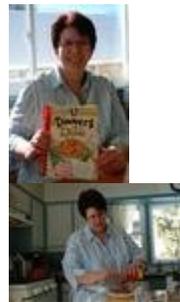## Angelica woman published in 'Dinners on a Dime'

In her favorite place in her warm, sunny kitchen Angelica's Sharon Taylor holds the book in which her recipe is featured.

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By Kathryn Ross
Oak Duke
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ANGELICA —

It came as a surprise last week to Angelica woman Sharon Taylor when she opened her mailbox and found a cookbook. It was the latest cookbook from nationally-known cooking catalog Gooseberry Patch and her name was listed among the contributors.

"I'd forgotten all about it," she said. "I sent the recipe in over a year and a half

ago and gave them the release to use it if they wanted to over six months ago. I'm always sending recipes out and none of them have ever been used."

The book is a specialized cookbook called "Dinners on a Dime." It is published by Gooseberry Patch, which specializes in kitchen gadgets, cookbooks and country gifts. The cookbook is one of many which is published by Gooseberry Patch and is for sale in its catalog and on its Web site.

Taylor's recipe is "4 Layer Mexican Dip." She whipped up a batch during her interview.

"It's pretty easy," she said while pressing 8 ounces of softened cream cheese into the bottom of a clear, glass bowl.

"It is an old family favorite," she recalled, dumping a 15-ounce can of commercially-made chili with beans on top and spreading it evenly.

"We use it lots of times," she stated, pouring 16 ounces of premade salsa into the bowl.

"It is really good for when people drop in," she quipped while topping off the mixture with 8 ounces of a shredded blend of Mexican cheese.

"It is quick and fast to make up and I always have the ingredients in my pantry," she announced placing the bowl in her microwave for 15 minutes.

Taylor's pantry is jam-packed with industrial-sized spices, including a gallon-sized jug of cinnamon. She admitted that her favorite style of cooking is baking and that she is always baking things. Last Christmas alone, she baked 80-dozen cookies.

"Sharon's recipe was a perfect fit for our 'Dinners on a Dime' theme with not only affordable and easy-to-find ingredients, but which is gentle on the budget and a breeze to make," said Janie Read, editor of Gooseberry Patch catalog.

She added that Taylor's recipe was "selected from thousands of recipes shared by our contributors. We get dozens and sometimes hundreds each week."

Taylor admits to being an "old-fashioned" cook. Holding out her hand, she said, "I know my hand holds a cup of sugar and that this part of my hand is just a teaspoon. It took me about five hours once to write down all the measurements and ingredients for a recipe for my daughter, because I never measure anything

and if it smells and looks right, then I know I've got enough spices in it."

She learned to cook from her mother, who owned a restaurant and worked in a bakery, and from her grandmother. She has only had the time since retiring from FYE in Olean to pursue cooking for fun.

"I can't be on my feet for any length of time and I can sit while I bake," she said.

She has so many cookbooks that she's given many away to her daughters and has purchased several from the Gooseberry Patch catalog. However, she cherishes the tattered cookbooks handed down from her mother and grandmother.

"I'm always looking for cookbooks when I go to yard sales. I like the ones put out by churches and clubs. They always have the best recipes. I'll find one that sounds good and make it the first time by the book. If we like it I'll adapt it," she admitted.

The only compensation Taylor received for her recipe is her name and address printed alongside the recipe in "Dinners on a Dime" and one free book.

'It's just my name in the book, but it is the last thing I ever expected and I'm thrilled. I'm even going to try some of the other recipes," she said.

"Dinners on a Dime" is such a good seller that, according to Gooseberry Patch representatives, it is temporarily unavailable. More copies will be available by Friday.