

rkey and taco fixings combine for Mexican Fiesta Pie, created by Sally Versaci of

Mexican Fiesta Pie was last-minute meal

June, a month traditionally favored by brides, students and, I dare say, teachers as well, is finally here, and what a joyful month it is, as the leaves on the trees are finally undered and able to wave freely in the soft breezes of early summer. It is as if all of nature has joined in together to celebrate its triumph over the dark and ofttimes harsh months that precede it, by hosting a spectacular party for us to enjoy. The fresh colors, scents and sounds of the season are nature's gifts to us,

of the season are nature's gifts to us, and remind us, as in the immortal words of James Russell Lowell, that there is nothing "so rare as a day in June."

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Because the warm weather becknown so ustide, it has also been said, at least at our house, "What is so rare as a decent dinner in June?" After all, who really wants to be stuck in a hot, stuffy kitchen when there is so much to do outside? But, thanks to Sally Versaci of Bloomfled Hills, this week's deliclous Winner Dinner can be quickly prepared and still leave you with plenty of time to enjoy the beauty of the season. Versaci created this recipe for Mexican Fiesta Ple one night indesperation when she had a package of ground turkey defrosting in the stink, a cupboard full of tace fixings and practically nothing else on hand. Her Innovative dish was a hit with her three children and husband, and they all came back for seconds. Versaci serves the ple with carret and

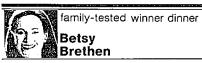
sacl serves the ple with carrot and celery sticks. She likes to end this

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meal with a fabulous-tasting dessert called Mountain Mama's Mudslide. With a name like that, you know it is

going to be terrific.
ALTHOUGH HER LIFE is very ALTHOUGH HER LIFE Is very busy keeping up with her three teenagers, Versach also works part-time as a restaurant interfor designer. Her husband owns 15 Burger King restaurants in the Chicago and substance of the state of the s

career once her children are fully grown and off on their own.

Thank you, Sally Versaci, for sharing your recipes with as and congratulations on being this week's Winner Dinner Winner. I wish you continued good tack with your career and family and hope you will keep this column in mind if you create any more new recipes.

ew recipes. And, as we begin a new week, isn't And, as we begin a new week, Isn't indee to know that it Isn't necessary to RSVP to Mother Nature's garden party. The only hostess glift she asks of us is that we simply open our eyes and enjoy the magnificent beauty she has created for us. After all, no one can top her when it comes to setting a beautiful "tableau." Observer & Eccentric

Winner Dinner

Menu

MEXICAN FIESTA PIE CARROT AND CELERY STICKS MOUNTAIN MAMA'S MUDSLIDE

Recipes

MEXICAN FIESTA PIE

Quick and easy to assemble, this dish serves 4-6 people. It can be made early in the day and refrigerated until dinnertime.

1 onlon, chopped 1½ pounds ground beef or tur-

key
1 package tace seasoning mix
1 package medium-sized flour
tortillas
1 can refried beans, 16-ounce

can peoled and chapped

can peeled and chopped green chilies, 4-ounce size cups shredded taco cheese (Colby and Monterey Jack) cups crushed tortilla chips medium tomatoes, chopped

medium temstoes, chopped cao sauce
Saute onion in small amount of oil until tender. Add ground meat and brown, stirring. Drain the grease off the meat and add the taco seasoning packet along with 's cup of water. Simmer, stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, place of four fortillation on the ground of the control of the con

CARROT AND CELERY STICKS

grate some carrots and wash some celery stalks and serve them any length you want to. Kids love to help make these.

"MOUNTAIN MAMA'S MUDSILIDE"

This yummy dessert was invented by Fran Cooper, Fran Cooper, Sone is happy to share the recipe as long as you and whomever you should pass it on to don't change it he name. With a name like that, though, who would want to change it.

1 stick softened margarine cup floor container
1 cup controlled to the controlled of the controlled

stant pudding 1 chocolate Hershey bar

1 chocolate Hersiney bar Mix well: 1 stick softened margarine, 1 cup flour and 1 cup chopped pecans. Press in the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch pan lake at 350 egrees for 20 minutes. Cool completely. Beat 1181 ffuthy: 4 ounces cream cheese and 1 cup confectioner's sugar. Fold In: 1 cup Cool Whip from medium container. Spread over cooled crust. Mix: 2 cups cold mix, 1 small package vanilla in-

cooled crust. Mix: 2 cups cold mik, 1 small package varilla in-stant budding and 1 small pack-age chocolate instant pudding. Beat ingredients until very thick. Spread over the croam cheese mixture. Top with remaining Cool Whip. Grate a Hershey bar over the top. Sprinkle with chopped ruts. Refrigerate overnight or at least 4 hours.

Shopping List

1 onion 1½ pounds ground beet or tur-

key
1 package taco seasoning mix
taco sauce
1 package medium-sized flour
tortillas

1 can refried beans, 16-ounce

size

1 can peoled and chopped green chilies, 4-ounce size

2 cups shredded taco cheese (Colby and Monterey Jack)

2 cups crushed tortilla chips

2 medium tomatoes, chopped

medium-sized Cool Whip

modulm-sized costs
flour
confectioner's sugar
1 small package vanilla instant
pudding
1 small package chocolate instant pudding

Notes

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