Making Comeback

The Broomstick Cake is fast making a "comeback" as the Groom's Cake... but why should this unique, decorative confection be limited to weddings... why not make one for other occasions... like Christmas...

When our eldest son, Peter, graduated from St. Edmund's back in '68, I decided to make him a broomstick cake for the family reception following graduation, representing twelve years of learning... surprisingly he and his younger brother, Greg, showed genuine interest in my project. From Clementine Nevel, who advised me, I got directions for making the board since she had a broomstick cake for her wedding.

One of the most impressive Cajun foods in my mind is the Broomstick Cake which was as popular at Acadian weddings of the past as the white Bridal cake, trimmed with colored icings on silver leaves is today. It must have been a difficult task to make cake layers in a wood stove or fireplace kitchen when the only sweetener a housewife could regulate the heat by was to take a piece of sugar on a stick from the wood and burn it. Time and the art of cooking were not only hard to come by, but we made them into cake layers which was the reason for the name of the cake... it sort of anchored the layers in place.

Cake For Christmas

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For the frosting, decorate with Christmas bells, holly sprigs or sprigs of holly... or use your imagination.

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Broomstick Cake for Christmas

6 boxes cake mix

Water

Cake coloring

Prepare two boxes of cake mix at the time, noting directions on the package. (One cake has one box of cake mix in the large pan and divide the remaining for the smaller pans. Mix at box directions.)

Cinnamon-Pecan Filling

4 cups coconut, 4 cups pecans, 3 cups sugar, 1 cup vanilla, 1 cup butter

For the frosting use six boxes of powdered sugar, following directions on package.