

Buffets Are Versatile For Parties

By JOYCE TOTTEN

There's no doubt that buffets were invented for people who love to give parties.

They can range in formality from a "planned for weeks" party to a spontaneous get-together. A buffet can suit every age, every mood, every occasion.

Here are ideas to adapt to your own party pleasure. You can use an inexpensive folding picnic-type table. If you happen to be in a tiny apartment you might try taking off an inner door and using it as your table.

RAISED FIREPLACES and corner cabinets double as added serving areas.

Buffet foods have never been easier to serve. In addition to chatting dishes, in every size and finish, there are warming trays that keep foods at eating temperatures.

Flowers lend a festive air and make an attractive table setting. Take advantage of garden flowers to add to an imaginative setting that does make the food taste better.

A LAF-EATER'S LIFE is not a happy one! There is many a telltale spot on the carpet to be in the fact that guests who eat from their laps need the dexterity of jugglers and the reflexes of trained athletes.

No matter how large the party, try to provide some table space for each guest.

The best planned buffets seem to function best without the use of a knife. Plan your menus around fork-tender foods so the knife is unnecessary. But if the knife is a must on your menu, plan sturdy table space for each plate.

BEEF STROGANOFF

- 1 1-lb. sirloin or round steak, 1/4-in. thick
- 1 clove of garlic, peeled and cut
- 3 to 4 T. flour
- 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 t. salt
- 1/8 t. pepper
- 1 t. paprika
- 1 T. shortening
- 1/2 c. chopped onion
- 1 can consommé or cream of mushroom soup
- 1/4 to 1 lb. mushrooms, sliced
- 1/4 to 1/2 c. water
- 1 c. sour cream
- 2 T. finely chopped chives or green onion tops
- Chopped parsley or dill (opt.)

Rub both sides of meat with garlic; cut into 1 1/2 x 1-inch strips. Mix flour, salt, pepper and paprika. Add meat strips; toss lightly until strips are coated. Reserve remaining flour mixture. Heat shortening in heavy skillet; add meat. Brown well. Add onion; cook until transparent. Add reserved flour mixture, consommé, mushrooms and water; cover. Cook slowly, stirring occasionally, for 45 minutes to 1 hour and 30 minutes or until meat is tender. Remove cover; continue cooking until mixture is slightly thickened. Add sour cream and chives; blend. Serve with rice or wide noodles, if desired. Garnish with parsley. Yield: 6 servings.

UNCOOKED FRESH PEACH PIE

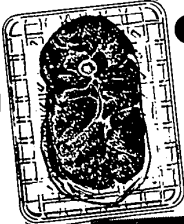
- 3 c. fresh sliced peaches
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 1 T. lemon juice
- 3 T. cornstarch
- Dash of salt
- 2 t. butter
- 1/4 t. almond flavoring
- 1 9-in. pastry shell, baked

Combine peaches, sugar and lemon juice. Let stand 1 hour. Drain; measure 1 cup syrup. Add cornstarch to syrup; blend. Cook over low heat until thick. Add salt, butter and flavoring; cool. Put peaches in shell. Cover with sauce. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream. Yield: 8 servings.

Cotton Is Good For All Sewing

Mercerized cotton thread, in regular and heavy-duty sizes, is acceptable for almost all sewing and is available in a wide range of colors, says Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, Penn State extension clothing specialist. The mercerization process makes cotton appear more lustrous and adds strength. Thread slightly darker than the fabric will work into the fabric and be somewhat lighter than it appears on the spool.

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