

Scratch Chocolate Cake

As I set here to write my column, I remember it is Good Friday. Why Good Friday? This is the day our Savior died. I mentioned this to my little Eli and he told me, "Meme, it is good. This is the day He took on all of our sins." Amen Eli.

Easter has so many wonderful memories for me as a youngster growing up. I always had a new Easter frock with white shoes, hat and gloves. I

didn't grow up going to church very much and that changed as I grew older. We always went to my grandmother's and granddaddy's house on Easter Sunday along with a host of aunts and uncles and many cousins.

We always had a wonderful Easter meal, not the kind we serve now but so good. The meal was not served on china plates, sterling silver or crystal. We ate on chipped plates,

used cheap utensils, and drank from a few glasses but some pint fruit jars held the ice tea. My grandmother always drank iced tea mixed with RC cola from her big green tea glass and my granddaddy ate with his three-pronged fork.

The meal was placed on the long planked table, covered in colorful oilcloth, with the long benches and straight backed chairs and me perched at the end on my little wooden box. My granddaddy always sat at the head of the table and my grandmother next to him. We always had biscuits no matter the meal and my granddaddy always had the two the size of a saucer. There was nothing fancy about any of that meal but I thought it was one of the best times we all got together back then. We didn't have prime rib with all the trimmings but sometimes we had turnip greens and pork neck-bones with baked sweet potatoes. I loved this meal fit for a king!

This year I will not unpack all my "fancy settings" as we are doing something very different. We are grilling out in our summer house and eating around our pool, all twenty three of my immediate family. We'll eat on paper plates and use plastic cups. Who knows, this may become a new tradition for us? I suppose we will hide Easter eggs as we have done for over fifty years with our children. Although we really only have two now who will probably want to hunt the colorful eggs as all thirteen of ours have grown up so quickly, but I feel sure they will indulge their Meme as they know I do not like change.

So whether you dress in your new formal Easter clothes and eat from the finest china or wear your blue jeans and enjoy grilling out this year, always remember you are making memories that can never be forgotten. My grandmother always served her "made from scratch chocolate cake." I have tried but never seem to get the creamy texture.

2 eggs
2 cups all purpose flour
1/2 cup of baking cocoa
1 t. baking soda
1 t. baking powder
1/2 t. salt
1 cup buttermilk
1/2 cup hot water

Mix all dry ingredients and set aside. Cream butter an sugar, add eggs and mix with cream mixture adding alternately with buttermilk and hot water beating well. Pour into two 8" pans and cook 350* for 30-35 minutes. FROSTING - 2 cups granulated sugar, 1/2 cup cocoa, 1/2 cup butter, 1/2 cup milk, 2 t. vanilla -Mix all together and boil for 1 minute and add vanilla. Cool some and beat until spreading consistency.

* Peggy Sims is a lifelong resident of Attala County and columnist.



Peggy's Take

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