

County: Custer
Worker: Oscar L. Canoy, Miles city Mont
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Eastern Montana being a livestock and farming country, its citizens have been of American, English, Scotch, Russian and Scandinavian population in majority.

The everyday meals have been in most cases of staple food. In most homes breakfast consists of breakfast food, either Oatmeal, Cream of wheat or some other hot breakfast food. Hot biscuits or Pancakes, with eggs or bacon.

For dinner meat heading the list, with vegetables, potatoes are served with nine out of each ten meals. Meats will either be roast beef, pork, mutton or boiled meats. In some of the homes no meat is served on Friday, eggs and other substitutes are used to take the place of meat.

Each housewife or cook has their own special way of preparing the meals for the day or occasion.

On the ranch or farm the cook has the breakfast supply of food where it will be handy for them to prepare. They roll out of bed, build the fire, put on the coffee, while the stove is getting hot they prepare the meat or eggs, sift the flour and begin making the biscuits, or stirring up the hotcakes, if hotcakes, they are in most cases mixed in a mixing bowl, a good cook whips the dough with a spoon for several minutes, almost playing a tune "Of you better get ready to eat them while they're hot."

If biscuits are served the first supply will be put on the table and the remaining ones kept hot until needed.

These meals will be eaten very quickly, with little or no conversation. Instructions will sometime be given by the boss or father at breakfast, for the days work, or such remarks as boys " You better store away another one of those hotcakes or biscuits, as this or that job is going to be a stiff one this morning."

The noon meal, or dinner, will be prepared during the forenoon, baking the pies or other side dishes to be eaten with the meal. This meal will, in most cases be served about 12 Oclock, the cook placing all the food on the table, either ringing the dinner bell, or announcing its being ready. The crew or family will each take their places at the table, the food is passed from one to another, each helping themselves, the dish containing the food will be set on the table by the last member to supply their plate from it. If more of any of the food is required by any one, they ask for it to be passed to them. If the supply becomes exhausted, the container will be replenished by the cook or some one waiting table. For dinner in most cases, small dishes of Chowchow, Piccalilli, Pickles, Potato salad, or other appatizing dishes that have been prepared by the cook or housewife, will be placed on the table and will be eaten by anyone who's appetite suggests them. More conversation during this meal than at breakfast will be herd, such as what has been accomplished during the forenoon, or what is

to be done afternoon, also the neighborhood news is very often related during the meal.

Supper are in most cases a duplicate of the dinner meal, using the left overs as part of the meal, with enough newly cooked food to touch it off, to not repeat the noon meal, Sometimes chopping or grinding the meat that is left over, mixing potatoes and onions with it making very good hash, baking the hash for several hours. In most cases either pie, pudding or some kind of sauce is served with the two latter meals.

In the average American homes much planing for the different times of year, Sundays, Holidays, Birthdays and other special occasions are planed by the housewife or cook. Chicken dinners are one of the fads of the American mother or cook for sunday, they will have fried chicken with mashed potatoes with all kinds of other good eats when they have one of these Sunday chicken dinners. Or the chicken may be fixed with dumplings along with many other trimmings, At one of these dinners there is always lots of talking, joking and laughing with many boasts of the class of cooking or the amount that someone is eating .

Birthday dinners are one of the highlights of the average homes, much attention is given to these dinners. The choice food that is available will be prepared for the meal. The cook will also cook the food in the most tasty' manner possible, serving many little side dishes with the meal. There will be a good cake baked for the dinner, in honor of the one whose birthday it happens to be, When the dinner is served the cake will be placed in the center of the table, candles will be placed on it, to the amount of the years of the one the dinner is being given for. Most times these dinners will be served later than the hour the regular meals have been served, most everyone attending these dinners appetite becomes whetted knowing the good food that is going to be served, and when the meal is served great quantities of the food is eaten by most everone attending, with plenty of joking, laughing and suggestions of over eating. The candles will be lighted during the meal, and when all has finished eating all the other food possible, more coffee or tea will be served. Before the cake is cut the one in whos honor the dinner is given will try and blow all the candles out at once, after the candles are blown out the cake will then be served, ever~~one~~ usually making some comment regarding its quality, or the age of the one in whos honor the dinner is given for.

Thanksgiving Day is another day when much attention to eats are given. Plans are usually made to either have Turkey, Goose or Duck for the meals. Great effort in trying to have the top meal for the year is the custom in most the homes, canning and all the delicatessen's for the following year having been prepared, the meal will consist of many appetizing dishes this day. It has long been the custom for family groups to gather at some home in each neighborhood, whether in the country or in town for Thanksgiving Day dinners. In most cases the mothers and daughters all take part in preparing the big dinner, each having their own special in the preparing of the meal. When all are seated someone gives thanks, women and girls wait the tables, everyone helping themselves to the food as it is passed around the table, each woman or girl insisting you have some of this or that, as it is the best in the west, or some other inducing remark, when the meal is finished those with good appetite will have eaten so much, one will here many joking remarks. Following is an account of a Thanksgiving dinner.

In the early 1920's, in a thinly settled ranching neighborhood, fifty miles from town. One of the ranchers decided to have the Thanksgiving dinner at their ranch, inviting the foreman, cook and one hired man from one of the neighboring ranches to the dinner, the distance being about 10 miles. The foreman and hired man having early morning work to do before leaving, and the ride to the other ranch on saddle horses created a very

good ap^ettite for the dinner. At the ranch where the dinner was given, there were the Father, Mother and daughter, who also had stock to care for early mornings, which gave them a very good ap^ettite. When the dinner was ready to be served, the father of the home gave thanks, the mother and daughter began serving the meal, which was served in courses, first wine, then cocktail salad, sitting down drinking their wine, next the cocktail salad. The father of the home carved the turkey and it was passed around each helping themselves. Mashed potatoes, corn, peas, chowchow, pickles, krout, piccalilli and cranberrys were served along with the turkey. Pumkin pie for a finsher.

The dishes were then removed and washed, next violin and piano music, then cards were played by all, candy and nuts being on the table during the card game, the party lasting until late afternoon. Then the three had to ride back to the ranch and feed some stock before night. The cook from the ranch attending the dinner, asked the foreman if they wanted anything to eat after the stock was cared for, getting "No" for an answer. The cook remarked, "She felt like she never wanted anything to eat again." She was a very small eater and this being her first time to attend a dinner served in courses, she tried to follow suit and drink the wine, eat the cocktail salad, follow the example of the other five, who were big eaters and having their appetites whetted by the m^orning work and riding through the fresh air. She was told by the hired man that she could avoided

eating so much by taking smaller quantities of the food, also leaving a part of each serving on the plate to indicate having a great plenty, which would be very polite. She sure scolded the hired man for not giving her a tip on this someday during the dinner.

Christmas dinners are a special also, but in most instances the one attending will consist of the family, or group of each home, or some one making a holiday visit. The meal will be of the choicest food possible, with candy and nuts making up the finishing off of this meal. This meal is devoted more to the satisfaction of the children of the homes, much advice is given the children in regard to over eating, but in many instances there is much stomach pain suffered by the youngsters after these meals, caused by over eating.

Picnic dinners have long been in custom. Neighborhood picnics being one of the first of these to be in order. Plans for these picnics are made by the housewives and cooks of the families as to what portion of the dinner is to be furnished by the different ones to attend. Some will furnish bread, while others will furnish the meat, butter, Salads, which are usually many varieties, then others furnish pickles, cold slaw, Chowchow, Piccalilli, and many other appetizing dishes made of vegetables from the garden. While others will furnish the coffee, cream, Limonade or other drinks for the dinner. Most every one will furnish a cake of her choice flavor, with Chocolate or Frosting made of

Eggs and Sugar, covering them in the most decorative manner. Pie of many variety will also be in great numbers.

These dinners will be at some desided location usually in a grove if possible. All the food is grouped together, most times on a long table hauled to the picnic ground by some member attending. Also the plates, cups, knives, forks and spoons are furnished by the ladies from the homes. When the dinner is ready to be served each one will file around the table and fill their plates from the great quantity of food, find some place to be seated to eat, most times gathering in groups to devour the good eats. Many comments are made regarding the flavor of the food and how it is cooked.

These picnics usually last the most of the day, men and women visiting, while the younger people play many different games during the day.

The dishes and food left from the meal is gathered together, by the girls and women, each knowing their own dishes, knives, forks and spoons.

When the time comes to leave for home many remarks are made in way of showing appreciation of the good eats being brought by others. Such as I am so full of that chicken Ann brought I can almost cackle, or if you dont die from that heavy cake I brought, make us a call some sunday, and a thousand other such remarks. Plans are often made before the picnic is broken up, for other gatherings and feeds.