

FLATTMANN FILES

October 2021

“Quality Is No Accident”

WHY I LOVE THE KITCHEN

The Traditions and Recipes That Keep Me Coming Back

I've been very lucky to have grown up around great cooks, and I always enjoyed the tasty meals my mom made. She continually made sure we had good meals while I was growing up!

I've also been eating my mother-in-law's cooking since I was in high school, and as a growing teen, I probably ate a couple hundred dollars' worth of groceries at her home every week! I always enjoy watching how my mother-in-law cooks. She comes from Cajun country, so her recipes are considered “no recipes.” She knows what spices to add to make a meal authentic and full of flavor.

Today, I consider myself a bit of an amateur chef. I'm actually the cook in my family, and I look up to these two great cooks and our local heritage to create some tasty meals. In honor of National Cookbook Month, I'd like to share a few of my favorite dishes and lessons from the kitchen.

For me, it all starts with the cookbook. I'm a cookbook collector, and I like to leaf through my cookbooks to find recipe ideas and ways to hone my craft. I'm not one to work directly from a recipe, but I find the ideas you can get from the experts can help you create your own specialty. In particular, I enjoy the works of local chefs: Paul Prudhomme and Frank Davis. (Both of these men are now deceased, sadly.)

Depending on how much time I have and who I'm cooking for, I have a few staples I like to make. Of course, I have my own recipe for red beans and rice, especially for Mondays. Stuffed peppers and variations on lasagna are also common on our menu, and I also really enjoy cooking jambalaya (my wife teases me because I can make it, but I can't spell it!) and anything Cajun. I'm also comfortable on the grill.

As my kids have gotten older, I've been happy to see their palates expand, which means I can share some of my favorite dishes with them. Our teenager just admitted that she likes jambalaya and red beans and rice, so I've been making those dishes when possible. Our son, who's in fourth grade, has started to enjoy the ribs recipe I make, so I've been cooking that as often as possible!



I love sharing these meals with them. My hope is that they will remember the meals their dad made and maybe even make these dishes with their own kids. Much like how I pull inspiration from my mom and mother-in-law, I want to see the tradition of cooking continue in our family.

If you're new to the kitchen, I recommend taking advantage of National Cookbook Month and trying a new dish! Remember, you only learn when you make mistakes, so don't be afraid to fail a few times. And don't rush! Let your pots simmer and your dishes bake at just the right temperature. Good food takes time!

Cooking isn't a skill that everyone enjoys, but it can be very rewarding. There's something to be said for turning ingredients into a tasty dish you can share with others. It's a good feeling — especially when your guests come back for more.



Happy cooking!

-Grady

Man Sues Woman for Texting During a Movie Date

We've probably all found ourselves annoyed with someone who uses their phone during a movie at the theater, but have you ever been so annoyed that you sued them?

That's what Texas resident Brandon Vezmar decided to do back in 2017, following a "first date from hell" (as Vezmar put it) with Crystal Cruz. According to Vezmar, about 15 minutes into "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," Cruz was texting on her phone. When Vezmar asked her to stop texting, she refused. Then, Vezmar suggested that she step outside of the theater to text. Cruz took his suggestion and never returned.

Most people would chalk the experience up to a bad date and move on, but Vezmar was so indignant that he reached out to Cruz the next day and requested that she compensate him \$4 for the pizza and \$17



for the movie ticket he'd paid for. If she didn't pay, he threatened to go after the money in small claims court. When Cruz initially refused, Vezmar made good on his threat and filed a petition in Austin, Texas.

Vezmar made the case that Cruz had violated the cinema's no cellphone policy and had negatively impacted his and other moviegoers' experiences of watching a raccoon and a talking tree (among other beings) save the day. He claimed that while he sought modest damages, it was the principle of the thing that really mattered to him. He called Cruz's behavior "a threat to civilized society."

As entertaining as it might have been to see that case fully make its way through the legal system, the lawsuit was eventually dropped after the TV show "Insider Edition" reunited Cruz and Vezmar and filmed her paying him back for the date. As the camera rolled, he counted his cash and considered them square.

Unlike "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," there were no good guys in this story — but that doesn't make it any less entertaining to read about after the fact!

Corn Mazes Date Back to Ancient Greece? Historical Look at This Wacky Fall Tradition

Exploring a corn maze is a great way to get outside and enjoy the fall season with friends and family — but who came up with the idea of wandering around a corn field for fun? As it turns out, outdoor mazes are an ancient tradition, and the American corn maze of the '90s sprouted from the mazes of 17th-century European gardens. Don't believe it? Here's a quick tour of corn maze history.

The Minotaur and the Maze

Have you heard of Theseus and the Minotaur? This ancient Greek legend tells the story of the hero Theseus, who ventured into an elaborate maze to kill the half-man, half-bull imprisoned there. The monstrous Minotaur was known to eat heroes, and the labyrinth was known to trap them, but Theseus managed to slay the Minotaur and find his way home with the help of a string that he unspooled as he walked.

This story isn't the first recorded example of a maze or labyrinth — according to the World History encyclopedia, "[L]abyrinths and labyrinthine symbols have been dated to the Neolithic Age in regions as diverse as modern-day Turkey, Ireland, Greece, and India, among others" — but it's perhaps the most famous ancient tale. If you've ever navigated a Halloween corn maze staffed by ghouls and ghosts, you can see the parallels!

Garden Art to Get Lost In

Mazes formed from bushes began popping up European gardens in the 17th century. They were a popular artistic feature of upper-class gardens in England, more for looking at than solving. One famous



example is the half-mile-long Hampton Maze, which was planted in 1690 and still stands today.

The Corn Maze: An American Invention

Garden mazes eventually hopped the pond to America but didn't become interactive puzzles until Don Frantz, Creative Director of the American Maze Company, came on the scene. In 1993, Frantz created the "first ever cornfield maze for private and public entertainment" to attract college kids in Pennsylvania. Today, every small-town corn maze is a descendant of his "Amazing Maize Maze." To learn more about that wacky history, visit AmericanMaze.com.

TAKE A *BREAK*



- Black
- Costume
- Ghost
- Halloween
- Haunted
- Moon
- Mystery
- Orange
- Party
- Pumpkin
- Shadows
- Spooky



HALLOWEEN COOKIE PIZZA

Inspired by Pillsbury.com

Image sourced from Pillsbury.com/recipes/halloween-cookie-pizza/67172821-ddfb-49ce-b658-ddc4ef4b5cf3

This one's for the candy corn lovers! This "pizza" is far from traditional, but once you try it, you might find yourself making it every October!

Ingredients

- 1 roll Pillsbury Sugar Cookie Dough
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup candy corn
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup vanilla frosting (store-bought or homemade)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Grease a round, 12-inch pan and line with cookie dough, ensuring the dough covers all but the outer 1/2 inch.
3. Bake for 16–20 minutes until golden brown. Cool completely.
4. Spread the peanut butter over the cooled cookie dough, then sprinkle on the candy corn and chocolate chips.
5. In a small bowl, microwave the frosting for 15 seconds or until liquified.
6. Drizzle the frosting over the "pizza," slice, and serve!

THE DEADLIEST SURGERY IN HISTORY

PERFORMED BY THE 'FASTEST KNIFE IN THE WEST END'

If you had to get surgery in the early 1800s, it could be a death sentence. Before the invention of anesthesia, patients needing amputations and other operations were awake and lucid the entire time. Plus, surgery looked more like something from a horror movie than a lifesaving procedure. And it was during this era that Dr. Robert Liston, who was ironically considered one of the best surgeons of his day, performed the deadliest surgery of all time.

Before getting into the particulars of what transpired during the surgery itself, you should know a little bit about Dr. Liston. Sure, he was a professional surgeon, but he was also a product of his time. He likely worked with dirty saws and knives while wearing a bloody apron in an unsanitary operating room.

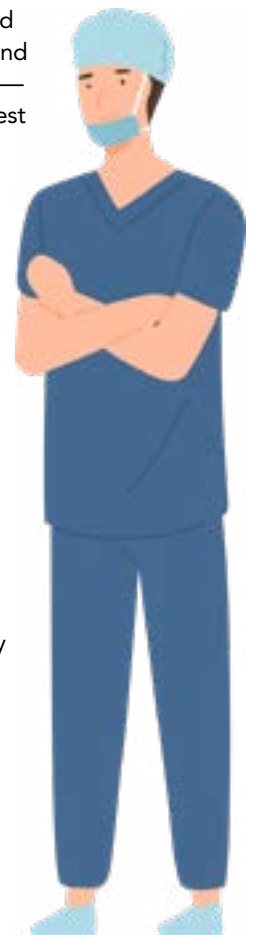
He was also named the "fastest knife in the West End" by medical historian Dr. Richard Gordon. He was known for performing surgeries very quickly, which, in the days before anesthesia, was as much as patients could hope for on the operating table. Only 1 in 10 of his patients died on the operating table, which sounds bad until you learn that a nearby hospital reported 1 in 4 people dying from similar procedures.

Also, in those days, much like crowds used to gather to watch a hanging, people found amputations to be morbidly entertaining — and who wouldn't want to watch the fastest knife in the West End at work?

So, on the fateful day of that deadly surgery, Dr. Liston, ever the showman, cut through his patient's broken, infected leg with incredible speed — so incredible that he didn't realize he had cut off two of his assistant's fingers in the process. Both later died of gangrene (remember the unsanitary tools?).

But theirs were not the only deaths that day. When Dr. Liston went for one of his knives, he whipped it about a little too closely to one spectator, slicing through his coat. While he didn't actually break the man's skin with his knife, the spectator thought he'd been stabbed and died of shock right there in the operating room.

So, instead of saving one life, Dr. Liston killed three people. It's the only known surgery to have resulted in a 300% mortality rate.





GRADY J. FLATTMANN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LLC

“Quality Is No Accident”

Flattmann Law
(985) 590-6182
FlattmannLaw.com

213 W. 21st Ave.
Covington, LA
70433

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOISE, ID
PERMIT 411

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 The Value of Cooking

2 Man Sues Woman for Texting During a Movie Date
Corn Mazes Date Back to Ancient Greece?

3 Halloween Cookie Pizza
The Deadliest Surgery in History

4 The Tiger King Remains Behind Bars

The Tiger King Remains Behind Bars

Judges Deny Joe Exotic’s Appeal

Even more than a year after the release of “Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness,” Joseph Maldonado-Passage, more popularly known as Joe Exotic, continues to make headlines.

Following the fame that came with having his story at the center of a wildly popular Netflix series, Maldonado-Passage saw fit to appeal his 22-year prison sentence for plotting to murder big cat rescue activist Carole Baskin on a few different grounds. However, in July, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected his appeal.

The primary reason for Maldonado-Passage’s appeal, as reported by his legal team, was that Baskin was allowed to attend the entirety of Maldonado-Passage’s trial, despite her role as a witness in the case. As a general rule, witnesses are not permitted to attend proceedings in their entirety, as other witness testimonies might affect the objectivity of their own testimony.

However, Baskin was also in attendance at the trial as a victim, since she was the target of Maldonado-Passage’s murder-for-hire

scheme. Victims are allowed to attend court proceedings so long as the judge decides their testimony (if they are also a witness) will not be affected by their attendance.

Maldonado-Passage’s legal team asserted that Baskin was not a victim of any sort, since the murder-for-hire plot did not result in her murder. However, U.S. Circuit Court judges ruled that she still suffered emotional and financial harm because of the incident.

In addition to this, since Maldonado-Passage conspired to have Baskin murdered two different times, the judge at his trial in 2019 had incorrectly considered them as two separate plots, rather than two attempts at the same murder. The U.S. Circuit Court judges ordered the trial judge to resentence him.

So, even for all that trouble, Maldonado-Passage remains behind bars. However, so long as the Tiger King’s popularity continues, it won’t be surprising if Joe Exotic and his legal team keep searching for ways to get him out of prison.