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Food Forum **Dorothy Johnson**

REAL GOLD

Our reference here is not the Gold Strike in up-state Nevada reported recently in the news but to the golden fruit of summer-PEACHES gold as the sun that ripens them and which frozen or canned, are available year 'round,

Summer is the season of plump ripe peaches to be eaten out of hand, or sliced into a pie or used for cool delectable salads on a hot day. It you're a peach lover (and we don't know anyone who isn't), you'll love the many ways to prepar them. The varieties are numberless, both the yellow and the white fruit--favorite is the Golden Elberta. Here are a few 'peachy' recipes.

OLD FASHIONED PEACH SHORTCAKE FILLING: 2 lbs. fresh ripe peaches (about 6), 3 tbs. granulated sugar, 1/4 c. cointreau (optional).

SHORTCAKE: 2 c. packaged biscuit mix, 1/4 c. granulated sugar, 2/3 c. light cream, 1 or 2 ths. butter or margarine.

TO MAKE FILLING, wash peaches; peel, cut in halves, remove pits, slice peaches thinly into bowl, or crush coarsely with potato masher. Sprinkle with sugar and contreau stirring occasionally.

Meanwhile, to make shortcake; preheat oven to 450 degrees. In large bowl, combine biscuit mix and granulated sugar. Stir in light cream, and beat 15 strokes. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface--knead gently. Divide dough in half--with lightly floured hands, pat one half evenly in bottom of an ungreased layer cake pan, and spread with melted butter. Pat remaining dough on top--Bake 15 to 20 minutes, or until lightly browned.

TO ASSEMBLE SHORTCAKE, place one layer on serving platter and top with half of peach mixture, add second layer, top with rest of peach mixture. Finally, whip 1 c. heavy cream adding 2 ths. confectioners sugar and serve atop shortcake.

PEACH TORTE MERINGUE LAYERS: 4 egg whites, 1 tsp. cream tartar, 1/4 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract,

I c. granulated sugar.
FILLING: 2-1/2 lbs. fresh ripe peaches, 1/4 c. sifted confectioners sugar, 1 c. heavy cream. TO MAKE MERINGUE layers, let egg whites stand at room temperature for one hour. Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Line large cookie sheet with heavy brown paper. Using a 9-inch round cake pan as guide, draw two circles on paper and grease paper well. In large bowl of electric mixer, beat (at high speed) egg whites with cream of tartar, salt and vanilla just until soft peaks form when the beater is raised. Gradually beat in sugar, 3 ths. at a time. Continue beating until egg whites are shiny and form stiff peaks when beater/is slowly raised. Spread half the meringue evenly over each circle on brown paper. Bake one hour, or until cream-colored and crisp. Turn off oven. Let meringue (covered with paper to prevent overbrowning) cool in oven at least two hours. Cool completely on

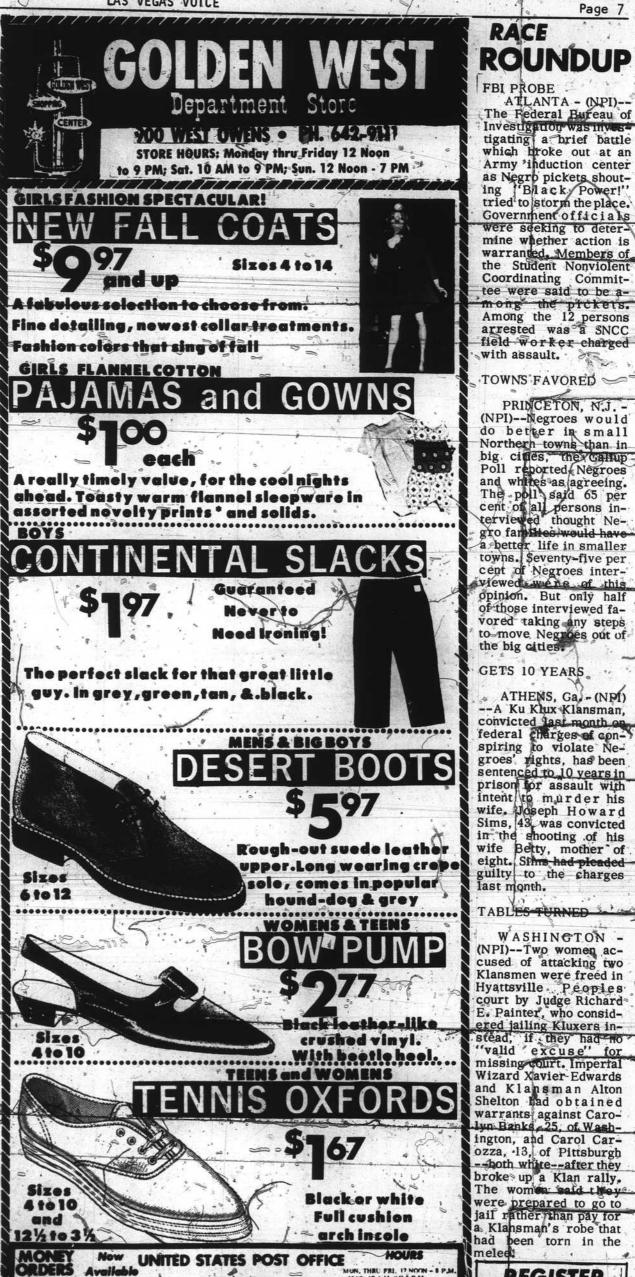
Just before serving, wash peaches and peel. Halve, remove pits, slice peaches reserving 1/2 c.. To assemble Torte, place one meringue layer on serving plate--arrange peaches on mer-ingue layer, sprinkle with 2 the sugar and top with other layer. Crush remainder of peaches, add remaining sugar and mix well. Fold peaches gently into whipping cream and spread over top of Torte.

wire rack.

FRESH REACH ICE CREAM

2 11 Tresh peaches (about 6), 2 eggs separated, 3 ths. lemon fuice; 2 ths. confectioners sugar, 1-1/2 c. granulated sugar, 1 c. heavy

Set refrigerator control at coldest temperature Reserving two peaches for garnish, peel peaches, halve, and remove pits. Place peaches in mixing bowl with lemon juice. Crush with in mixing bowl with lemon juice. Crush with potato masher and stir in granulated sugar. In medium bowl, (with rotary beater) beat egg yolks very well. Beat egg whites with confectioners sugar until soft peaks are formed. Fold yolks gently into whites using wire whip. Whip cream until it holds soft peaks formed, then fold into the egg mixture. Fold in peaches—pour into I quart refrigerator tray. Freeze until firm. Serve with reserved peaches as garnish.



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