

Sesquicentennial cakes make debut at birthday balls

By Mary Klonick
staff writer

Celebrating Michigan's sesquicentennial is a piece of cake.

Just ask Awrey Bakeries Inc. of Livonia, which made two multiple-layer cakes designed to feature the state's sesquicentennial logo. The cakes, each consisting of alternate chocolate and yellow layers, will be unveiled Monday at balls in Detroit and Lansing.

"Yellow and chocolate seem to be the perennial favorites," said Larry Witucki, assistant manager of research and development and quality control at Awrey's.

THE CAKES were made in some three days. Baking alone took four to five hours.

"We don't have pans anywhere near that large," Witucki said. "We made them in sheet cakes and put them together."

The smaller cake will be transported in the rear of a station wagon, while the larger one will be taken in a van.

"The size (and to be) so it would fit out the door," Witucki said.

ONE CAKE will be delivered to the Detroit Institute of Arts. It was made out of 80 pounds of sugar, 80 pounds of flour and 480 eggs, finished in red, white and blue icing and highlighted with silk apple blossoms, the state flower.

Icing on the cake is a combination of 65 pounds of sugar and 50 pounds of butter and shortening.

The cake, measuring 5 feet by 2 1/2 feet, is eight layers high on the average. It was built in multiple, varied layers. The five-layer cake for the Lansing ball is a scaled-down version of the DIA cake.

"The first thing you have to deal with is what the design is going to be," Witucki said. "You have to determine how you can make that cake. The larger the cake, the thicker it has to be."

MICHIGAN'S "150" sesquicentennial logo incorporates the "mitl" area of the Lower Peninsula in the "0" of the "150." The dates 1837-1987 are to the right of the "150."

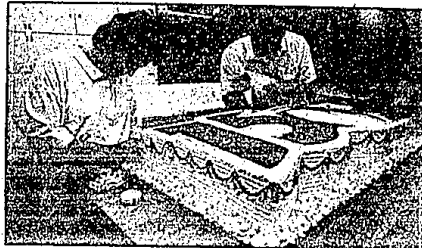
Making anniversary cakes is nothing new for Awrey Bakeries.

"We did a cake celebrating (public television) Channel-55's 30th anniversary," Witucki said. "We did a real large, three-tiered cake for them. It weighed 600 pounds. We decorated it with different logos from the different shows — 'Sesame Street,' 'This Old House.'"

Awrey Bakeries is one of the largest family-owned sweet goods baker-

ies in the country. It was founded in 1910. The company moved to its current location in Livonia in 1987.

Awrey uses more than one-half million pounds of flour, 12,000 eggs and 6,000 pounds of chocolate in an average week's production.



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Employee Catherine Stoyaert and Larry Witucki decorate one of the cakes Awrey Bakeries made for the state's sesquicentennial. Stoyaert adds silk apple blossoms, the state flower.

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Interest yet to be paid	\$126,671.64	\$41,066.11
Last payment due	August 2015	January 2002

(The figures shown above are estimates.)

*All of the annual percentage rates in the above example are estimated based on a \$50,000.00 loan with a down payment of at least 20%. The term of the loan and all of the normal prepaid finance charges (including a 2% loan discount fee) were taken into consideration in calculating these annual percentage rates.

their mortgage 12 years sooner, and their monthly payment on the new 15-year loan will actually be \$9.85 less than the payment on their old 30-year loan.

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Oakland to salute the state

Activities celebrating the 150th anniversary of Michigan's statehood are revving up throughout Oakland County this month.

On Monday, Jan. 26, church and school bells will ring for two minutes at noon.

At the same hour, members of the Oakland County Advisory Council to the celebration will enact Michigan's admission into statehood by reading President Andrew Jackson's 1837 bill. The ceremony will be held in the County Commissioners' auditorium in the Oakland County Service Center, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

Later that evening a Sesquicentennial Ball will be held in Day Pointe Country Club in West Bloomfield. Proceeds will be donated to youth projects.

Area shopping malls are participating in the day by featuring strolling magicians and tailgate parties.

Residents may participate at home by turning on porch lamps.

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