

INVITING IDEAS

State fair party a blue ribbon winner

BY RUTH MOSSOK JOHNSTON
SPECIAL WRITER

As a child and teenager, I loved going to the Michigan State Fair. When I was little, animals and kiddie rides were my passion. As I grew older, I'm sure my folks thought it was an ideal place for me and my friends to meet boys. Not so; well, usually not so; my interest was usually centered around food!

I guess some things never change. My

mouth still waters when I think about carnival treats, things like tart-crisp apples glistening with caramel topped with roasted chopped nuts; cotton candy; batter-dipped, golden fried corn dogs; triple scoops of creamy ice-cream in a sugar cone; plump hot dogs topped with sauerkraut, onions and mustard; huge crispy, golden, too-hot-to-handle, french fries served in a paper cylinder

splashed with vinegar (that was my Mom's favorite), and salt water taffy that stuck to your teeth, so much so, that you could taste it for nearly half a day.

I still enjoy those glorious foods, even cotton candy; they're my inspiration for a state fair theme party to celebrate the end of summer.

It's a great idea for a neighborhood get-together or weekend event for family and friends. You could even host blue ribbon contests for pie making, jams, and cakes. Have everyone bring his "best try" for each category and award blue ribbons. Take this idea one step further and make it a fund-raiser for your favorite local charity, church, synagogue or school.

Cover picnic tables with red-and-white checkered cloths and matching napkins, decorate with streamers, balloons, and metallic ribbon. Rent "State Fair" (1962) starring Pat Boone, Ann-Margret, Bobby Darin, Tom Ewell and Alice Faye, and plug in your VCR so everyone can watch. Serve corn dogs, french fries, and other carnival fare, or create a menu of blue-ribbon-winning recipes.

MAIDA HEATTER'S COUNTY-FAIR

CHOCOLATE LAYER CAKE

Yield: 12 generous portions
Cocoa Cake Layers
2 cups sifted cake flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons strained unsweetened cocoa powder (preferably Dutch Process)
1/4 pound (1 stick) sweet butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/4 cups sugar
2 large eggs
1 cup milk

Adjust rack to center of the oven and preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Butter two 8-inch round layer-cake pans, dust them with flour, invert and tap lightly to shake out excess, and then set aside.

Sift together the flour, baking soda, salt, and cocoa and set aside.

In the large bowl of an electric mixer, cream the butter. Add the vanilla and then the sugar and beat well. Beat in the eggs one at a time, scraping the bowl with a rubber spatula and beating well after each addition.

On low speed add the sifted dry ingredients in three additions, alternating with

See JOHNSTON, G7

For those unaccustomed to compromise...
From those who never considered it.

BLOOMFIELD
CUSTOM KITCHENS

Providing the finest custom
cabinetry and design in the same
location for over 30 years.

4068 west maple road
bloomfield hills, michigan 48301
just east of telegraph
(810) 644-5490



SUMMER SALE

Decorating Den, the only affordable, international shop-at-home interior decorating company, offers savings for every room in your home. A professional interior design consultant will bring a Color Van® filled with only quality products to your home or office, at your convenience. This offer ends 8/31/86

30% OFF
Custom Top
Treatments
and Draperies

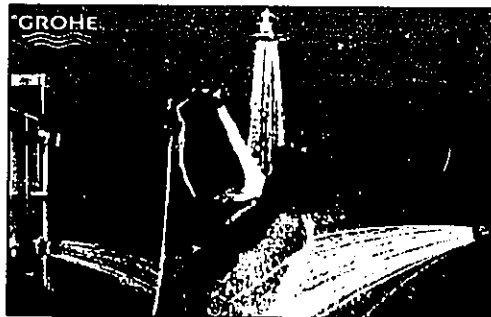
Custom
Window Treatments
Wall Coverings
Accessories
Blinds • Shades
Furniture • Lighting
Carpet • Area Rugs

Decorating Den

SERVING OAKLAND, MACOMB AND LAPEER COUNTIES
1-800-332-6004

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE • CALL TO SEE HOW TO QUALIFY

"Because Plumbing Doesn't Have to be Boring"



Advance Plumbing Supply Company's showroom features the latest products the plumbing industry has to offer.

High end brands such as Kohler, Dornbracht, Franke, Porcher, Groche, & American China are favorites of interior designers and builders alike.

Come see our showroom & let our knowledgeable sales staff make your bath & kitchen ideas come to life.

Store hours are 7:30 - 5 Mon. thru Fri., 8 - 3 Sat., or other times by appointment.

1977 W. Maple Road, Walled Lake
(Between Haggerty & Decker Rds.)

810-669-7474