

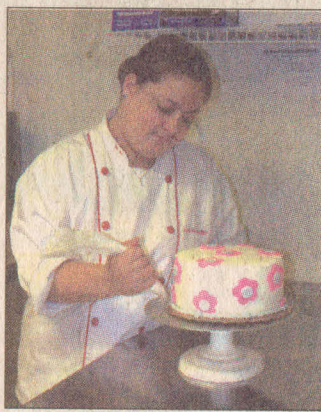
Azucar is only Peruvian bakery in area

By Tom Munds
Staff Writer

Azucar Sweet Shop and Bakery greets every customer in a special way.

Coming through the door, the nose is greeted by the aroma of freshly baked goodies and the view is one of a case filled with tempting cakes, Peruvian desserts, cookies, candy and a display of cakes decorated for all occasions.

"We like to make good things for people," founder and co-owner Marjorie Silva said. "We aren't a coffee shop or a place to buy good things to eat for breakfast.



Tom Munds/tmunds@ccnewspapers.com
Azucar Sweet Shop and Bakery owner Marjorie Silva puts the finishing touches on a cake.

We are a sweet shop where people can find something good to eat now or for dessert."

The tiny shop tucked away at 11 W. Hampden Ave. has been open about a year, and Silva said business is good.

Each day, Marjorie and her husband, Hansell, bake everything from scratch. There are cakes, candy and Peruvian goodies. Silva said the Peruvian baked goods are a little different as there is not as much frosting or filling, plus Peruvians like to use a lot of caramel. The shop also has sugar-free goodies available daily along with beverages including coffee, tea and a number of soft drinks, inJ-

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Bakery: They get a lot of business from Peruvian community

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cluding cream soda from Peru.

One of the featured items is a cookie with the milk carmel (dulce de leche) filling. Majorie said the cookie, called alfajor, is a favorite of the customers as are the napoleons, cookies and the flan.

"People here in Englewood are learning about our bakery and stopping by," Silva said. "People also know about the cakes we do for all occasions and that keeps us busy plus, while there are three Peruvian restaurants in town, we are the only Peruvian bakery so we get business from a good size Peruvian community here in the metro area."

Marjorie Silva began baking as a child in her home in a town located in the jungles of Peru. She got started in the bakery business as a result of not being able to find the cake in her town she wanted for the party to celebrate the birth of their first

child

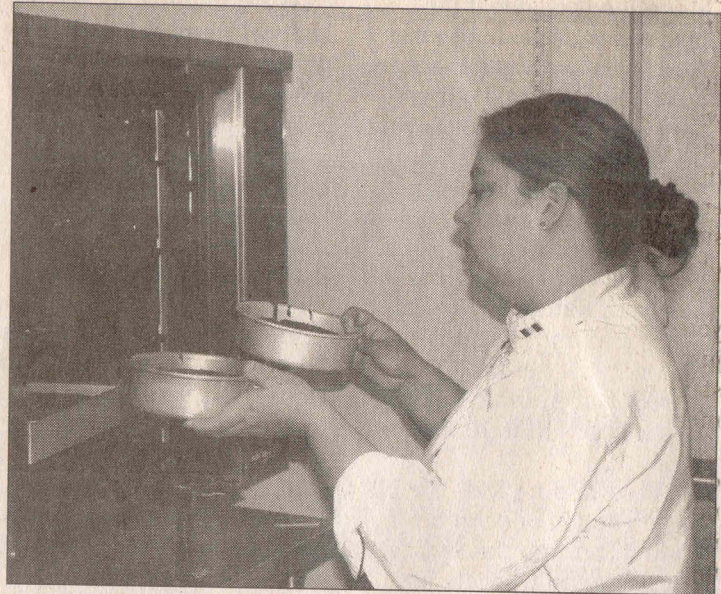
"We planned a party and we wanted a nice cake," she said. "But I couldn't find a cake I liked so I baked my own. People who came to the party liked my cake and our bakery business started when people from town began asking me to bake cakes for them."

She and her husband continued their business out of their home in Peru until eight years ago when Marjorie, Hansell and their son moved to the Denver area to be with family.

"We wanted to continue in the bakery business. Oh, it took a little adjustment so my recipes would work at this altitude but we worked it out so we could stay in business," she said. "We set up a commercial kitchen in our home and did special-order cakes. Then, about a year ago, we opened here in Englewood."

The Silvas also are artists, decorating candy and cakes for special occasions.

"We get a lot of orders for



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Azucar Sweet Shop and Bakery owner Majorie Silva removes two layers of chocolate cake from the oven at the shop at 11 W. Hampden Ave. Silva and her husband, Hansell, own the shop, do all the baking so they can offer cakes, candy and Peruvian desserts to their customers.

cakes," Marjorie said. "We decorate cakes the way the customer wants them decorated for a party, celebration and, of course, for a wedding. At busy times, we will do 20 special cake orders in a week. Of course, we are very busy around the holidays

and work long hours. Most of the time, we are working on the holiday so we celebrate it the next day."

The bakery is a family business and the Silva's 11-year-old son is part of it.

"Our son is here helping us on weekends and in the summer," Majorie said. "He likes baking and decorating. He already calls himself a pastry chef and that is what he wants to be when he grows up."

The shop's hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and on Saturday, with the store open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays. For information on the shop and its goodies, visit the Web site at www.Azucarbakery.com.

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