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Semi-Finalist



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Mrs. McKinley's Raisin Cake

Recipe Number: 7

Cook time: 1- 1.5 Hours

Oven temp 350°

INGREDIENTS: 1 box raisins
3 cups water

2 cups sugar
½ cup shortening (Crisco)
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon Cinnamon
1 teaspoon Nutmeg
1 teaspoon Clove
1 teaspoon Allspice
4 cups flour
1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Note: For low-fat diets you can substitute apple sauce for the shortening.

DIRECTIONS: Cook raisins in 2 cups of water over medium heat until nearly dry.

Mix sugar and shortening together, then add in salt, soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, and allspice. Add in raisins and 1 cup cold water. Lastly add in the 4 cups of flour and nuts (if used).

Batter will be thick. Spoon into a bundt/angel food style pan and bake at 350 degrees for 1 + hours. Cake will be done when a toothpick comes out clean.

STORY:

My grandmother, Margret Ramsdale McKinley, arrived in the United States on August 14th, 1904 from Glasgow, Scotland. She came to the United States to be with my grandfather, Henry McKinley, who was a stone mason and had come here to work and then settled in Kansas City, MO. She and her three daughters sailed across the Atlantic Ocean on a ship named the Columbia. She was not allowed to bring alot of possession with her, but the one possession she insisted on bringing with her was the pan that she made her "Raisin Cake" in. The cake was her husband's and childrens favorite, and she was determind to bring it to America. They didn't have a lot of money, and my father told me stories about how when he was little, there were times when all they had to eat for all three meals, everyday - was oatmeal. But his Mom would always make the Raisin Cake on special occasions. Before she passed away, even though she had four daughters, my Grandma McKinley handed down the pan to my mother, and as we grew up, the cake became the favorite of my brother, sister, and I. For years I begged my Mom to let me have the pan. She would always say "I can't give you the pan, your brother would never get a raisin cake then." Eventually I had to promise her that I would bake him a raisin cake at least once every year - and I have. Every year, on his birthday, I bake him one of Grandma McKinley's Raisin Cakes.



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