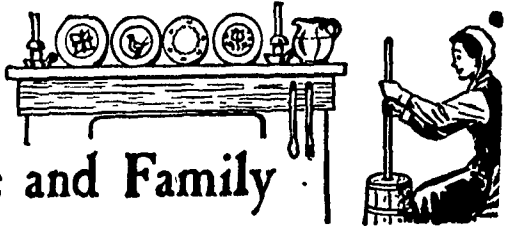


For the Farm Wife and Family



Springtime Desserts

by Mrs. Richard C. Spence

Springtime is a joyous season—a most happy time that boasts so many delightful occasions. There's Mother's Day and Father's Day, Junior's long awaited graduation day, the blissful event of some bride or mother-to-be and, of course, someone you love is having a birthday.

To fete each of these glorious times, we suggest a homemade cake, the old-fashioned kind, feathery light with moist, tender crumb that simply melts in your mouth.

Though you're sure to have a favorite cake recipe that's been family tried and tested, we believe you're always interested in a new recipe or two—that just might become your favorite.

FROSTING YOUR CAKE
—We should like to share with you some of the helpful hints that have proved so useful in frosting cakes. Before frosting, cakes should be cooled on wire racks which eliminate moisture and soggy bottoms. As you know, the top of the cake is the most tender part and will stick to a wire cake rack cooler. To prevent this,

place second layer on top. If necessary, use wooden picks to prevent layers from skidding. Begin by spreading a thin layer of frosting over sides of cake, repeat with a second but thicker layer; work quickly to finish before frosting dries.

For attractive sides, spread frosting from bottom to top in even, well-spaced strokes, keeping frosting as straight up and down as possible. The top of the cake may be left simple or swept into fancy frills by using simple kitchen equipment like knife, fork or spoon.

To make an intriguing pattern in the frosting, lightly draw a knife or fork across top of cake, working toward you in parallel lines. Cross these lines with other parallel lines—at right angles for a square cake and about 30 degree angles for a round cake. You can make a gay wavy pattern with a teaspoon. Lightly push the tip of the spoon into the soft frosting; repeat keeping spoon marks in a straight line and withdrawing quickly to keep lines sharp.

A cake decorating set gives truly professional look to the simplest cake. If you haven't already used one, you'll enjoy the experience. A set consists of a bag or gun and assorted decorating tubes. As in all things practice makes perfect, start with the simple designs first, following instructions with

your set.

Flowers can become simple to make. Make them separately on cardboard, cover and allow to harden in refrigerator. Then they can be easily lifted with a small spatula and arranged on top of cake. Use the leaf tube to fill in with decorative frosted leaves.

You'll find it helpful to make the flowers first, refrigerate until cake is baked and ready to be frosted. Prevent frosting from hardening in the bowl by covering with a damp cloth. It's best to clean tubes as you work, holding them under a stream of water and using a small brush for the final scrubbing.

There's no limit to the variety of colors you can blend with just a drop or so of pure food coloring. For colorful fun tint creamy icing to please the person you are honoring. And for holidays and special occasions, color the cake in keeping with the day. A basic frosting can be varied in flavor, too. Simply add citrus almond, peppermint or maple flavored extracts, chocolate or peppermint candies, etc. to taste.

Here are two cake recipes featuring strawberries, the delightful first fruit of the season.

STRAWBERRY POUNDCAKE RING

- ¾ cup butter (1½ sticks)
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- ¾ teaspoon vanilla
- ½ teaspoon finely grated lemon rind
- 2¼ cups sifted cake flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ cup milk
- 1 pint fresh strawberries

Butter and lightly flour a 1½-quart ring mold; set aside. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs all at once and beat for three minutes. (If using an electric mixer, use medium speed.) Add vanilla and lemon rind. Sift flour and baking powder together and add alternately with milk to creamed mixture. Pour batter into ring mold. Bake 35-40 minutes in a 325 degree oven. Cool 10 minutes. Remove from ring mold and cool completely. Slice ring into two layers. Spread one-half of Orange Butter icing on cut surface of both layers. Arrange 1 cup of sliced straw-

Shavings

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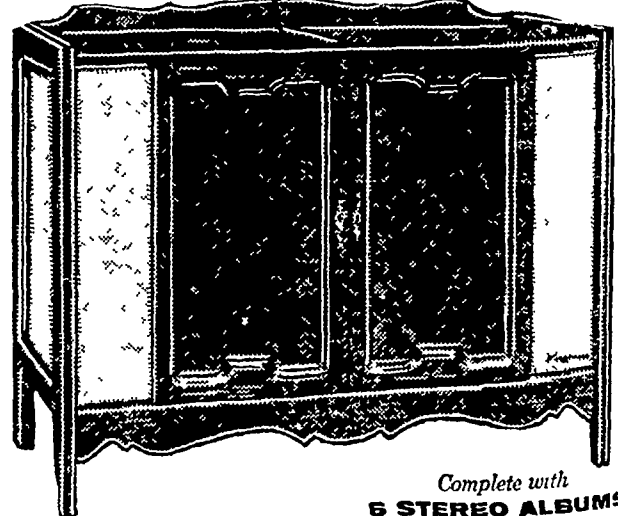
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