All in the Family By Sarak Child

hank God or That ttle Bite'

Every family has its own nivate jokes, little sayings hich they have collected over the years. They's don't mean much to anyone outside the circle of relatives but to those in the family the retelling of such anecdotes or repeating of phrases is not only im-

Since holidays have a way of dredging up the past with vengeance, we've had a lot of these "historical" moments and words replayed recently. Interestingly enough, most of them deal with eating in one way or another.

portant but great fun.

The first that comes to mind was contributed to our collection by my husband's maternal

grandfather, Big Tim Fitzgerald, who at the end of every meal had his own way of remarking on the bounty of the Lord.

"Thank God for that little bite," he would say, no matter how small or big the meal.

Over the years we have utilized that particular phrase many a time, usually, when there have been too many "bites."

Big Tim's daughter, Nell, one of 10 children, and grandmother to ours, tips the scale at about 90 pounds. It is superfluous to say that eating either during or between meals is not one of her passions.

Yet she has punctuated many a meal by getting up to briskly clear the table and announce, "Well, the fun's over for another day."

On my side of the family, an uncle would invariably amuse the younger members of the

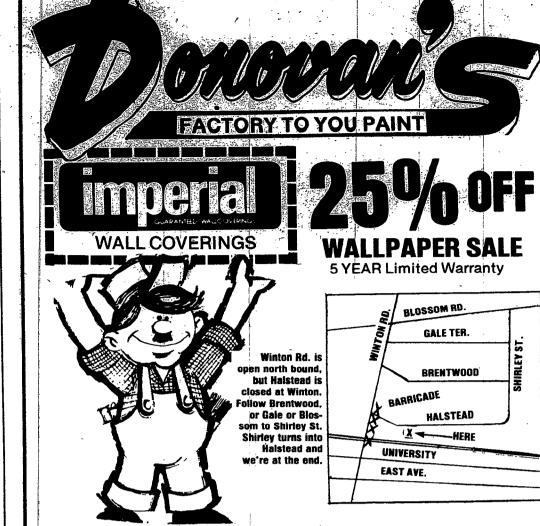
group waiting for the sweet that would finish the meal by demanding, "What's for berserk?" It took years to come up with an equally inane answer. When somebody, knowing there was shortcake waiting in the kitchen, shot back, "Struggleberries," it took and became part of the lore.

Grandma Borelli, a woman to delight the heart of every male chauvinist, has, as long as I can remember, inquired solicitously of every boy and man around the table, whether it be 20 of us or only two:

"Sam (or Bobby, Paul, Ernest, etc.)" she will ask in genuine concern, "did you make out?"

Since the person in question has already had two helpings of everything about all he can do is shake his head affirmatively and try to make it to the living room couch where he will be sure to be asked "the question" one more time.

Such are the ingredients of family lore, pulled out and relished during holiday gatherings. May their number increase.



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An Advent Charismatic Mass is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, in St. Louis Church, 56 S, Main St., Pittsford, under the auspices of prayer groups of that parish and of other Southeast area thurches. It is the first such oint celebration for these parishes. Everyone is invited.

Father Thomas Schmidt, SSR, director of the Notre-Dame Retreat House in anandaigua, will conselebrate with priests from the rea churches. Becket Hall eminarians will provide the music, beginning at 7 p.m. The Mass will be "signed" for the monimous analytic for the non-music may be obtained from the leaders of the two St. The Mass will provide for the non-music may be obtained from the leaders of the two St. The Mass will provide for the non-music may be obtained from the leaders of the two St. The Mass will prayer groups—Bill mand and Cathy Tanguay.



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