Stirring Up Memories

Readers reall the flavors they savored in the good old days.

Tried "Fried Grasshopper Legs"

ONE DAY, when I was 12, my dad brought home an unlabeled jar filled with green things. He told me they were fried grasshopper legs, and I believed him. I was always eager to please my dad, so I tried one. I actually liked it, and together we ate the whole jar.

Several years later, when I was grocery shopping, I looked up and saw a jar of the exact green things my dad and I had eaten that day. This jar did have a label, and it said "Pumpkin Seeds."

—Patricia Edmondson, Prescott, Arizona

Simple Treats Were Special

WHEN we went grocery shopping with Mom, in the '30s, we had a choice of three treats…Indian nuts, a dill pickle or charlotte russe. Mom and Dad didn't have much, but always made their children feel special with small rewards.

—Anthony Donadio, Briarcliff Manor, New York

Kapusta a la Apple Pie

WHEN my grandmother came from the "old country," she brought many recipes with her, all in her head. Her favorite was called kapusta…sauerkraut, lima beans, onion and potatoes, all cooked in a large pot and served with rye bread.

To appease her, I would eat about 2 tablespoons, enjoy my rye bread and wait for her homemade apple pie, which was the designated dessert to accompany this meal. That was worth waiting for!

—Dolores Hart, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Some Tasty Traditions

UPON OUR arrival at the home of our great-grandparents Jeff and

Ada Farmer of Magee, Mississippi, Grandfather would open a large trunk and pull out some lemon drops. Then he'd take us to his watermelon patch, burst open the melons and let us feast on the heart of the melon. I was in seventh heaven.

—Audrey Brigman, Southport, Florida

Fortune-Telling Cake

WHEN I was about to be married, in 1947, my neighbor had a bridal shower for me. The sheet cake we had for dessert had a little trinket pressed into the center of each piece, covered by an iced rosette.

When everyone uncovered their little prize, the hostess read a poem telling what each prize symbolized: thimble, old maid; ring, next to be engaged; bell, next to wed; large safety pin, next to have a baby; penny, good luck; dime, wealth; car, next to take a trip; and a small tube of lipstick, next one to get kissed. I got the lipstick!

—Leona Becker, North Java, New York