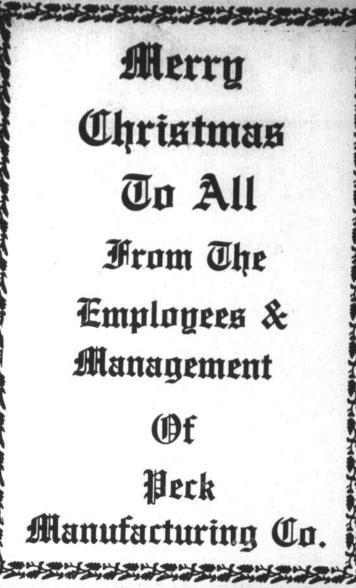
## The Warren Record, Warrenton, North Carolina, Wednesday, December 20, 1989- Page 2B







CHRISTMAS COOKIE TRADITIONS—The home economists at Oster recommend that busy cooks make their traditional holiday treats ahead of time and freeze them. Another time-saving tip for this busy season: For gift-giving, combine old traditions with new...make homemade treats, like gingerbread cutouts, cranberry bread and old fashioned fudge, and pair them with purchased baked goods, such as the ribbon cookies and swirl bread pictured here.

## **Christmas Cookie Recipes Continue American Tradition**

Across the country, and around the world, every family that celebrates Christmas keeps its own special traditions. A tradition that seems a part of every Christmas celebration is a Christmas cookie exchange.

The baking and giving of Christmas cookies is a custom popular in many countries. In fact, the American tradition of baking cookies for friends and family (and Santa) is based on those traditions brought over by our ancestors ... especially those from the Scandinavian coun-tries and Germany. But, the addition of candies and nut breads to those holiday baking traditions is distinctly American.

It is the custom in most countries to create the prettiest cookies and treats of the year at Christmastime. Taking the time to decorate a cookie, make a special candy or create a tasty nut bread for dear friends, is a traditional way of telling them that they are treasured.

The home economists at Oster recommend that busy cooks make their specialties ahead of time and freeze them. Another time saving tip for this busy season: Combine old traditions with new ... give a pretty cookie tin that contains homemade treats and purchased bakery delights. Then, even busy cooks can con-tinue this cherished Christmas tradition.

MOLASSES GINGERBREAD CUTOUTS

- 1 cup sugar 36 cup vegetable shortening
- egg
- 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup molasses 4 cups whole wheat flour
- teaspoon salt teaspoon baking
- teaspoon ground gin
- teaspoon ground cloves
- teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice

In large mixing bowl, cream together sugar, shortening and egg at a medium speed until fluffy. Add molasses, mix un-til combined. Stir together flour, salt, soda and spices. Add to mixing bowl and mix at a low speed until well combined. Refrigerate 2 hours.

Roll out on floured surface to 14" thickness. Cut with shaped cookie cutters. Place on greased cookie sheet.

Preheat oven to 350°F. In large mixer bowl, combine dry ingredients. Add juice, peel, shortening and egg, mix at a low speed until well blended. Stir in nuts and cranberries.

Put into a greased 9x5x3 inch pan. Bake 55-60 minutes. Cool slightly before removing from pan.

Remove from pan and finish cooling on wire rack. Yield: 1 loaf.

OLD FASHIONED FUDGE

2 cups sugar 3/3 cup milk

- 2 squares (2 oz.) unsweetened chocolate
- 2 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 1/4 teaspoon salt 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract 1/2 cup chopped nuts, optional

Butter a 9x5x3 inch loaf pan. Combine sugar, milk, chocolate, corn syrup and salt in a 3 quart saucepan. Cook over medium heat until sugar is dissolved, stirring constantly.

Bring to a boil and continue to cook until mixture reaches 238°F, or until a small amount of mixture forms a soft ball when dropped into cold water.

Remove from heat. Add butter, but do not stir. Cool to 110°F. Do not disturb pan. (Bottom of pan will feel lukewarm). Pour mixture into small mixer bowl.

Add vanilla extract and beat at a medium speed until mixture loses its gloss and holds its shape. Add nuts if desired and spread into prepared pan. Cool and cut into squares. Yield: 1 pound.



**Peoples Bank** 



kinging in new joy for the Holiday Season.

## WELDON COCA COLA BOTTLING CO.

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Sprinkle top of cookies with sugar. Bake in preheated 375°F oven for 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Decorate as desired.

Yield: 3 dozen cookies.

## CRANBERRY ORANGE NUT BREAD

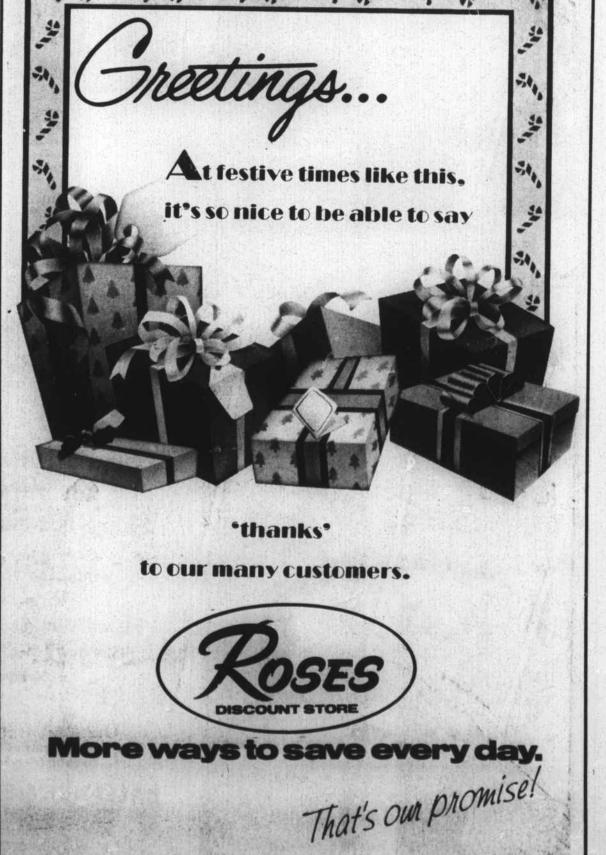
- cups all purpose floor

- 2 cups all purpose floor 1 cup sugar 1 teaspoon salt 1½ teaspoons baking powder ½ teaspoon baking soda ¾ cup orange juice 1 tablespoon grated orange peel ¼ cup soft shortening 1 cup soft shortening

- egg, slightly beaten cup whole pecans or walnuts cup fresh cranberries, sliced



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