

A Valentine Party.

An Attractive Way to Announce One's Engagement.

A valentine party is a most attractive way to announce an engagement. The maid who has been ensnared by Cupid may issue the invitations, or some friend may entertain in her honor. The affair may be a formal dinner or luncheon, or, better yet, an evening party to which men are asked.

The early part of the evening is spent in playing Hearts. The game requires a full pack of fifty-two cards, ace high in playing, low in cutting. There is no trump suit. From two to six can play at each table, but four is the usual number, each playing for himself. When three play, the deuce of spades is discarded, and when six play, all four deuces are thrown out.

Each player is given fifty chips, or counters, at the start. The deal is determined by cutting, as usual, and the holder of the lowest card deals. Players cutting the two lowest cards, if they are equal in value, cut again.

Deal the cards one at a time, beginning at the left, until the entire pack is distributed. Lead any card you choose. The others must follow suit if they can, if not, discard a heart or any other card preferred. The highest card of the suit takes the trick.

The object is to avoid getting hearts. The winner takes the trick and leads again, and so on until all the cards have been played. After all the tricks are taken in, each counts the heart cards he has and announces the result. Players should not gather the cards until all of the thirteen hearts have been accounted for. Then each one pays a counter for every heart card he has taken in. Any player having no hearts gets the pool; two having taken none divide it. If all have taken hearts, the pool remains and forms a "Jack," which can be won only by a single player having taken no hearts, all the others having taken at least one. The pool, of course, is increased thirteen chips each deal until it is won. The deal goes to the left.

The game is easily learned and seems simple, but there is opportunity for all sorts of scheming. To make it more interesting, prizes may be awarded to the man and woman who have the most chips when playing is stopped, and there may also be booby prizes.

If there are not too many guests, it is better to serve supper on a single large table. In any case, decorate the table appropriately. The guests may be seated around the room or at the small tables which were used for card playing.

At a Valentine party last year, the decorative scheme was simple and yet very effective. The dining room walls were red and the rug was bright with the same warm hue. The table was a round one, of weathered oak, around which fourteen people were gathered, too closely, perhaps, but no one minded. Across the room diagonally, fastened to the picture moulding, were a number of hearts, cut from red cardboard, and strung upon linen thread. The cross lines met at the gas fixture, and this was wound with narrow strips of red crepe paper until only the light were visible. Under the chandelier and just over the table, hung an enormous red heart, cut from cardboard.

In the center of the table was a tea cloth of Mexican drawn work, and a plate doily of the same beautiful material was at each place. A bowl of roses was placed just underneath the heart.

The place cards were valentines, the old-fashioned ones of cupid and lace, in ornate envelopes bearing the name of the guest. In default of this, names might be written on hearts cut from the ever-ready red cardboard. The supper itself consisted of thin cold and butter sandwiches, of white and brown bread, cut into heart shapes, a cake cutter, a salad, coffee, little round cakes with pink and white icing, the Valentine cake, olives, peanuts, and pink and white frozen in heart shapes and served on paper doilies.

The sandwiches, coffee, olives and

salted peanuts are easily managed.

For the small cakes, use only good cup cake batter, the plainer the better, and frost with pink and white icing. A candied cherry on each side of the white cakes makes a pretty effect.

The Valentine cake is made as follows: Cream a cup of butter and three cups of sugar, add a cup of milk, six cups of flour, two teaspoons of baking powder, half a teaspoon of banana extract, a teaspoon of vanilla extract, and the whites of twelve eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Put a silver heart in the dough and bake in a pan lined with buttered paper. When cool, ice with white icing, decorate with red candy hearts, and put a little bisque Cupid on top. The Cupid may be a small bisque doll with gauze wings which have been stiffened with a bit of starch and dusted with frost powder.

The blushing bride-to-be cuts the cake as the announcement is made, and the one who finds the silver heart will be the next to become engaged.

If the heart shaped ices cannot be had plain ice cream will do, colored



Lamerton, Alberta, April, 1907.

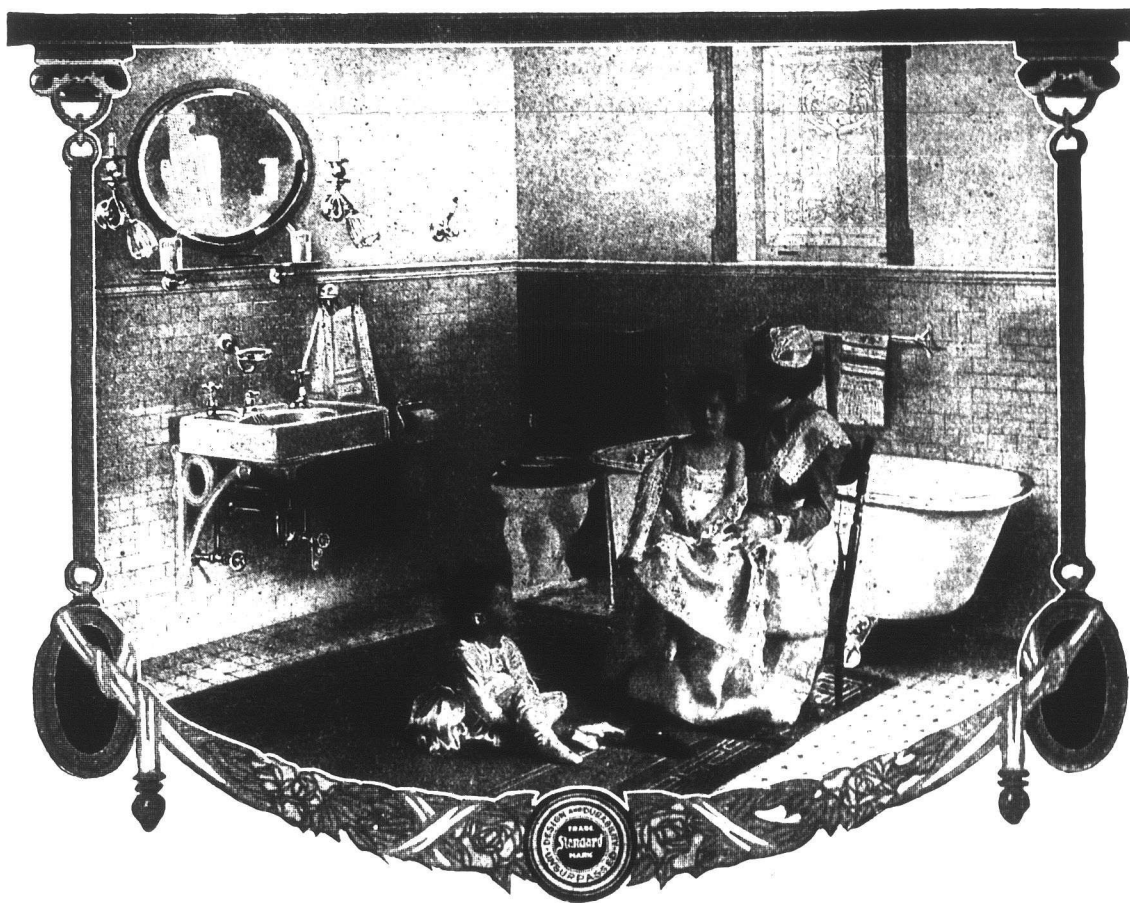
with fruit coloring or a little juice from canned strawberries, raspberries or currants. A dainty dessert which may be served instead of an ice, is the peach blossom cream, sweetened to taste. If it can be moulded in heart shape, so much the better. A wreath of whipped cream is an appropriate garnish.

After supper, the guests may write original valentines in verse, destined for the bride-elect. A gorgeous valentine is given as a prize for the best one, and the verses, copied in a little book, make an appropriate souvenir of the occasion.

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