

PERSIMMON PUDDING AND HAIR NETS

Many, many long years ago, in the dim and distant past, my mother made a batch of persimmon pudding. Now when we think of "pudding", we think of Jello Pudding, a thick and creamy dessert that can be one of several flavors like vanilla, chocolate fudge, or butterscotch.

Persimmon "pudding" is not like that, but rather more like persimmon cake, and it comes out dark colored and heavy (and delicious).

On this particular occasion, we had a number of people for dinner, and it must have been during the Thanksgiving or Christmas holidays, since that time of year is when persimmons ripen. We had had our pudding and there was one piece left over, which we wrapped and placed in the refrigerator.

(Full disclosure: my memory is not entirely accurate, so I will fill in details as they probably happened. The one person who would remember it vividly is my mother herself, and she is unavailable for comment at this time!) During the next few days, we had hamburgers for supper, and somehow, out came the wrapped persimmon pudding, which became part of the batch of cooked hamburger patties.

Please remember that in "those days" (makes me sound so OLD!), we didn't buy bags of patties already made perfectly flat and round. We patted them together all by ourselves so they were roundish and uneven! Gracious! How did we survive such difficulties??

So the piece of persimmon pudding tried to pass itself off as a hamburger patty, but was soon discovered to look and taste a

little funny for a hamburger patty. To everyone's great glee, it was found to be the piece of persimmon pudding, raising shouts of laughter around the table. The pudding was discarded and placed on the kitchen counter.

Lo and behold, shortly, as the dishes were being washed, and

a pan needed scrubbing, the person doing the dishes picked up the Chore Girl to scrub the fry pan and guess what? It wasn't a Chore Girl at all! It was that piece of persimmon pudding that had wanted to be a hamburger patty and now seemed to want to be a Chore Girl. (Remember Chore Girls? They were copper but turned black and scroungy over time. Then they were renamed Chore Boys to avoid the stereotype of us poor, put-upon over-worked girls. Now they are replaced by plastic. How's that for a commentary on our times?)

That persimmon pudding made a lousy hamburger patty, and a lousier scrubber, but it was delicious as the unique kind of dessert it was made to be.

This little story became one of our family legends, not only for the remembered warmth and laughter, but also because there are lessons to be learned from it.

The most obvious lesson is to appreciate who God made you to be and don't try to be something or someone else. One of God's commandments was that we are not to covet, or wish for things we don't currently possess. In the context of the Old Testament, when Moses delivered the 10 Commandments, God commanded that one must not covet his neighbor's house or his ox or his wife or any of his possessions. But I, Linda C. Gommel (the "C" is supposed to stand for Carol but really means "Covet"), know that what God really meant is that we are not to covet anything at all, whether a role in life or a place to live that seems

more desirable, or a trip to somewhere, anything. Instead we are to be thankful for what He has made us and what He wants us to be, and then to figure out how best to use our gifts for Him.

So what does this have to do with hair nets?

The other day I went to the Post Office and in the mailbox was a large envelope that felt soft and squeazy like it had clothing in it.

Too curious to wait, I opened the package at the car to see what it

was. Inside were a bunch of brown ball-shaped things, and I wondered what the heck these were.

I opened the inner bag and took out one of the balls to figure out what this stuff was. Oh, I get it!! These are the hair nets I ordered from Amazon for the Deli Café gals to use. I had ordered an extra large quantity of 1000 so that they wouldn't have to reorder them every other week or so, and they came as 25 balls of 40 nets each. I laughed my head off at the realization that they were something that mundane and simple.

I took them into the Deli Café where the girls saw them and asked, "What are those!?" Pat came up and identified them immediately, having seen them before.

That afternoon, I went out to my car, where I saw three big lumps of dog-doo on the ground at the middle door of the car. Wow! That must have been some dog! And then I realized – they were hairnet balls!! I had dropped them out of



the package when I was looking in it earlier in the day. Well, at least no one would even have considered taking them. . .

This reminded me of the persimmon pudding incident 'way back when, and the other great lesson, which Gommel put in a subsequent sermon: when you look at something, are you seeing what you think you see, or what it really is? And what is it really? To the person who thinks the dark thing on the counter is a Chore Girl, it is a Chore Girl, at least to them at that moment. So what is reality? For me, those round brown things on the ground by my car were dog-doo, momentarily. But it turned out that they were hair nets.

Have you ever wondered if everything around you is an illusion or just a big dream, and you are really

alone? Wouldn't that be terrible? Maybe I should shut up and stick to persimmon pudding and hair nets.

What's funny is that the only reality we can be sure of is physically invisible to us in this life. Of course I am referring to the ultimate reality, our Father and Creator, God Himself. Even invisible, He is present all around us and only un-visible if we choose not to see Him. All creation testifies to His existence, and our own spirits sense His Spirit, if we open our communication lines.

And that's a whole lot better than persimmon pudding, hair nets and especially, doggy-doo.

Linda Gommel



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ON THE PORCHES AT THE STORE

SAT, Oct. 28, 10A-2P, SIGNING UP SPONSORS & TAILGATERS FOR HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT TAILGATE, by LV Roadrunners. Sponsor a tailgate for \$15 or sign up to sit a tailgate and hand out candy at the event -- no charge!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Mary's Health Van Thursdays, 8:30am - 3:30pm in our parking lot. For more information 760-946-4240.

Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection

SAT, Oct. 28, 9A to Noon. Free disposal of household hazardous waste (Antifreeze, Auto & Household Batteries, Motor Oil & Oil Filters, Latex (only) Paint, home-generated Needles in approved container, Computers, TV's, Microwaves, Fluorescent Bulbs, CPU's, Printers, Clothes Irons, Cell Phones & Telephones, Space Heaters, Stereos, Radios, VCRs & DVD Players, & Musical Greeting Cards. NO trash, NO chemicals, NO tires. Behind LV Fire Station 33269 Old Woman Springs Road. For info call 1-800-OILY CAT.

Lucerne Valley Community

Tailgate Trick or Treat Tuesday, October 31, starts at 5PM to 7PM. At the Senior Center's parking lot behind the Library.

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

TUES. NOV. 7, 5 PM. at the Senior Center

- Senior Project Needs Assessment and revised design (a potential major development and economic benefit).
- LVEDA's response to our Community Plan & Countywide Plan.
- Position on County Renewable Energy Element for Planning Commission hearing and projects already filed.
- Ask organizations to get the word out about St. Mary's Health Van at Market on Thursdays.
- Announcements.

L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 9, starts at 5:30PM. At the Alternative Education Center, 8560 Aliento Rd up Highway 18.

LIMITS & MULTIPLE PRICING

Please, unless otherwise indicated, ON AD ITEMS NO MORE THAN 6 TOTAL (including all flavors or varieties) OF ANY ITEM, PER FAMILY, DURING THE AD PERIOD, AT THE SALE PRICE, except in produce and meat, which are limited to normal retail quantities, or which carry limits specifically stated. Sorry, we must reserve the right to further limit or refuse sales. ON MULTIPLE PRICING, when purchasing items in quantities more or less than the multiple stated, the register is built automatically to charge the "each" price times the quantity. (Example: Price of item is 3/\$1. The price of: one = 34¢, two = 68¢, three = \$1, four = \$1.34, five = \$1.68, six = \$2.00).

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