

## Pancakes

*by Gerry Biram*

The name "pancakes" is almost synonymous with "fund raiser." When a church feels the need of earning extra cash for a project one can be sure that a pancake breakfast will be high on the list of possible activities they consider. State fairs, county fairs and other events that bring in crowds from near and far have at least one breakfast and maybe more depending on the length in days for the event. Here, in Windsor Gardens, the Optimists which is a service organization held a pancake breakfast every spring for years to raise money for their donations to various boys and girls groups. The Children's Hospital Volunteers sponsored the breakfast for several years.

Sponsoring such a breakfast is not an activity for "sissies" as handling the big containers of mix, cooking them on the huge hot griddles, keeping the tables cleaned and supplied with drinks, butter, syrup and then serving seconds to those who want, all take energy and able bodied people to keep things moving smoothly. If local grocers donate some of the supplies as mix, syrup, butter, juice and sausage, the money earned will be considerable but with prices climbing due to economic conditions stores are not so generous and proceeds are less.

Pancakes are also known as flap-jacks, griddle cakes or even fritters. This was a popular food with the pioneers as pancakes were filling, quickly prepared and required little equipment. Roundup crews served them and lone cowboys could make extra when they cooked and have food ready for another meal or two as they rode the range on their horses.

There are many who love crepes which are really sweet pancakes folded around fruit such as strawberries and garnished with whipped cream or with vegetable items as spinach. There was a restaurant on Larimer Street for years called The Magic Pan which specialized in crepes of all kinds. I loved that place and would go there noon or night every chance I got. My father used to make an apple fritter which is again pancake batter with very thinly sliced apples, fried and then slathered with butter, cinnamon and sugar. They were delicious.

We sometimes hear the phrase "as American as apple pie. I think we could apply this to pancakes as well and say "As American as pancakes."