

An absolutely perfect day. The kitchen door slamming is music to my ears. The grandkids are running into the house with hair afire and extremely famished. They have tracked in mud and one stinky dog and everyone talks at once. Laura sits at the counter looking over the commotion and reminds me, "this is just the way you like it." I must agree. Yes, an absolutely perfect day.

This morning I can be found in the kitchen tending to something or other on the stove. The apron ties wrap around me in a bear hug and the front of it has a crazy psychedelic pattern of spots and blots that remain undeterred by bleach and detergent. I compare it to a Badge of Honor, only for home keepers. At 66 years of age and decades in the kitchen, I finally earned my Master's Degree in Domesticity.

My kitchen is also where I practiced home cures with iron and liver tonic, mud for bee stings, hugs, kiss a boo boo and warm chocolate cookies. It is to be noted that iron and liver tonic was not eagerly accepted.

My cookbooks are like dear friends. I visit them regularly. I believe ancient cookbooks contain such a dignity, Betty Crocker among them. She was a companion during my greatest learning curve. While I surrounded myself with a cloud of flour dust and a river of cream and milk, she bravely soaked up the egg yolk and oil spatters.

There were early days of Spartan ingredients and perhaps a little thin soup but God always provided.--Just as He did with manna in the desert and feeding the multitudes. With God in my kitchen each meal was a celebration of His goodness. A dash of this, a pinch of that and plenty of love could even make leftover meatloaf to be considered gourmet.

As the years pass perhaps the family will recall the pumpkin spice that warmed the kitchen and the sounds of mother moving about and the smell of wonderful things baking, buttered with joy and sugared with happiness.

Heavenly Father, We are thankful for the home that shelters us, the daily bread that nourishes our bodies and for the loving family that warms our hearts and souls. Amen

MOTHER'S KITCHEN QUOTES--"there is always room for one more---come and get it--- can you stay for dinner?---it's hot off the stove."

"In the childhood memories of every good cook, there is a large kitchen, a warm stove, a simmering pot and a mother." --Barbara Costikya

"Having a place to go--is a home.
Having someone to love--is a family.
Having both--is a blessing." --Donna Hedges