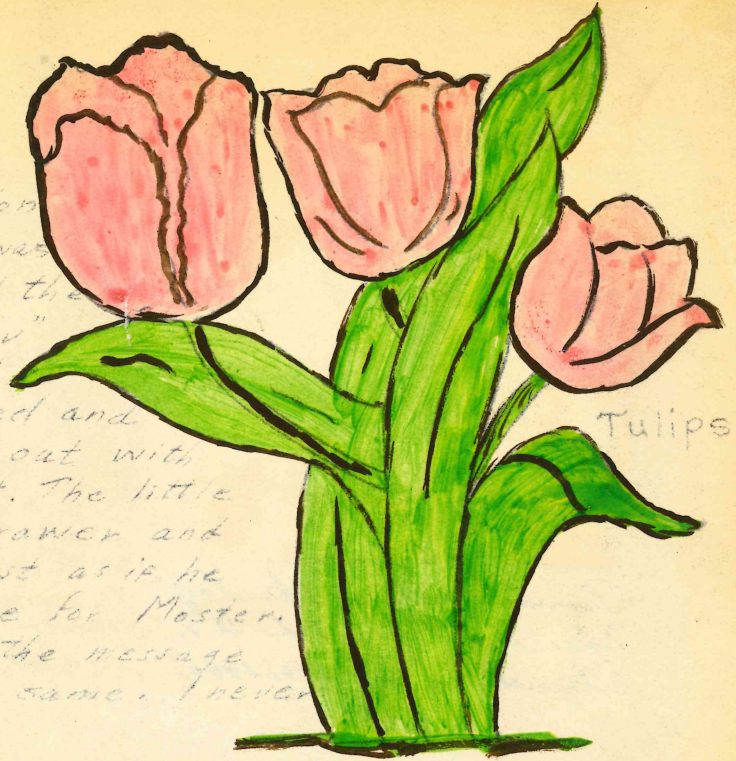


the nite. After some consultation between Mother and daughter, he was allowed to stay. Come morning and the man offered Moster "ett lycka brev" in line of pay. I can see the bird cage uncovered, a little door opened and a drawer built in the cage pulled out with little slips of paper tucked in it. The little bird stepped on the edge of the drawer and started pecking at the papers, just as if he wanted to select a real special one for Moster. Here it was at last and she read the message and giggled and Grandma did the same. I never learned what the message said."



Tulips

Military service was compulsory in Sweden, and every year all men of a certain age left home to take their training in a military encampment - that is probably one reason why women were as capable of doing man's work as their own. There were plenty of household chores, spinning and weaving of all material for their clothing, baking large quantities of bread, bullar, Kaker å Kållkebröd - this they did on a fireplace (spisen). In Mother's home this occupied one full corner of the kitchen and the fire heated a large oven built into it. Much of the cooking was done over the open fire. There was meat to be cured, potatis kurr to prepare, lut fisk, Kött bullar, präst syltår and longamas, and cheese making. Typical meals were sill å potatis, ris, grön's välling, grov gröt - served up with a hand carved wooden laddle. One of our relatives was asked how he got such a big mouth. - he explained there were so many in his family that by the time they got to him, "då va bare stora kvar å ita mä" These were always Kaffo å döps, smörgås, skerper and Katta bröd. The rieber pastries for which the Swedish people are famous were certainly not used for everyday fare but reserved for festive occasions.



Even after a death, many people gathered at the home of the loved one, and the finest linens, food and hospitality were offered their främmande folk. One large room called sallen (parlor) was used for these special occasions. Here we might add, attention and respect were extended the visitor from the city, even to preparation of special food and serving it in a room separate from the family dining. Then the kids would wish they could "have some of that" and Mor would say "Vänta, barn, Kanske de lemna lite." "Ja, wen om de lemna inget?" they'd wail. If a city cousin visited during harvest time he could not remove his fine clothing nor his status