

A Kitchen Artist Revisited

BY ELLY
Twenty-seven years ago yesterday I had a visitor. It was a miserable, uncomfortable day and Maude Smith's arrival with a jar of her newest batch of bread and butter pickles brightened the day.

As we sat and visited I consumed half those pickles without realizing it. The recipe for these best bread and butter pickles in the world I have shared with you in the past. Also her candied apple recipe. Every Halloween caller at the Smith home received one of those candied apples.

And her Mexican wedding cake recipe. Maude used to call them Russian tea cakes until we became "on the outs" with the Russians, then she re-named them.

THE OLDTIMERS around Mt. Hope Congregational Church will remember her African violet booth at fair time and her beautiful voice when she was a soloist there. To me she ranks as the best cook among my best friends.

Twenty-seven years ago today, my first daughter was born, and Maude always thought her bread and butter pickles had something to do with her arrival.

Last week when I talked to her at her home in Lakewood, Ohio, she asked if I had any good, new recipes. When I asked her if she wanted anything from the motor city, she said, "The only thing I can think of is a Sander's butter-sooth coffee cake; I do love them."

Today is Maude's funeral. She died of cancer as gracefully as she lived. Although there won't be any new Maude recipes, it seems a good time to repeat the old ones.

CANDIED APPLES
6 medium red apples
1 c. brown sugar
1/2 c. white sugar
1/2 c. light corn syrup
1/2 c. water
1 T. butter
1 t. vanilla
red food coloring

Slick wooden skewers in stem end of apples. Cook sugars, corn syrup, water and butter in saucepan over low heat until sugar dissolves. Cook to light crack stage (270 degrees) without stirring. Remove from heat and add vanilla and food coloring. Dip apples into syrup, using a twisting motion. Place upright on greased pan or waxed paper until cool.

BREAD AND BUTTER PICKLES
6 qt. sliced cucumbers
1 qt. sliced onions
2 red sweet peppers
2 green sweet peppers
1/2 c. salt

Place together in a large kettle, cover with water and let soak three hours or overnight. Drain.

Syrup:
9 qt. cider vinegar
10 c. white sugar
1/4 c. mustard seed
1 T. turmeric
1 T. celery seed
12 whole cloves

Put syrup in kettle and heat to scalding. Pour over pickles, let cool. Drain off syrup and repeat to scalding. Pour over pickles, cool. Repeat this until the cucumbers are clear. Heat until steaming and seal in sterilized jars.

Spice CABINET

HEARTY CORN PUDDING
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk
1 (1 lb.-1 oz.) can cream-style corn
1/4 cup margarine, melted
3 eggs yolks, slightly beaten
3 egg whites

Mix together cornstarch, sugar and salt. Gradually add milk. Mix in corn, margarine and egg yolks. Beat egg whites until soft peaks form; fold into corn mixture. Pour into greased 1 1/2 quart casserole. Set into pan of hot water to depth of 1 1/2 inches. Bake in 350-degree oven 1 hour and 10 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Makes six servings.

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