



The Whitehursts' Dry Cleaning News

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FEBRUARY 2021



Mark and Family David and Sherry

Sometimes Good Things Come from Surprises

About 15 years ago, Sherry said she was tired of cooking dinner every night. We had no kids at home. We just had to feed ourselves. That's when we became professional diners and ate most of our meals at area restaurants.

When the Covid hit in March (Surprise!), eating out became more difficult and a bit risky. We ordered some take out and some delivery meals. We even tried some meal plans sent to our home. But there is a social side to dining out and we were missing that part of the experience. The food wasn't as good that way with just the two of us.

That's when I decided to learn how to cook. I signed up for online cooking classes because my previous cooking experience was limited to bacon, eggs, and sausage ... things I learned in Boy Scouts. I could also pour milk on cereal and make toast. I could even throw steaks or burgers on a grill. But that was about the extent of my cooking knowledge.

With my new-found hobby, I offered to take over the meal planning, grocery shopping, and cooking. Sherry's eyes lit up, the corners of her lips curved up and

she said, "Really? Full time? Starting when?"

"Sure! No big deal. It would be fun" was my reply. I could improve my skills and practice on us. The online cooking classes I took (www.WebCookingClasses.com) teaches cooking methods more than recipes. That left the menu to me.

With immediate acceptance from Sherry, I began my new responsibilities. But something happened that I wasn't expecting (Surprise!) - I lost about 20 lbs. over the next five months as I worked through methods like sauteing, poaching, roasting, steaming, grilling, sauces, herbs, spices, knife skills, and ... baking. I was controlling the ingredients and kept tab on my calories, and I got down to a weight I hadn't seen since I was 16 as a junior in high school.

After a lot of basics, the lessons moved into baking - breads, cakes, pies, brownies, cookies. Of course, I **had** to make them. It was part of the homework. Then came Thanksgiving and Christmas and we **had** all kinds of food in the house. I can't be trusted with food in the house, especially scones, brownies, and cakes that I had

to cook to keep up with my homework. Unfortunately, I like my own cooking and I gained some of that weight back. I'm now closer to my high school graduation weight at age 18.

If there's one thing I've learned from this experience (another Surprise!), it's that I should have told Sherry over the years how good her cooking was. I just ate what I was served and liked it - but I didn't tell her. I understand now that planning each meal for the family, getting the groceries, and cooking the meal takes a lot of work and it never ends.

My hope is taking over meal responsibilities is a way of telling Sherry "thanks and your cooking was great!" I know it's a belated "Thank You" - but better late than never.

Did I mention that I'm cooking all our meals? **Every. Single. Day.** (Surprise!)

David



“Did You Know Where This Saying Came From...”

Up In Arms



Meaning: Being very angry or upset about something; having feelings of indignation; feeling infuriated at a person or thing.

Origin: Weapons can be referred to as “arms,” hence, if a person was “at arms” or “in arms” it meant they were equipped with weapons and armor, ready to fight or whatnot. It’s not entirely clear as to why weapons were also called arms, however, it may be because many weapons, such as

swords, clubs, daggers, and so on, are seen as an add-on to the arm. The phrase appears in writing from different plays in the late 1500s. One of those plays is King Richard III, by William Shakespeare. It’s believed to have been written around 1591, and there’s a line that reads: “March on, march on, since we are up in arms; If not to fight with foreign enemies, Yet to beat down these rebels here at home.”

Barking Up The Wrong Tree



Meaning: To make a wrong assumption about someone or something. If a person is being falsely accused of something, they might use this phrase to inform the accuser that they are mistaken.

Origin: The origin of this phrase is believed to be rooted in dogs and hunting. Dogs are sometimes used during hunting because of their strong sense of smell, their ability to

chase and track other animals, and they add a bit of extra security for the hunter.

After spotting another animal, a dog will likely give chase. The fleeing animal, if it is capable, may decide to climb a tree in order to get away. However, since dogs are not great at climbing trees, they will instead remain at the trunk of the tree and bark, which gives the hunter an indication on where the fleeing animal went. Well, a dog can make a mistake and choose the wrong tree. How would the dog get it wrong? Well, there are a number of factors that could have led to the mistake. Perhaps the dog was unable to keep pace with the fleeing animal during the chase, or maybe it got distracted along the way by something. Whatever the case, if a dog fails to pick the right tree, well, then they are literally ‘barking up the wrong tree.’ This expression goes back to at least the earlyish 19th century, where the idiom is already being used in a figurative sense. For example, the Knickerbocker Magazine from 1836 reads: “You’ve been barking up the wrong tree, cried the Ohioan.”

CLEANING YOUR CUTTING BOARD

With my newfound hobby of cooking, I’ve learned the proper ways to dice onions and mince garlic. So what are the best ways to clean your cutting board? Onions and garlic will leave their smells. A cutting board not thoroughly cleaned can be a breeding ground for e-coli and other bacteria.

First, some DON'Ts

- Don't put your wooden cutting board in the dishwasher or immerse it in water. Your board might crack or warp. Rinsing in water is OK, just don't immerse it.
- Don't put raw meat on your cutting board used for preparing vegetables. Use a separate board for meat.

Here are some DOs

- Do make a paste in a 1:1:1 ratio of baking soda, salt, and water. Scrub your board with that paste, then rinse thoroughly with hot water, and dry. You can improve that paste with a little white vinegar and lemon juice. The white vinegar is a great disinfectant.
- Alternatively, wash your board and then wipe it down with full-strength white vinegar.
- You can deodorize your board by sprinkling it with baking soda and spraying it with white vinegar. Leave it on for ten minutes and let it foam. Then rinse it off and dry it with a cloth.
- Do clean your board used for cutting raw meat with 3% hydrogen peroxide. Spray enough hydrogen peroxide to cover the entire board, rinse it with water, and then dry it.



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**Shakespeare,
 Valentine's Day & Hallmark**

William Shakespeare helped romanticize Valentine's Day in his work, and it gained popularity throughout Britain and the rest of Europe. Hand-made paper cards became the tokens-du-jour in the Middle Ages.

Eventually, the tradition made its way to the New World. The industrial revolution ushered in factory-made cards in the 19th century. And in 1913, Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, Mo., began mass producing Valentines. February has not been the same since.



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NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

Beside the normal stuff, we also clean:

- Wedding Gowns
- Area Rug Cleaning
- Suedes and Leathers
- Purses, luggage and backpacks
- Ugg Boots
- Wash Dry & Fold

And we do...

1. We are a Certified Wedding Gown Specialist
2. We are part of the Certified Restoration Drycleaning Network (CRDN) - We handle textile and electronics restoration due to damage from smoke, fire, water and mold.
3. Home and office dry cleaning pickup and delivery
4. Wash Dry & Fold service - including Champion Hamper service

Valentine's Jokes



- ▶ **Boy:** Do you have a date for Valentine's Day?
Girl: Yes, February 14th.
- ▶ **What did one boat say to the other?** "Are you up for a little row-mance?"
- ▶ **What did the guy with the broken leg say to his nurse?** "I've got a crutch on you."
- ▶ **What do you say to your single friends on Valentine's Day?** Happy Independence Day!
- ▶ **Every Valentine's Day** our campus newspaper has a section for student messages. Last year my roommate surprised his girlfriend with roses and dinner at a fancy restaurant. When they returned from their date, she leafed through the paper to see if he had written a note to her. Near the bottom of one page she found: "Bonnie—What are you looking here for? Aren't dinner and flowers enough? Love, Scott." —Richard B. Blackwell

Time To Do This...

- ✓ Check for winter sales at your local garden center; you may find good deals on pots, planters, and tools.
- ✓ Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ✓ Time to purge your closet of all the clothes you haven't worn in a year.
- ✓ Clean the clothes dryer exhaust duct, damper and space under the dryer.
- ✓ Clean the kitchen exhaust hood and air filter.
- ✓ Check the water hoses on the washer, refrigerator icemaker & dishwasher.