memories. Our hearts are still in it.”

Mrs. Bolt said they got into the racing scene because they loved the sport, and that’s why they’ll stay in it.

“We have met many wonderful people over the years,” said Mrs. Bolt. “The racing community is

like no other and we wouldn’t trade it for the world.”

They started 12 years ago promoting cruisers and International Motor Contest Association hobby, stock and modified cars races. Later, they added 4-cylinders and sport modified cars and trucks, though they’ve never held motorcycle races.

Mrs. Bolt says the economy is a big reason for the decline in racers, and rising gas prices.

“Most of the racers who come to Norton drive over 100 miles — one way — to race,” said Mrs. Bolt.

“We don’t have the government to bail us out,” said Mrs. Bolt with a little laugh. “When we started

doing this, we had over 600 people in the stands. Now, we’ve been lucky to get 200 people in the stands.”

Mrs. Bolt said part of the reason there are fewer fans is because of the state of the economy.

Something else the Bolts feel have been hurting their business is the track itself. Norton’s Elmwood Speedway Track is 1/2 mile per lap, while other area tracks are shorter, 3/8 mile per lap.

“It takes a different gear and a bigger motor to compete on a 1/2 mile track,” said Mrs. Bolt. “The gear alone can cost between \$500 and \$1,000. Norton has the only 1/2 mile track in the state of Kansas. In our International Mo-

tor Contest Association region, we are only one of two 1/2 mile tracks. The other track is in Colorado.”

Every time a race was held at Elmwood Speedway, the Bolts had to pay to rent the property from the city, pay a contractor to prepare the track itself for the races by making sure the track was even, have the city fire department and emergency medical services at the track in case of accidents, insurance — liability, property damage and medical for the drivers — and prizes to the top racers. They also had flagmen, corner workers, and push truck people from both in town and out of town, and scorers and announcers. They bought beer and groceries in town,

and let area church groups, high school groups and even day cares, run the concessions stand to earn money for their projects.

Money coming in to the promoters came from the racers’ entry fees, admission tickets and concessions.

“We would have been happy to just break even,” said Mrs. Bolt. “But we’ve been operating at a loss for the last two years. Last year alone, we lost close to \$8,000.”

Mrs. Bolt said they had tried different promotional nights to increase the number of fans coming to the races.

“We had a Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts night, a 4-H Night, a kids’

night where kids were admitted for free, and a night when Rural Telephone had their train for the kids to ride.”

The Bolts say they still plan on holding a banquet for all the racers from this past season, and they want to thank all their sponsors, fans and racers for their support for the last 12 years.

“Racing is still our passion and will continue to be. We just simply can’t afford the promoting side of it.”

“We wish to thank all of our sponsors, race fans, track staff, county, city and the racers for their help and support,” said Mrs. Bolt. “We couldn’t have done it without them.”

## Andbe Home: party time on Wednesday

(Continued from Page 1)

they’ve been able to do on the Wii.”

The housekeeping and maintenance departments at the Home have been busy decorating for the holidays and getting everything ready for the big event.

“We usually have about 150 people at the celebration, including residents,” said Ms. Miller. “That’s a lot of people! The dining room is usually pretty stuffed!”

The Andbe Home has been in the holiday spirit since Nov. 30 when Sunday School students

from the First United Methodist Church, the first set of many carolers, came to serenade the residents with Christmas songs. Since then, they’ve had a variety of groups, clubs and organizations singing Christmas carols. Even the States Men, a barbershop group, has performed this year.

“We have a very festive-sounding place,” said Mrs. Miller with a laugh.

(\*According to Mrs. Miller, Children Volunteers are kids, usually in about 3rd, 4th or 5th grade, who come into the Andbe

Home a couple of times a week. They deliver home-made bread to the residents after the Wednesday evening meal, they help clean the bird cage, they show and discuss pictures with the residents, take the “goodie cart” around the home on Mondays, and just in general visit with the residents. Though she has a full group of Children Volunteers, Mrs. Miller said she will take names of any children interested in volunteering in the future. The child or his parents should contact Mrs. Miller at 877-2601.)

## Winter terms reminders given

Dangerous weather can happen as often in winter as in summer in the nation’s heartland. Knowing the differences in terms used to describe winter weather conditions can sometimes be a life-or-death matter, said State of Kansas Climatologist Mary Knapp.

Knapp, who is in charge of maintaining the Kansas Weather Data Library at Kansas State University, said the basic term — “winter storm” — does mean severe winter conditions. But,

such conditions can vary from storm to storm. They can include mixes of snow, sleet, hail, freezing rain or drizzle, wind, poor visibility, and/or cold temperatures.

When the National Weather Service issues other words to follow “winter storm,” however, the term picks up a time element. Examples include WINTER STORM...

✓OUTLOOK: Winter storm conditions are possible in the next two to five days. Stay tuned

to local media for updates and plan for expected conditions.

✓WATCH: Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Prepare now.

✓ADVISORY: Winter weather conditions are likely to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. But, if you are cautious, these situations should not be life threatening.

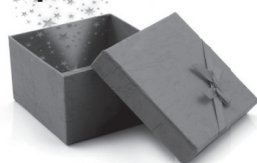
✓WARNING: Life-threatening severe conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. Act now.



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