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Festival Book Aids Party Planning

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Festival Book Aids Party Planning

by Luanne Madsen

TO THOSE for whom planning parties, festivals or exhibits is a chore, here's a book which will transform the problem into one that's more fun than a picnic.

Written by Dorothy Gladys Spicer, "Windows Open to the World," is full of ideas for parties, each one with an international theme. With world fellowship as a goal, Miss Spicer has compiled a book which should be in every home library.

The parties themselves are as different from the usual run of the mill as night is from day. For instance, have you ever been to a Pancake Party for Shrove Tuesday? If you haven't, why not be original and give one?

Shrove Tuesday, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, is the last day before Lent. According to an old English custom, Miss Spicer explains, it's Pancake Day. In England our ancestors observed the day by ringing the church bells to remind the populace of confession and shricing by the village priest.

The custom changed with the years, however, and the bell which had once called people to church, became the signal for making pancakes. From that time on, Shrove Tuesday was Pancake Day.

Pancake Day in England soon rivaled Christmas as a time of merrymaking. With all of its gay traditions handed down from ancient times, Pancake Day offers a wonderful opportunity for the gayest of parties. Why not adopt Shrove Tuesday and celebrate with a pancake party of your own? Use invitations, refreshments and games strictly according to ancient customs.

Miss Spicer suggests that this would be the ideal party to entertain, among others, newly arrived British war brides and their husbands. The description given in "Windows Open to the World" tells the sort of invitations to send, ideas for decoration, and loads of entertainment and refreshment suggestions. It sounds like fun!

This is only one of the ideas Miss Spicer sets forth in this book for your future good times. There is a Greek Party for New Year's Day, a Latin-American Party for Epiphany Eve, a Hanging of the Greens Party and many others.

The book offers more than party suggestions. If you've wondered how to dramatize folk material, here's your answer. Most good folk tales require little adaption to transform them into plays which are not only fun to give, but equally as much fun to watch.

And, for the knack of making worship hours something more to "look forward to," there's a chapter here with many ideas for these hours. Each one has an international idea behind it.

Just leafing through the book gives a "want to get busy" feeling. It's not a big book, but it's full of ideas that make one think in terms of the world and world fellowship instead of just one little corner of the globe.