



REVIVING THE OLD-FASHIONED GAMES

By Angela C. Boyce

THIS autumn and winter many of the pastimes are to be revived, and in order that my readers may also revive their memories of them, the four which will be most generally brought to life are here described.

As an added enjoyment at the close of a long season of outdoor sports the barn party is the party *par excellence*.

Informal invitations should be sent out ten days before the event, simply written upon small sheets of white unruled note paper, reading as follows:

MISS ANNA LEE MADISON
requests the pleasure of your company
at a Barn Party to be held
Wednesday evening, October twelfth
at eight-thirty
56 DOWNING ROAD

ARRANGING FOR THE BARN PARTY

TO INSURE the success of such a party a moonlight night should be selected. The barn chosen should be large, the floor space ample and the decorations lavish. They may consist of green boughs, vines and golden-rod, and a number of American flags.

The two large opposite doors should be thrown wide open for free circulation of air. The floor should then be cleared, swept and washed. High up over one door a large flag may be draped, and wires stretched across from beam to beam, away from direct draughts, upon which Japanese lanterns may be hung, care being taken that none are allowed to come in contact with the bunting in case of one taking fire. Chairs should also be provided, and a rope stretched across one side of the open space, on the farther side of which place a table. On this table place a large bowl of soapsuds, into which a spoonful of glycerine has been put, and by its side place half as many pipes as there are to be guests. Prepare half as many cards also as there are to be guests, and write across the full length of each card the name of an agricultural implement, as a hay-rake, hay-cutter, pitchfork, hoe, spade, scythe, sickle, mower, plow, reaper, binder, seeder. Each card should be numbered at the top, with a question concerning the implement named on it, besides the number and a query concerning it written at the back upon the lower half. Questions like the following will answer:

- No. 1—What is the true mission of a harrow?
No. 2—Can you tell a harrowing tale?
No. 3—What is a hoe used for?
No. 4—What is a good receipt for hoe cake.

The cards should then be cut in halves.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR GUESTS ARRIVE

WHEN the guests arrive a numbered half is given to each young woman, and each half upon which a query is written is given to a young man, who proceeds to match it, retaining as his partner the young woman whose card completes his own. When all have found their partners, the hostess, who is constituted "judge" for the evening, calls out, "Number one," and the young woman who holds this number is escorted to a seat in the middle of the floor, her partner putting to her the question upon his half of the card. She then demands of him an answer to number two. These must be answered in the hearing of the others, and for each failure to do this a forfeit must be paid. When all have participated it is put to vote as to who gave the brightest answer, the winner being granted a first trial at the soap-bubble contest which ensues.

Taking her place by the table on one side of the rope she selects pipe number one; her partner places himself opposite her on the other side of the rope, and she then proceeds to make the largest bubble possible without breaking it. When this is accomplished she wafts it into the air, as high as possible, toward her partner, who tries by blowing it in the opposite direction to prevent it from crossing the rope to his side. Should he prevent it from bursting on his side of the rope one point is scored for himself and partner and another turn is allowed. If, however, the bubble crosses over to his side one point is given to the next player, who immediately takes her place at the bowl with her partner opposite. When all have participated a large bunch of old-fashioned flowers is presented to the young woman who formed the largest bubble, another to the man who won the most points, and another to the one who won the least, and so on.

Refreshments may be served from tables spread out under the trees, upon the branches of which are hung bright lanterns.

THE OLD-TIME SPELLING BEE

THE fact that a spelling bee is to form a part of the evening's entertainment need not be indicated upon the program, it being a part of the fun to catch people unawares.

After the arrival of the guests the choice of a "teacher" and two leaders is effected by ballot. The two leaders then stand out at the end of the room opposite each other, and each chooses alternately one of the company at a time, to represent his side, until all have taken their places in two lines.

The teacher, who is supplied with a book, then gives out a word to the person at the end of the line at her right. If the word is correctly spelled the next word is given out to the person at the end of the opposite side at her left. If this person fails to spell this word correctly she must immediately leave the line, and the same word is put to number two on the opposite side. If the word is correctly spelled she is privileged to choose one person from the opposite line to step over to the foot of her own line. Another word is then given to the opposite opponent, and so on down the lines. It often happens that two equally proficient spellers are pitted against each other for some time, when the contest becomes very exciting.

LIMIT THE TIME OF THE BEST SPELLER

IT IS a good plan, lest the contest become wearisome, to limit the time for the last participant. If at the end of six minutes the winner has not failed on any word given, he or she becomes director of the revels that follow, and must be implicitly obeyed for the rest of the evening. The first duty is to announce a "recess," and having been previously instructed he or she leads the way to an adjoining room, where upon a table in a pile lie boxes of various shapes and kinds, neatly tied, which are distributed among the young women. After which it is announced that each box contains a small school luncheon, and that a young man accompanies each. She then proceeds to distribute the young men as she has the boxes. Each young woman then shares her luncheon with her partner. Should the box contain an apple, a sandwich and a cake these must be halved.

After "recess" follow games, or music or recitations, as the winner of the contest wills.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CORN-HUSKING BEE

LA TE in October, when the corn has matured and been stacked in the barn, the following informal invitations may be sent out to all the neighboring young people:

You are cordially invited
to a Corn Husking to be held in
Mr. James Henderson's barn
On the evening of October the thirty-first
at eight o'clock

Previous to the evening mentioned the ears of corn are stripped from the stems and formed into two huge piles upon the barn floor. Lanterns should be hung here and there upon the beams to give the necessary light, and stools provided for the workers. The company, on arrival, is divided equally, one half being assigned to one pile, the other half to pile number two, and the contest begins, each division striving to finish its pile first. The husks must be entirely removed from each ear, and whoever first discloses to view a red ear is considered especially fortunate, as the first red ear shown is supposed to bring good luck to its possessor.

After all the ears have been husked the winner of the red ear is escorted in state to the house, where a warm fire (always an open one, if possible) and a supper are waiting.

A VARIATION OF THE CORN SUPPER

DECORATE the walls of the room in which the supper is to be served with as much green as can be procured at this season of the year. Procure a dozen pumpkins, remove the pulp, cutting a hole at the top of the shell; cut also four stars in the sides of each pumpkin, cover with light yellow paper and place candles inside. These lanterns, being set in various convenient spots about the room and lighted just before the supper is served, shed a corn-colored glow over the room. Have the table spread with a snowy cloth. In the centre place a tall vase filled with any late autumn yellow flowers—dahlias, chrysanthemums or marigolds; place a candle at each end of the table screened by yellow crêpe paper shades. The refreshments may consist of egg and lemon butter sandwiches, cornbread, chicken salad, sponge cake, gold cake, lemon ice cream and lemon water ice, cup custards, honey in the comb, lemonade and coffee.

THE APPLE-PARING CONTEST

THE guests assemble around the blazing open fire. Two large baskets of apples are brought in. A row of dishes is placed upon the hearth in front of the fire, and a short distance above the dishes is stretched a heavy rope, to which apples are fastened in a row to roast. Next, knives are distributed, and each one attempts to slide his or her knife safely round and round an apple taken from the basket without breaking the paring. This being accomplished, each one privately gives to his or her paring the name of a favored one, stands in the middle of the room, takes the paring by one end, twirls it three times around the head from right to left, and drops it over the left shoulder to the floor, repeating:

"I pare this pippin round and round again,
My sweetheart's name to flourish in the plain;
I fling the unbroken paring o'er my head,
My sweetheart's letter on the ground is read."

The paring is supposed to immediately assume the form of the first initial of the favored one's name. Again, an apple seed is cut in halves, each half named, and stuck upon the closed eyelids. It is rarely that either one remains on long. If both drop at the same time then it is reasonable to suppose that the experimenter will go unloved to his or her grave. Should one, however, remain longer than the other, that one will prove constant through life. While all this has been going on, the apples growing tender and juicy before the fire drop one by one into the dishes placed beneath. It is then that pitchers of cream are brought in with small bowls and spoons, and the evening closes with roasted apples and cream.

A JOLLY MOTHER GOOSE PARTY

FOR a Mother Goose party send out the following invitations:

Reunion of the Goose Family
Mother Goose
At Home
Wednesday evening, November fifteenth
from eight to eleven o'clock
135 Green Street

With this card may be inclosed another upon which may be written:

Please come costumed as one of the gossings and bring an original verse explaining your mishaps.

As, for example, Old Mother Hubbard might explain:

"I'd been giving a tea—
All the ladies were there:
And that must explain
Why my cupboard was bare."

Or the "Old Man Dressed all in Leather" might ask:

"Why do I dress in leather?
The reason I'll unfold:
One day I dressed in cassimere
And caught a dreadful cold."

Secure a large pan such as bread is mixed in, and cover it with a large sheet of light brown wrapping-paper. Cut the paper an inch and a half larger than the pan, cut a hole in the middle large enough to admit a man's hand, and secure the paper around the outside edges of the pan with mucilage.

This "Jack Horner" pie graces the head of the table later.

The servant who admits the guests receives from them the envelopes containing their verses, and places them, still sealed, in the pie.

Mother Goose may stand conveniently near the entrance to the drawing-room, and should greet the guests by name if possible.

A NEW MOTHER GOOSE GAME

DURING the evening a slip of paper is handed to each guest with the name of one of the Mother Goose characters upon it. The hostess retains a list of these, and calls each, in turn, to repeat within the space of one minute the familiar verse relative to this character. Failing to do this a forfeit must be paid. The one who is most prompt in responding correctly may receive as a pledge a goose-quill pen, and the one who fails a copy of "Mother Goose." Just before refreshments are served the "Goose Drill" may be participated in to the time of a march, and the couples proceed to the refreshment-room, where they are served to:

- (1) Shared by the walrus and carpenter.
- (2) A King's dish.
- (3) A Queen's lunch.
- (4) Taffy's spoils.
- (5) The golden eggs.
- (6) Fragments from the "Old Woman's broom."
- (7) What the baker made.
- (8) Sample of the pie-man's ware.
- (9) Jack-a-dandy's delight.
- (10) What the ships brought.

The numbered list of refreshments should be printed upon small cards, which may be retained as souvenirs of the occasion. The guests order what they choose. The key, which is retained by the hostess, is as follows:

- No. 1—Oysters.
- No. 2—Bird pie.
- No. 3—Bread and honey.
- No. 4—Beef sandwiches.
- No. 5—Egg sandwiches.
- No. 6—Cheese-straws.
- No. 7—Rolls.
- No. 8—Washington cake-pie.
- No. 9—Plum cake.
- No. 10—Apples and comfits.

After refreshments have been partaken of each guest in turn reaches into the depths of the "Jack Horner" pie and removes a plum—one of the sealed envelopes—and reads aloud the verses contained therein.