FROM THE MAILBAG

Beetroot and Onions

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Tell the Link in our Chain who wants her pickled beetroot less sour to try this way. It is very palatable: Mix the contents of a quart bottle of vinegar with ½ lb. honey. I use this also on my cut beetroot with onions, for the table. Also, I prepare pickling onions and fill bottles or jars, and then when the vinegar and honey are thoroughly mixed, pour it over and tie down. No salt.

"Grannie."

Soft Cream Puffs

Dear Aunt Daisy,

With reference to your correspondent whose cream puffs went soft next day, tell her not to put them in a tin but to keep them exposed. I usually put mine on a tray and pop them in the linen cupboard—anywhere airy where the flies can't get at them. Now, can you help me? I have a black umbrella, the cover is quite good, but has gone "rusty." Is there anything I can do to restore the colour?

"Listener-in," Te Kuiti.

You will have to get a new umbrella for best, and just freshen up the old one for dark days. This is what to do (but, although it makes it better, it won't really look like new): Mix 1 teaspoon best household ammonia into a basin of strong tea. Sponge umbrella with this, rubbing the way of the material. Or sponge with a good carpet shampoo, diluted according to directions.

Two Problems

Dear Aunt Daisy,

Please reply through *The Listener* to my problems. How could I remove a stain caused by a hot teapot placed on an oak table, and how remove Indian ink stain from a khaki cotton coat?

L.R., Christchurch.

For the heat marks try rubbing in warm olive oil, or camphorated oil. Work patiently with the ball of the thumb. Then rub with a soft cloth. Another idea is to make a pad of butter muslin or soft cloth stuffed with cotton wool, and with this rub a very little linseed oil into the marks. Leave all night. Then rub over with a good furniture polish next day. If very bad, you may need to buy a little French polish from a paint shop, and rub that in with a muslin pad. But French polishing is really a job for a tradesman, as it takes skill, time and knowledge. For the Indian ink stain, try sponging with hypo, bought from the chemist. Use about ½ oz. to a large breakfast cup of water. Put a pad of rolled-up towel under the coat, and sponge the stain thoroughly, moving the towel along to a clean place as it gets soiled. Rinse with clean water.

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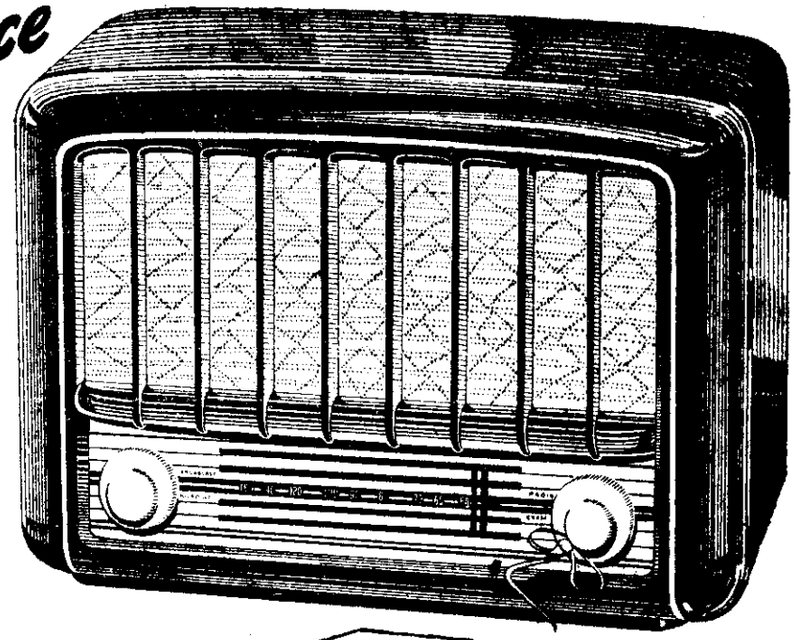

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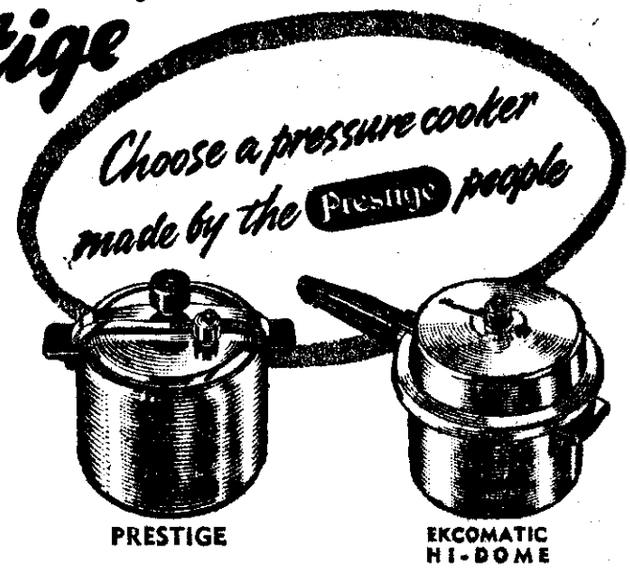

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