

# All in the Family

By Sarah Child

## Cookbook Really A History

My grandmother put her coverless, yellowed book in my hands on a recent visit and told me to take as much time as I wanted going through it.

She had told of rereading it herself, regretting that she would never make the familiar dishes again.

I grieved with her for a moment and then brightened, remembering that out on the kitchen counter that very second were three loaves of perfect bread and a pan of rolls lighter, more delicate, than the airiest dessert.

True, this grandmother, now in her eighties, doesn't experiment much in the kitchen any more but the staples, the necessities of life keep coming out of her kitchen with dependable regularity.

It was a good visit to her Pennsylvania home in the hills for this continual dieter, throwing caution to the winds and washing down the feathery, hot rolls and jam with strong coffee.

She reminisced as she often does, this time bringing out new pictures of her family that I had never seen. (Gram's niece had uncovered them in her mother's trunk and given them to her.)

There were pictures of Gram, her mother and a baby brother and another with her and her father standing next to a team of oxen. One of my grandfather before they were married was a special delight. He was dressed to the nines in the finery of the day. I remember him best in work pants and flannel shirts.

Later, back home, I went through the cookbook reveling in what amounts to a kind of family history. Each recipe written out in Gram's hand (or that of my mother or aunt) reminded me of family events.

Lemon sponge pie, for example, conjured up the image of my grandfather leaving a little something in his lunch pail every day so we children could discover it. If it were not the pie, then a little dish of custard or plain yellow cake.

Huckleberry muffins took me straight away to the dusty back roads to the top of Cherry Springs where fern and berry bushes intermingled and we children ate more fruit than we dropped into our buckets.

"Crybaby Cookies"

drew a blank but the fried cake recipe recalled the still warm donuts Gram would have waiting for us Saturday nights when we drove the 20 miles from Austin to Conrad to spend the weekend.

There were other personal messages. For example, my Aunt Madeline had penned the comment "just for me" after the scalloped succotash, meaning, I suppose, that only she liked it.

And Louise, the aunt who is my age, had written some 30 years ago, "Alferd is here chopping wallnuts."

And with no trouble at all I could see my uncle beating a pan of fudge until it lost its shiny appearance. He would make it for us little ones on demand on the wood stove.

Sea foam frosting reminded me of the spectacular cakes my mother would make for each family birthday that came along. My sister Thomasina, born in early June, would invariably get a white or yellow cake with the first wild strawberries we could find blended into the cooked white frosting.

Everybody got into the act. Even Gram's son-in-law, my father, had copied instructions for tomato pickles.

Each page brought new memories of times never forgotten, only stored away for safe keeping. A treasure trove, this little yellowed book. A family document.



Father Chris Linsler of St. Andrew's Church chats with members of Cub Pack 70 who received the Parvuli Dei and God and Country religious awards at special services on Mother's Day. From left, William Nary, Stephen Mele, Michael Veilleux and Daniel Meland, all of whom received the Parvuli Dei award . . . and Donald and Howard Pratt, who received the God and Country award. Missing from the picture is Parvuli Dei recipient, Timothy Scahill.

## Cubs, Webelos Honored

Seven Cub Scouts and Webelos from Pack 70, which operates out of St. Andrew's Church, are recipients of Cub Scouting's highest religious award, the Parvuli Dei award for Catholics and the God and

Country award for Protestants.

The boys who spent more than two months attending special classes and performing religious works received the awards at a special Mass for the boys and their mothers. Father Bernard Dollen, St. Andrew's

pastor, presented the awards to: William Nary, Stephen Mele, Michael Veilleux, Daniel Meland, and Timothy Scahill, recipients of the Parvuli Dei award; and Howard and Daniel Pratt, the God and Country award.

### NEH Grant

Donald E. Bain of Warrington Drive, an assistant professor of history at St. John Fisher College, has received a research grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will enable him to take part in a summer program at Yale entitled Literature and the City in America: Comparative Approaches.

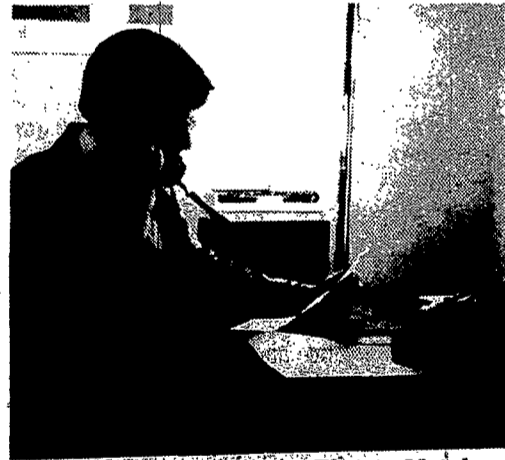
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## Southern Tier Editor

The diocese of Rochester comprises 12 counties ranging from the shores of Lake Ontario to the Pennsylvania border. Although the hub is in the see city of Rochester, there is plenty of diocesan activity throughout the 12 counties.

Of course, it is the responsibility of the diocesan newspaper to cover all of these diocesan events. To do that, in 1976 we established a fulltime editor in the Southern Tier, responsible for telling the diocese in words and photos what is happening in that area.

Martin Toombs is the Southern Tier editor. In addition to covering the news events occurring in the Southern Tier he also is responsible for printing information of your church organizations, parishes or individuals. The Southern Tier keeps him busy. But that is his job.



Martin Toombs at his Elmira Heights office.



Toombs interviews Sister Mary Kruckow and Father Neil Miller.

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