

Desserts Suit Any Occasion

by ELLY
Designed to be the party's highlight, these Banana Split Eclairs let the hostess relax and enjoy her guests.
The crisp, elongated, elegant cream puffs are ready and waiting to be cut in half. Scoops of multi-colored ice creams are frozen hard and arranged in your prettiest glass bowl. Bananas are sliced and sprinkled with orange juice to keep them from darkening and to enhance their flavor. Ice cream toppings are nearby to top off the eclair-based banana splits.
With the "fixings" set out, the ice cream lovers assemble desserts to suit themselves.

BANANA SPLIT ECLAIRS
1 c. water
1/2 c. butter
1 c. enriched flour
1/8 t. salt
4 eggs
2 to 3 bananas sliced
3 pints ice cream, different flavors
1/2 c. ice cream topping
15 maraschino cherries, halved
Bring water and butter to boil, stirring butter until it melts. Add flour and salt all at once. Reduce heat. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture is smooth and forms a soft ball, one to two minutes.
Remove from heat and cool slightly. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Drop onto greased baking sheet spreading to form one by five-inch rectangles. Bake in preheated 400 degree oven 25 to 35 minutes or until firm. Cool. Cut off tops and invert. Fill tops and bottoms with banana slices. Top with a scoop of each flavor of ice cream. Drizzle with topping and garnish with cherry halves. (Makes 10 eclairs).

SOUTHERN PECAN PIE
A good pecan pie is never seasonal. It is just as luscious in summer as on a cold winter day. Mrs. Havranek, manager of the Encore Restaurant has given us permission to publish the recipe for their famous pecan pie, and here it is:
4 eggs
1 c. sugar
1 t. vanilla
1 ounce melted butter or margarine
1 c. light Karo syrup
4 ounces pecans, whole or pieces
Combine eggs, sugar, salt and vanilla in mixing bowl. Mix on low speed for 15 to 20 minutes. Add butter or margarine and syrup. Beat for five minutes on low speed. Pour into cold, unbaked pie shell with fluted edges and sprinkle with the pecans. Bake in preheated 375 degree oven for one hour and 15 minutes to one hour and 30 minutes.

A NOTE from Kathleen Button, home economist with the Cooperative Extension Service in Wayne County suggests that, "strawberries should have a bright, fresh clean appearance and should be solid with fully developed color. Stained boxes are a sign of overripe or crushed fruit and should be avoided."
She continued, "You should buy only as many as you plan to use within a short time. Store strawberries covered loosely with wax paper in the refrigerator until ready to use, leaving stem end on. Wash just before using, as moisture will hasten mold and spoilage. Berries will be best if used within a day or two."

Kathleen Button suggests this strawberry cooler for a warm summer evening.
STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM SODA
1 - 1/4 c. non-fat dry milk
1 c. ice cold water
1 pint vanilla ice cream
2 c. sweetened fresh strawberries, mashed,
1 t. grated lemon rind
4 scoops vanilla ice cream.
Put non-fat dry milk powder and water into a 2-1/2 quart bowl and stir until dissolved. Add strawberries, ice cream and lemon rind. Beat until smooth. Put scoops of ice cream in four glasses and pour in strawberry mixture. Garnish with whole strawberries. Makes four servings.

TRICOLOR POPS
The sandbox set will enjoy these. You'll need three different flavored cans of frosted shakes - chocolate, vanilla and strawberry are the most colorful - six wooden skewers and six five - ounce paper cups. (The shakes come in pull-tab cans so you can just pop and pour).
Fill one-third of each cup with a layer of chocolate. Freeze just firm enough to hold a skewer. Insert skewers into this first layer, pour in vanilla shake to fill another third of the cup. Freeze until firm and pour in a layer of strawberry. Freeze until very firm. To serve, simply peel off the paper cup.



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