Ladies Have You Heard? By Doris Thomas Lancaster Extension Home Economist

DOING IT YOURSELF SAVES MONEY IF YOU HAVE THE SKILLS

You have decided to finish off your basement, or to turn your attic into a study. Should you hire a contractor for the job or roll up your sleeves and do it yourself?

The answer, of course, is, "It depends." You may be able to save a good deal of money by doing the work yourself, if you have the time and the know-how, or are willing to learn.

For safety, and in consideration of legal code restrictions, such items as heating, plumbing, and wiring are best left to the experts, but the homeowner who is handy with tools can save money on walls, floors, ceilings and built-ins.

Having a home-improvement contractor do your work for you may cost more but can save you much time and energy. The contractor will take responsibility for the complete job, but will expect you to select the materials and tell him, before work is started, exactly what you want the finished room to be like. If you decide to use a contractor, obtain more than one



cost estimate and make certain all are based on the same specifications, such as labor and materials. Be very specific about in the quality of the materials you a want used.

The best way to assure that the estimate covers only that work you want done is to write down exactly what you want done and have all contractors bid on only those specifications, with any additional work or changes to the original request as a separate bid. Don't select a contractor on the basis of cost alone. Consider how long he has been in business, and his reputation for giving satisfactory service. If a friend or neighbor has a finished basement or attic you especially like, ask his contractor for an estimate. Don't hesitate to check with your banker or the local Better Business Bureau about the reliability of any contractor you are thinking of doing business with.

When work is about to begin, don't handicap the contractor with the old furniture, boxes, and other items you have stored in the basement or attic. Remove everything from the area and have it "broom clean" when the workmen arrive.

LIME TIME •

If you do not use times in your cooking - you're missing a good bet. Limes have all the good qualities of other citrus fruits, plus that sharp "limey" flavor that is unlike any other.

U.S. Department of Agriculture marketing specialists say August is a good time to discover the versatility of limes, because there are plenty of them.

Why not start your lime adventure by making popular lime gelatin fresher tasting? Follow package directions, but replace two tablespoons of water with two tablespoons of fresh-squeezed lime juice. Before you cut the lime to squeeze the juice, grate a teaspoon of the peel. Grating the larger whole lime helps prevent grating your knuckles.-Adding the grated peel to the lime gelatin gives it an even crisper, fresher taste.

Limes enliven the flavor of other foods, as well.

LIME SYRUP SUPREME 1/4 cup fresh-squeezed lime juice 1/4 cup sugar

In a small saucepan combine lime juice and sugar. Bring to a boil, then simmer for one minute to dissolve sugar. While still warm, pour over pound cake or gingerbread.

FRESH LIME BUTTER

1/2 cup soft butter or margarine 1 teaspoon fresh grated lime peel 4 teaspoons fresh-squeezed lime juice

Beat butter or margarine until light and fluffy. Stir in juice and peel; mix well. Serve over hot



SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Monica Kelsey of Madison County, New York was recently crowned as the 1981-82 State Dairy Princess. Monica was crowned during ceremonies held in conjunction with a directors meeting of the American Dairy Council here on August 14.

Monica was named the public speaking winner for the contest before she went on to win the



vegetables. Also delicious on broiled or fried fish. LIME FRENCH DRESSING

1/2 cup salad oil

1/4 cup fresh-squeezed lemon juice 1/4 cup fresh-squeezed lime juice

1/2 teaspon salt Few grains cayenne

2 tablespoons sugar or honey

Combine all ingredients and shake well before using. Makes one cup

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Monica coveted crown before an audience elsey of Madison County. New of 500 people.

The Alternate Princess will be Kim Malie of Oneida County.

Each queen contestant was given a cheese box to decorate for part of their competition. After the completion of these works of art awards for the boxes were given.

Originality awards was captured by Lori Balderacchi, Oswego County. Carol DeCook, Ontario County was awarded the most instructional box. Most promotional honors were captured by Kimberly Masters of Onondaga County. Neatest award went to Kim Marie Pabis, Oneida.

Penny Palmer, Saratoga County won the needlework award. Joanne Coler, St. Lawrence and Lisa Hanser, Orange won the prettiest and eyelash awards, respectively.

The public speaking awards went to Monica Kelsey, Madison County first. Rita Pettigrew, Wyoming and Julie Miller, Jefferson placed second and third, respectively.

The dary princess pageant was coordinated by Donna Youngsey and is sponsored by the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council.



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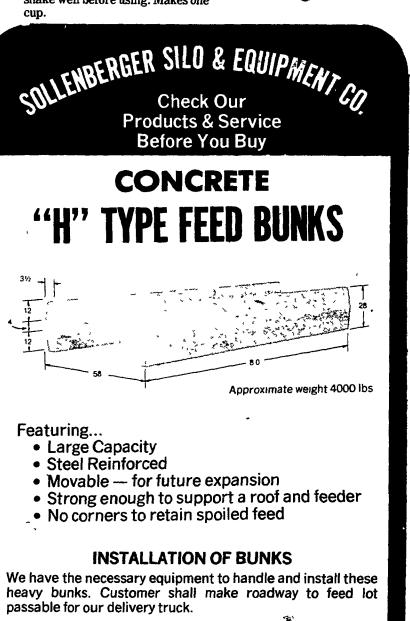
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