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#### ON THE COVER



Ridge Roberts brings historical fiddling styles to life in Granbury.

Photo by PJ Mullen.

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#### Editor's Note

Hello, Granbury!

I recently met someone, and we bonded as friends during our first conversation. I am incredibly glad I took the time to spend a few hours in conversation, beginning a great friendship. I love those divine appointments — the places and times where you can't explain it, but you know destiny brought you together for a moment, a season or, maybe,

forever. We come across people every day, never knowing what they carry in their hearts or how much a single smile or gentle word might mean to them — or us.

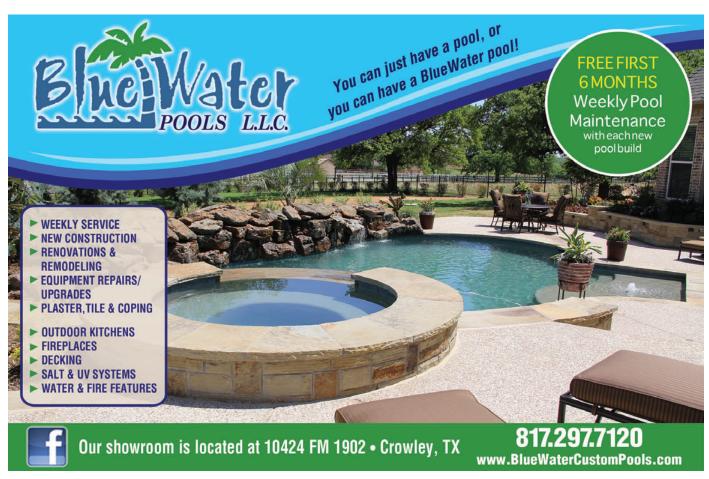
This month, take time to sit down and share food, a cold drink or maybe some ice cream, with a new friend. Open your heart and listen to each other. You never know. That little bit of time could be the very best investment you ever make.

Here's to friendship!

#### Lisa

Lisa Bell GranburyNOW Editor lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com (817) 269-9066













# SIMPLY SIMPLY -By Lisa Bell

Whether Ridge Roberts takes a stage or stands beside a door or on the streets in Granbury, the sweet strains of fiddling draws attention. Sometimes, the music weaves its way down from your ears to your toes.

Ridge started playing soon after his 7th birthday and competing in 2013. In April, he turned 13 and has already won nine awards, including the Jr. Jr. National Championship. Up to this point, he's placed in the top three in every contest he has entered. "Kinda cool to win and know you played well," he said. "But it doesn't change the way I feel."

At 7, Ridge's parents homeschooled him and wanted music in his curriculum, so he chose the fiddle. "It was really my dad who got me started on it, because he had played the fiddle years and years ago," he said. "It was a really fun instrument to play, and it held my interest." Although the fiddle and violin are the same instrument, the fiddling style of music appealed more to Ridge, with the upbeat songs and movement typically connected to fiddling.

Ridge now attends North Central Texas Academy. They work extremely well with him, making sure he gets a good education, yet he can still play at events around town or go to contests and practices during the day. "They've been wonderful," Cindy said.

"Sometimes, it can be hard, but it works. It's really not a struggle," Ridge added. His favorite subject is history, which transfers over to studying fiddling and the old masters. "I feel like it's important to know things

about the past, so you don't repeat the same mistakes," he said.

When asked what keeps him humble, Ridge pointed at his mother, Cindy. "I think he's naturally humble," she shared. She also stated that his teacher, Joey McKenzie, helps with that.

Joey's wife, Sherry, spoke on his behalf. "As a teacher, you try to instill in your students the reason you play is the music. Awards are a nice thing, but they're not the main reason to play the music," she said. "They realize they'll never conquer the fiddle. [Performances are] satisfying, yet never satisfying. There's always more."

For fiddlers taught correctly, it is more about the music and history of fiddling. As they play, it feels like giving back to the legends people remember. Ridge falls asleep at night listening to those men and women. He practices anywhere from 45 minutes to 2 hours, depending on the day and what he has going. But when he isn't playing, he spends a large amount of time listening to fiddle music or studying his fiddler heroes online.

According to Sherry, Ridge is exceptional. And he is definitely a musician more than a performer. "I play because I want to," admitted Ridge, who also composes music.







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Cindy shared that the house gets quiet after their younger, special-needs child goes to bed. "Ridge came in one night after his shower and said, 'Mama, can I please play the fiddle? I have this song in my head, and I need to get it out.' What do you say to that?" she asked. She let him play. "There are times he has a song in his head and has to get it out," she disclosed. They learned to record those songs.

Working with Joey, Ridge doesn't compose as much. He focuses more on learning the styles, timing and nuances the things that give Ridge the ability to sound like an adult.

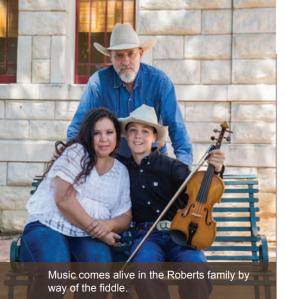
For this young man, fiddling isn't only about music. He chooses to make fiddling a priority in his life, but he also "lives" the sounds and mystery of a type of music not everyone recognizes. Fiddling simply lives in his blood and heart. Nevertheless, he finds time to collect coins, Bibles, old books, fiddle bottles and musical instruments. He takes art lessons from local artist, Bob Cook. Ridge also enjoys reading for fun. He likes the way Louis L'Amour writes, adding history to his fictional books.

Not content with only playing the fiddle, Ridge took up guitar about two years ago. He wanted to learn rhythm guitar in order to accompany other fiddlers. "I just think it's something fiddlers should know how to do," he said.

Sherry added, "Fiddle music doesn't sound authentic without the right accompaniment. It's kind of a lost art. We're trying to preserve Texas fiddling but also the accompaniment that makes it what it is." Since Joey teaches guitar as well as fiddling, he is the perfect fit to teach Ridge both.

The Robertses moved to Granbury from Alvarado in 2007. "This [Granbury]





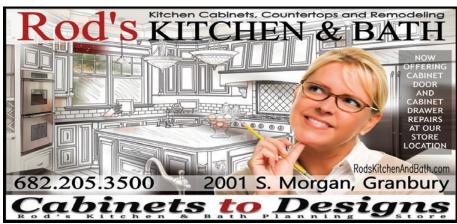
is really home," Ridge confessed. "It's nice to know people support you." Mama and Papa, plus his grandparents, are Ridge's biggest supporters. He has an older brother, too, and great relationships with all of them. A carbon copy of his mother, they both admit they can clash. They think alike and, on a regular basis, start to say the exact same thing at the same time. "[With Ridge] what you see is what you get," Cindy shared.

"I love my papa," Ridge admitted. He cherishes times when the two of them sit in the shop and talk. Although John, Ridge's father, doesn't play the fiddle as much as he'd like, sometimes the two of them jam together.

The people in Granbury amaze the Robertses, pouring out support with encouragement. Last year, communitywide fundraisers helped the family of five attend a weeklong contest. He sincerely appreciates the way everyone backs him. Mission Hospice also chose to sponsor Ridge, and as a result, he gives back by playing at nursing homes around town.

When doing an event, Ridge creates his song list, selecting the ones he plans to

play. It isn't unusual to change the order around, depending on how the audience responds. Often, he adds at least one hymn somewhere in the lineup. "I am a Christian," he said, "but I just think they're beautiful and fun to play. A lot of people enjoy them and like singing them." **NOW** 



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## At Home With Rick and Kathi

A charming little seating area by the front door greets family and friends. The white wicker patio furniture surrounded by greenery and ferns belongs to Rick and Kathi Long in Pecan Plantation. For this couple, finding the right home for retirement to accommodate all the items on their wish list was a priority about two years ago.





# and

rm

— By Erin McEndree

# Long

Rick and Kathi wanted to be near the water and in proximity to their two children. "We are boat people, so we looked for a home near a lake," Rick said. "There's a lot to do in Granbury when our daughters and the grandkids visit. Since they are in Waco and Fort Worth, we thought this was a great location." Rick and Kathi have enjoyed taking drives to see the countryside, since they moved

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from the hustle and bustle of the big city. "We do not miss Dallas traffic," Rick Glen Rose, Hico and Hamilton." Rick also enjoys a nice game of golf, and he has two courses to choose from in the neighborhood. Their back patio looks out toward the 18th tee box, and golf carts often stroll by in the afternoons, as do more golf when I completely retire from

Choosing a new home was a tedious task. Rick and Kathi looked at so many homes around different lakes. They wanted to find a house that "We have a long dining room table to seat our large family, and the open floor plan at this home could accommodate all the furnishings we had," Kathi explained. "The inset in the problem, but we measured, and our buffet fit perfectly in the space, so I knew this was the

on the market only two days, and they immediately made an acceptable offer.

The foyer holds a marble-topped table in the center that was Kathi's grandmother's. Another inset creates a unique space for a large painting of the countryside with colorful flowers. There are many insets like this one throughout the home. It's a unique detail that gives can also be seen from above. A cofferstyle ceiling adds charm to the living room, while a tray ceiling gives height above the four-poster bed in the master. The large master bath has detailed tile and granite countertops.

The same multicolor granite is in the kitchen. Kathi chalk-painted the island old white and added a dark wax on the edges to evoke an antique look. The process she used matches the light and dark colors in the granite. All the kitchen cabinetry is dark. The Franciscan Ware with the popular apple pattern can be seen from several frosted glass doors. Her grandmother's china is carefully stowed. Kathi enjoys having the mementoes from her family. She also enjoys entertaining the Newcomers Supper Club at her home a couple times a year.





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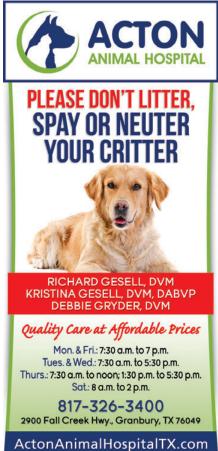
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The couple found that there are many social groups within the Granbury Newcomers Club. Social events are also provided for members in the Pecan Community, and a variety of entertainment choices are available with many different interests in mind. Some of the groups are Bridge Club, Sportsmen's Club, Genealogy Club, Pecan Ladies Bible Study, Garden Club, Archery Club and youth activities to name a few.

Kathi enjoys fashion and art and is a member of the Needle Arts group. "Growing up, I wanted to be in the fashion industry like my dad," she said. "My dream was to go to New York. I have a bachelor's degree in home economics and merchandizing, and I still have an interest in that." She likes meeting once a month to share her creations. "Ladies bring their projects in needlepoint, cross stitch, embroidery and quilting. Anything created with a needle, really," Kathi said. "We can get help, pointers and direction from others on our pieces."

The Needle Arts group rekindled Kathi's interest in quilting, and she made two quilts for the grandkids' room. Two twin beds display her handiwork. The quilts have many colorful pinwheels and a boarder of flip-flops. The window treatment consists of strips of the same fabric used in the quilt tied onto a curtain rod. Rick's father made a cabinet that Kathi chalk-painted green in the same hue as the quilt. It holds old wooden trains and dolls their daughters played with. A rocking horse by the bed that Rick and Kathi's daughters enjoyed is now adored by the grandkids.

The office by the foyer has been turned into Kathi's craft room. There are beautiful hardwood floors and wooden beams on the ceiling. Cabinets on either side of the large window hold craft books, patterns, family photos and mementoes. A colorful array of threads in vibrant colors hangs on the wall above a large worktable.

In the guest bedroom, Rick put his carpentry skills to work and created a unique king-sized headboard out of two headboards belonging to Kathi's grandmother. "Rick took the antique wood off the rails and joined them together to create one," Kathi said. "It's very special to me." A tiny wool hat and jacket are displayed on a side table. The cream-colored ensemble was worn by Kathi and her brothers when they were infants. Blue dishes are displayed on the wall that once belonged to Kathi's dad. "I like to incorporate family heirlooms when I can," she explained.



Rick and Kathi enjoy the patio area. It is surrounded by a black, finial-topped iron fence that was added so the dog, Foxy, could have a place to run around. They enjoy watching the many varieties of birds, deer and golfers. Rick can cook a tasty steak on the large built-in grill. Dark wicker, outdoor furniture surrounds a fire pit filled with decorative glass pebbles.

Oftentimes, Kathi can be found on the patio, relaxing with a good book. A large rectangle dining table with an umbrella is used when the family comes to visit. "We would like to expand the patio," Rick said. "Since it is on the west side of the house, increasing the roofline would help the porch have more shade longer in the evenings."

In the future, Rick would also like to build a shop so he can do more carpentry projects. Other projects brewing in the couple's minds include a gazebo and a hot tub. Since Rick and Kathi found their charming home, they are making it perfect for their needs and an inviting place for family and friends. NOW







changing the oil regularly, keeping tires rotated or replaced and performing routine maintenance, you can keep your car working at its highest level.

#### The Manual

- Read it. While your owner's manual may not be an exciting read, it is important to have a general idea of what it says. The manual will tell you what type of bulbs, fluids, tires and components to use for many of the jobs you can do on your own. It includes when to perform oil changes and other routine maintenance.
- More than oil. The manual will also list intervals for things like changing spark plugs, timing belts and other maintenance that often goes overlooked. Though you could neglect them and never have problems, these services are highly recommended and will help ensure your vehicle performs at its best.



#### **Black Gold**

- When to change oil. Car lube stations put a little sticker on your car's front window to encourage you to change your oil every 3,000 miles, but that is probably more frequent than your car actually needs. Most vehicles today can run at least 5,000 miles without needing a change, and some can go well over 10,000 miles before they need oil, so you should check your manual for the specific mileage.
- · Know your driving habits. Make sure you are changing your oil based on the type of use your car gets. Stop-and-go driving, as well as driving in dirty or dusty areas, will mean you need to change the oil more frequently than optimized, highway driving requires.
- "W" means winter. The numbers that identify oil indicate how viscous the oil is, and how well it flows in cold and warm temperature tests. 10W-30 is considered the standard oil, but





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many modern vehicles require oil with alternate viscosity levels. Verify your car's preference in the manual, and then tell the shop. Otherwise, they will probably just use 10W-30.

• Weigh the cost. Synthetic oil holds up better, but it is costlier. Most oil companies offer blends, especially for higher-mileage vehicles, at a cost that may or may not be worth it. If you are not sure whether the extra cost is worth it, there are online forums for almost any specific make and model of car, where you can read the experiences of people with your same car.

#### Caring for and Changing Your Tires

• Check the pressure. Changes in temperature will almost assuredly change your air pressure, as will any time you hit a curb or pothole. Even a car sitting for an extended period in the garage may lose enough pressure to need more air. Conversely, your tires may increase in pressure in the hotter months, so be ready to take air out as well. A tire lacking in air often looks flat, but a tire that is overinflated looks a lot like a normal tire, so always use a gauge, not just your eyeball.



- Look with your hands and eyes. If you notice any deviation in what should be a smooth, round shape, you might need a new tire. Tires start with a depth of 11mm, and need to be replaced when they reach 3 mm. But when checking depth, make sure to check the inner portion of the tire, which is often much more worn than the outer edge.
- Rotating is essential. Your tires need to be rotated every 6,000 to 8,000 miles. This is possible to do yourself if you have the proper equipment, but there are plenty of

inexpensive locations where you can have your tires balanced and rotated. Most tire shops will include lifetime tire rotations, either free or for a nominal fee, when purchasing new tires. And if you happen to be installing two new tires instead of four, make sure the new tires are in the rear of the vehicle, which gives the most stability, especially in wet conditions.

#### **Taking Care of Your Brakes**

• Pay attention to warning signs. Unless something catastrophic happens, your brakes are not likely to stop working completely, but many components in your braking system wear down over time. If you hear your brakes making a squealing, grinding or any sound that is loud enough to hear over the engine, you may have an issue. In addition to sounds, you may notice your car wobble or shake when braking. In any of these instances, your best bet is to take your car into a shop to check components. It is wise to use an ASE-certified mechanic. Look for the blue seal indicating automotive service excellence before having work done on your vehicle.

#### The Sticker

• Deciphering the system. The state of Texas has switched to a single sticker to track your car's registration and its safety inspection. While there are long-term benefits for the state and its residents, these first few years of implementation are proving to be slightly confusing. You will get your single sticker, if you have not already, when you register with the local tax office. In order to do that, you have to have a current inspection on file. Most counties will allow you to renew your registration online for an extra \$2, and the system will recognize whether your inspection is up to date. If you have not switched to the single sticker yet, just make sure to get a new inspection no more than 90 days before your next registration date.

You can never prepare for every situation you might face while driving your car. Following these tips, however, should prevent some issues and keep you and your family safe on the road. NOW





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## **Dental Partnership**

St. Clair Dental takes care of the entire family. — By Lisa Bell

From children to grandparents, Dr. Maureen Karl takes care of dental needs for every member of the family. She grew up in northern New York, but her parents retired in Granbury, and two of her sisters moved here as well. For more than 10 years, Dr. Karl visited her family in Granbury and enjoyed the community. In May 2006, she finished her residency in New York, but the need for more dentists wasn't there. So, she left New York and moved to Texas.

Initially, Dr. Karl worked as an associate for another dentist in town, but by December 2006, she purchased a practice and launched St. Clair Dental. Then in October 2011, she moved to the current office in Acton. As a business, she chooses to give back to the community by donating gift certificates and discount coupons to different groups around Granbury.

Dr. Karl is the only dentist in the practice. She offers general dentistry for all ages and provides Invisalign clear aligners for orthodontic needs. St. Clair accepts most forms of dental insurance. However, they also offer a Quality Dental Plan, a discount program for patients who don't have dental coverage. The plan consists of a flat rate, which covers two checkups per year with X-rays and cleanings, plus a 15-percent discount on any dental work required. They also work with Care Credit to help patients finance expensive treatment when required. Whether a necessity or for cosmetic reasons, they want to help patients get what they need in oral care.

Dr. Karl always loved science and wanted to do something in the medical field. She didn't like the idea of becoming a physician but wanted to work in a positive environment where

#### Business NOW

she could help people. She chose dentistry and loves getting to help people feel good and comfortable.

Ever-changing technology keeps her passionate about dentistry. She and her staff provide honesty and quality care. "That makes me passionate," she said. "We're just a good office with kind people. My staff is great. We do all we can to help patients get a healthy mouth."

Dr. Karl offers general dentistry for all ages and provides Invisalign clear aligners for orthodontic needs.

Dr. Karl is quick to point out that home care plays a huge role in the overall health of her patients. "It isn't just me dictating treatment," she stated. "The patients have to take a role in their oral health."

To maintain the health of your mouth, visit the dentist twice a year for routine checkups, of course. But in between visits, be sure to brush at least twice a day, floss and use a waterpik. Limit sugars and sodas, even diet ones, which have a lot of acid. After drinking anything, be sure to rinse your mouth with water or brush your teeth. Anything that continuously sits on your teeth is bad for them.

Dr. Karl met her husband after moving to Granbury. They celebrate their five-year anniversary this month and have two daughters. "We are still in love," she said. "We still like each other." She takes cues from her parents, who celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary in November.

They love living in Granbury, especially with the location near Fort Worth but not part of a big city. More importantly, they love the people in the community. As the practice grows, Dr. Karl commits herself to continued education, which enables her to provide the best dental care possible.







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#### Around Town NOW



Valeri Cranston welcomes guests at the John G Campbell Art Gallery.



Jake Balmuth and Chris Inbody enjoy photographing birds at Acton Nature Center.



With water everywhere, Johan Rodriguez has fun splashing while his mom (not pictured) watches.



Friends Cyndi Steed and Elva Valle endure the heat for a walk and sweet conversation.



The Ace Angels practice for the first time this season.



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Wyatt, Joshua, Morgan and Stephanie Buschman enjoy some afternoon fishing on Lake Granbury.



The Warbaugh family from Ennis visits Granbury as part of an annual grandparents-grandkids trip.

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#### August 4

Granbury ISD Kindergarten Roundup: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., elementary schools, check online to determine correct location. Child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2016. For more information, call (817) 408-4000 or visit www.granburyisd.org/zones.

#### August 6

8th Annual Blazin' Saddle 75: 7:30 a.m., Granbury Middle School, 2000 Crossland Rd. Challenging, scenic 20-100K bike route benefits Texas EMS. Visit www. blazinsaddle75.com or call Scott Pangle at (817) 899-3681.

Annual TVA Weekend, Walkin' Granbury: 8:00 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 303 W. Bridge St. \$2 non-members, \$3 members. Hosted by Hood County Hummers/Texas Volkssporters Association. Contact Sonny Byington at (817) 437-2882 or visit Hood County Hummers on Facebook.

#### August 12

Jesse Overton Live Music: 7:30 p.m. Ketzler's Schnitzel Haus and Biergarten, 101 E. Pearl St. A night of live music with local singer/songwriter. Open late. Visit www.overtonsovertones.com for details.

#### August 13

Midlothian Texas Arrowhead Show: 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center. Admission: \$5, children 12 and under are free. For more information on vendor table prices, set-up times and lodging accommodations, call Harold Hughes at (972) 921-8555.

Whistle While You Work Cleaning Dinosaur Tracks: 5:00-6:00 p.m., Dinosaur Valley State Park, 1629 Park Rd. 59, Glen Rose. Join the park staff and help clean dinosaur tracks. For more information, contact Kathy Lenz at (254) 897-4588 or kathy.lenz@tpwd.texas.gov.

#### August 21

Mel Brooks Movie Night: 6:30-11:00 p.m., Granbury Opera House, Admission \$8. Comedy double feature, Blazing Saddles and Young Frankenstein. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.granburytheatrecompany.org.

#### August 27

Gospel Jubilee: 6:00 p.m., Granbury Live Theater, 114 N. Crockett St. Tickets \$30 (refreshments served.) Ransomed 180 and The Judge and the Jury, concert benefits Cancer Care of Hood County. Send email to Deanna@cancercareservices.org or call Joyce Pence, at (817) 279-2234 or Patsy Parr at (817) 578-9001.

Night Hike: 8:00-9:00 p.m., Dinosaur Valley State Park, 1629 Park Rd. 59, Glen Rose. One-and-a-half-mile intermediate level hike. Visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/dinosaurvalley/night-hike-2 for more details.

#### August 28

The Lion of Texas: Conversation with Sam Houston: 2:00-4:00 p.m., Granbury Opera House. One-man historical show of a Texas hero. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.granburytheatrecompany.org.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com.



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#### In the Kitchen With Genni Link

— By Lisa Bell

Genni Link grew up on a Colorado farm, one of 12 children. "Eating out" meant church pot-luck meals or a fundraiser at school. Holidays were always big feasts, often with up to 40 or 50 people. Her father's German heritage influenced much of Genni's cooking, with a Swedish touch from her mother's family.

A favorite Christmas tradition centered on cookie baking. Her mother baked a variety of cookies for about a month prior to Christmas, storing them in a 50-pound tin. "On Christmas, Daddy brought out the tin," she shared. "We were allowed to eat all the cookies we wanted." However, Genni's most memorable cooking experience was entering oatmeal cookies at the Elbert County Fair and winning a blue ribbon. She was 10 years old.

#### Sour Meatballs

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 cup onion, finely chopped (optional)
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs or crushed saltine crackers
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 2 eggs (separate 1 egg and reserve yolk for later)
- 2 1/2 cups water
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 2 bay leaves
- **1.** Mix first 5 ingredients with 1 egg plus 1 egg white and form into 1 1/2-inch to 2-inch meatballs.
- **2.** Pour water, vinegar and bay leaves into a large skillet, bring to a boil and add meatballs. (Meat needs to be about 3/4 covered with water.)

- **3.** Boil 20 minutes. Remove meatballs; place on a deep platter.
- **4.** Make a gravy thickening (water and cornstarch or flour) and pour slowly into liquid, stirring constantly.
- **5.** Cook to a desired thickness. Remove from heat and stir in slightly beaten egg yolk.
- **6.** Pour sauce over meatballs. Serve with mashed potatoes.

#### **Pepper Nuts**

Old German recipe.

- 2 cups dark syrup (Karo or similar)
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups lard (I use half shortening, half butter.)
- I cup strong black coffee (liquid, not the grounds)
- 1/2 Tbsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. soda

1 tsp. baking powder

I tsp. salt

1/2 Tbsp. black pepper

1/2 Tbsp. ginger

1/2 Tbsp. cloves Flour, as needed

- **I.** Mix all ingredients and add enough flour to make a very stiff dough.
- **2.** Roll out and cut out circles the size of a nickel.
- **3.** Bake at 350 F to brown. (Note: Recipe created for high altitude; baking temperature may need to be adjusted for low altitude baking.)
- **4.** Allow to season for a couple weeks for best flavor. These are bite-size with a strong spicy flavor and are great with coffee. Keep long-term sealed in a tin. The recipe makes a huge batch, so freezing for later use is a great option.

#### Ice Cream Cookies (Homemade Oreos)

#### Cookies:

1/2 cup white sugar

1/2 cup brown sugar

3/4 cup shortening

1 egg

2/3 cup sour milk (buttermilk or add 1/4 tsp. vinegar to milk and allow to sour)

2/3 cup powdered cocoa

1 tsp. soda

I tsp. baking powder

2 cups flour (add a bit more if needed)

#### Cream Filling:

1 Tbsp. butter

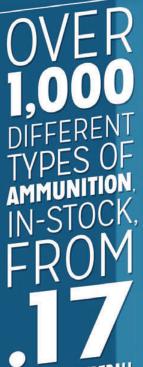
1/2 Tbsp. vanilla

1 1/2 Tbsp. cream

3/4 cup powdered sugar

1/8 tsp. salt

- **1.** For cookies: Add ingredients, one at a time. in order given.
- 2. Add flour to make a stiff, rollable dough.
- **3.** Roll thin. Cut out using a round cookie cutter or biscuit cutter. Bake in a "quick" (375 to 400 F) oven for 5-7 minutes. Watch closely. (Note: This recipe was created for high altitude; baking time and temperature may need to be adjusted for low-altitude baking.)
- **4.** For filling: While cookies cool, mix all filling ingredients until smooth.
- **5.** When cookies are cool, spread filling on one cookie and top with second cookie. Continue until all cookies are used.



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