



Cap and Gown Party



by Charlotte Heffner

WHETHER the graduation is from high school or college this May and June, it will bring dinners and banquets to celebrate that great moment and give seniors a good bon voyage into the sea of hoped-for success. Novel table decorations will add to the atmosphere of the party and remain as a part of the memories of the occasion.

Because graduates are mentally on top of the world, why not incorporate this idea in the decorations of the table? This may be accomplished by making a large popcorn ball, using one gallon of freshly popped corn. Pour over it a syrup made of 2 cups of white sugar, 1/2 cup white corn syrup and 1/2 cup water cooked to 128 degrees centigrade, to which a few drops of vegetable coloring have been added. (Keep in mind your color scheme.) Mix the corn and syrup and press into one large round ball.

It is wise previously to prepare cellophane cut-outs, in the general shape of the continents. While the syrup is still sticky, press the cut-outs in place, slashing the edges where the fullness bulges to fit the curves of the ball. The world may be topped with capped and gowned boy and girl dolls. This improvised globe is a centerpiece that is different.

If more convenient, a pastry gun may be used to outline the continents in colored cake icing. Also, the chosen color may be used for tapers at each end of the table.

Rather than using the common nut cup, you may purchase small packages of after-dinner mints in cylindrical rolls. Print the menu and program on a strip of colored parchment, roll around the individual packages of mints and tie with a ribbon, thus "presenting" a new graduate diploma.

A Fiji Village provides a center of interest for another party. A doorman with brown painted face and dressed in tails, shirt, top hat, tie and skirt made of brown crepe paper strips will meet the guests at the door and conduct them through a corn-stalk or straw hut entrance. A sign over the door reads "Fiji Village."

Cellophane straw balls made by tying a bundle of colored straws together in the center may be hung near electric light fixtures. These revolve, reflecting the colors.

Two black pipe-stem cleaners can be turned into black men, by a twist at the neck and at the waist, the ends forming arms and legs. After removing the sugar coating from one side of a black gum drop, stick on snips of red and white paper for mouth and nose and eyes. Fasten this head to the neck by means of fine wire.

Many of these figures in various positions form the Fiji Village centerpiece surrounded by a twig jungle. The black fellows may be beating paper drums, in a running position and bending over a caldron suspended over a bonfire. A caldron between the knees of a figure may be placed at each corner. Use these caldrons to contain mints and nuts. Construct dwellings from bits of paper and twigs to complete the village.

The colored tapers at each end of the table become more attractive when dressed in ruffles made by cutting cellophane strips 15 inches wide and 30 inches long. Fold in half lengthwise and slip a knitting needle in the fold. Crush to the center from both ends, along the needle. Fasten the ruffle around the candle with spool wire.

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