FROM THE MAILBAG

Franzie Squares

Deat Aunt Daisy,

I used to have a recipe for franzie squares, which used cake crumbs as a filling. Do you think you could find it for me, please?—B.B., Ellerslie.

Yes, here it is: 4 oz. butter, 8 oz. flour, I tablespoon sugar, I egg, 1 teaspoon baking powder, pinch salt. Rubbutter into flour, add egg, and a little milk if necessary. Roll out and spread with apricot jam. Put on following mixture, cook ½ hour or more in moderate oven, cut into squares. May also be used to line patty cases.

FILLING: 1/4 lb. cake crumbs, 2 small eggs, 1/4 lb. butter, 1/4 lb. sugar Beat butter and sugar, add eggs and cake crumbs.

Remember These?

IOR older listeners "the golden age of popular song" might mean the Gay Nineties or thereabouts; though there are no doubt still many whose affections reach back as far as the Eighties. Most people, in fact, recall the "good old days" of their youth—irrespective of decade—as the peak period of melody. "They don't write songs as they used to" is the common complaint; a complaint that betrays the nostalgic glamour of every age for someone.

The Golden Age of Popular Song, a BBC series scheduled to begin from 2YA, 3YA and 4YA at 9.30 p.m. on Monday, October 28 (and from 1YA the following Monday), should, however, wake memories in most people, for the period covered is perhaps the most golden of them all—1918 to 1939. Between the two World Wars more people played, whistled, danced and listened to popular songs than at any other time in the history of Tin Pan Alley. These 21 years saw the rise and spread of broadcasting and the invention of the talkie; mediums which made innovation the rule for the song composers. One or two songwriters, Irving Berlin and Duke Ellington, are symbolic of the whole period; and even today are familiar names to the generation of rock-and-roll and calypso. Because of films and radio; too, some songs have been per-petuated that would otherwise be strange to younger ears—songs such as George M. Cohan's "Over There," which is the theme tune for the first programme in the series.

With popular singers like Benny Lee, the Australian Marie Benson, David Francis and Pat Campbell, the George Mitchell Choir and the BBC Revue Orchestra, The Golden Age of Popular Song revives such hits as "Charmaine," "Yes, We Have No Bananas," "Ukulele Lady," "Painting the Clouds with Sunshine, "South of the Border," "Isle of Capri" and "Beer Barrel Polka."

In this series, written and produced by Charles Chilton, the BBC Revue Orchestra is conducted by Harry Rabinowitz, and the narration is given by Alan Keith and Guy Kingsley Poynter.

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