

Introduction

Now, about that Valentine tradition mentioned on the back cover: We still do the card, but the cake has gone the way of things when you just don't eat that much anymore. The children are gone, the grandchildren are gone, and there is no one to share with, so food spoils or goes stale, so what's the use in making something like a big cake. However, that does not mean we don't eat or enjoy a few of life's delicious morsels. In fact, one of the first things Darlene's mother commented about me the first time Darlene invited me to her parent's home in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, was that I seemed intent on eating the dessert at the beginning of the meal. Growing up in what I now realize was a rather poor family in Indiana, when we had dessert served, it was a very important occasion. As a kid looking at a peach pie, or chocolate cake sitting on the kitchen counter, and knowing what was coming, you ate fast in order to get to the good stuff. Come on DESSERT!