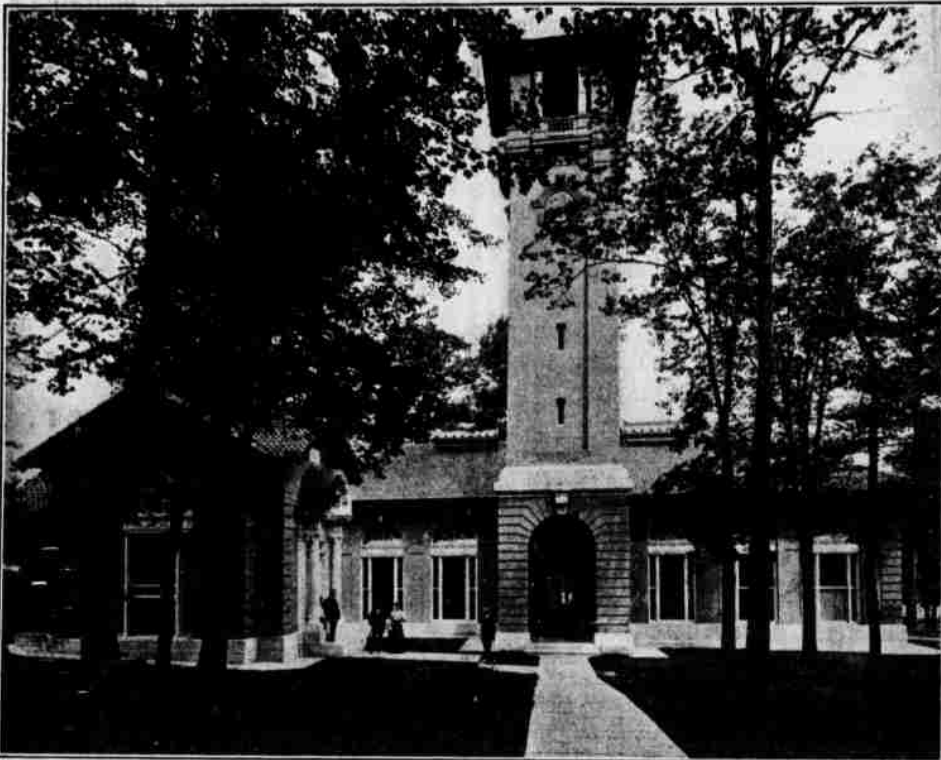


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**FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS**

VERY pretty observance of St. Valentine's day is a "St. Valentine's" party and in which a number of girls should join, selecting the home affording the largest drawing and dining rooms; various details of arrangement being assigned to different members of the party entertaining.

Unique decorations are most essential, the drawing room being transformed by covering the lights and lamps with shades made from comic Valentines, hanging comic masks and gaily colored paper lanterns about the room. Hearts, arrows and Cupid bows may also be used effectively together with artificial or real flowers and greens.

Upon entering the parlor the girls should be presented with small ribbon-adorned gilt Cupid bows and the boys with arrows to match, each arrow piercing a small card which bears the name of the girl who is to be the boy's partner for the evening, this manner of pairing

meaningless prophesies, and the like.

Now follows the evening merrymaking. In the rear of the parlor is placed a huge paper heart, which is painted in bright circles. This heart serves as a target for the gay archers, who may test their skill with the bows and arrows with which they are supplied. The colored bands about the heart are green, blue and yellow, the centre being left white. A small "heart card," bearing verses which give the significance of these colors, hangs at the side of the heart, but none are permitted to read these till after the shooting contest is over. During the sport one of the young hostesses keeps a tally-card which shows the marksman's shot. This, with the prophetic "heart card," is read after the shooting is over and affords much laughter, for nearly all will have tried to hit the white center of the heart—the "bull's eye"—as it were.

The verses on the "heart card" are:

"Love and riches wait, I ween,  
Him or her who shoots the green."



"BLIND MAN'S BUFF AND OTHER FROLICS FILL OUT A MERRY EVENING."

off the couples affording much amusement and surprise.

In one corner of the room a postoffice has been arranged by means of a tall three-panel screen, a window having been made in the centre of the screen through which to pass valentines to the guests.

After the couples have joined and placed themselves in line (being instructed to do so by one of the hostesses), a hidden bell rings in a corner, the postoffice window springs open and old St. Valentine is seen doing duty as postmaster. One by one he hands out dainty envelopes to the couples as they pass; large ones to the boys and small ones to the girls. When all have been given their mail the postoffice window closes and the jolly old saint comes forth to join in the frolic of the evening, proving to be one of the guests.

Then comes the fun of opening the envelopes. In those drawn by the girls dainty little hand-painted valentines are encased, and in those drawn by the boys are found the most comical and absurd valentines, bearing humorous verses and

"Arrow hits the yellow high,  
You'll be married ere you die."

"Should your arrow pierce the blue,  
To your love you'll e'er be true."

"But do you pass the colors by,  
Love will bring you many a sigh."

Following the archery, adjournment is made to the dining room, the decorations corresponding with those in the drawing room. In addition there hangs, over the banquet board, a large heart made of red roses. (The roses may be of paper, inexpensive, but very artistic). Directly beneath this rose heart is a great white cake, also in the form of a heart and pierced with a gilt arrow, occupying the place of honor. The cutting of this cake is awaited with great anticipation, for each guest in turn must cut a slice, and each will do so with the hope of securing one of the two hidden treasures that are concealed within it: a small ring, emblematic of true love and happy marriage; and a dime, emblematic of great riches. Following the repast adjournment is made to the drawing room where "blind man's buff" and other frolics fill out a merry evening.