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## Invitation to Fun

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# Invitation to Fun

by Mary Ellen Lynch

**A**N open fire, apples, popcorn, nuts and plenty of Christmas cheer are the chief ingredients for a successful holiday party. In front of the fireplace your old crowd who have been separated all fall at various schools can catch up on the town gossip and exchange campus notes.

The younger set will be winter-sporting every day during their vacation so the easiest and most popular party will doubtless be an outdoors one. There is all your entertainment ready-made for you—skiing, ice-skating, or tobogganing. You can have an old-fashioned coasting party and thrill again to sliding down hill belly-buster and dumping head first into a snow bank.

Remember that all of these old pals of yours used to demand hot chocolate and crackers when they came in from playing way back in the grades. They still like food, you know, but you can make your party food a little more

bread on the table to accompany the piping hot main dish. A big bowl of fruit—oranges, bananas, grapes and apples, in the center of the table will provide an informal help-yourself dessert for the feasters.

Impromptu dances to the radio or phonograph will never be outmoded. Dishes of candy or nuts, and maybe some popcorn balls will be sufficient and welcome refreshments to the guests who just "drop in". Practice work on the Big Apple will warm up nipped toes in double quick time.

Marshmallow parties solve the problem of food and entertainment at the same time. The cleverest little animals and men can be devised from marshmallows. A contest for the most beautiful or most comical product will furnish plenty of amusement especially for the boys trying this delicate task. Marshmallows, perhaps some of those tinted marshmallows, sharp knives or scissors, plenty of toothpicks, cherries and nuts to be used as the sculptors see fit are necessary for the contest.

Toasted marshmallows, oozing between crisp graham crackers have long been a delicacy. Long forks and a fireplace are the best equipment, but lacking a fireplace, candles do just as well. Give one candle to each couple around the dining room table with crackers and nuts in the center. Informal and sweet, though, sticky fun!

Sleigh rides under a frosty, starry winter night with the harness jingling and the snow squeaking under the runners—now there is a real treat. Plenty of straw in the bottom is a good precaution for warmth and comfort.

After a long sleigh ride, a hot supper is again in demand. Waffles or oyster



stew are always good.

But here's the best idea to round out the evening. Arrange with some woman in the country, if you can, to serve your group a supper of buckwheat cakes made from real buckwheat flour. These are packed with flavor as only such cakes can be. With butter and syrup they are a royal dish indeed. After the supper of cakes, little sausages and apple sauce, the driver can take you on home with everyone quietly happy from that toasty, well-fed feeling.

If your crowd is very out-doorsy, you might take them on a winter picnic. Be sure that your food is hearty and that there is plenty of hot coffee or hot chocolate. Equipment for broiling steaks over the fire, for toasting marshmallows and for baking potatoes or apples, and above all enough wood for a huge fire are essentials. What could be more satisfying than a good, hot fire and hot food after a hike or skate?

If you have on hand an abundance of German or Swedish Christmas cookies you can extend good cheer impromptu to everyone who calls. Spiced grape juice or hot coffee served with them expresses old-fashioned hospitality.

A new fabric tape can be used for putting up shelf edging or holding other pieces. One side has a linen backing which can be left on and one has tape with one sticky side, or which can be removed to leave tape with two sticky sides. It will hold firmly glass, metal or wood, and leaves no marks.



pretentious and have an actual supper.

While the guests are getting out of wet snow suits and heavy boots, you can heat up a big dish of spaghetti or chili and put hard rolls or Vienna