

The Definition of *SUMMMER*

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THAT OLD WEBER GRILL?

Summertime has always been about food and grilling. When I was growing up, my parents had a cabin out in Oklahoma. It was really nothing more than a cinder block hut with a tar roof, but that was our go-to summer vacation destination. We'd go out there for Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and many weekends throughout the summer. I remember it was hotter than blazes out in Oklahoma during the summer, but we'd cool off by jumping in the lake, then listen to the Indy 500 on the radio while we grilled and shot off fireworks. That's where I learned my way around the grill.

I've always enjoyed grilling and cooking. Years ago, when I first got married, I put together my first Weber gas grill. It was a fantastic grill. I learned to do everything well on it. Tragically, time took its toll on my grill, rotting the wooden tables, rusting the burners, and causing the whole thing to deteriorate. A few years ago, I finally had to admit that I needed a new grill, so I got a nice, big Weber gas grill. I'll tell you,

"IN ANY EVENT, IT'S STILL A TREAT TO GO OUT THERE AND GRILL FOR THE FAMILY."



Here's a photo of old faithful, my first grill, that I lovingly put together just before my oldest son was born! I have now found on the internet instructions to rehab it! A summer task!

I miss my old Weber grill. I'd rather go with the simpler one. I knew how to cook on that old Weber grill and not have the fires flare up all the time! In any event, it's still a treat to go out there and grill for the family.

Besides grilling, I also love breaking out the ice cream in the summer. When I was growing up, we made a lot of homemade ice cream. This was back in the days when you had to crank the ice cream churn by hand. It was a big improvement to get a motorized churn where you could drop rock salt in and let it go for a few hours. I have quite a sweet tooth, so while I'm not making ice cream myself as often these days, I won't say no to Graeter's mocha chocolate chunk ice cream.

Summers today are different from the summers of my childhood. For one, we aren't going out to that cinder block cabin anymore. Fortunately, I still get to enjoy nature when I'm out grilling. There are a bunch of trees near our home, so there's plenty of wildlife around, including coyotes, deer, and frogs. There's even a duck that loves to hang out in our pool, much to my wife's dismay.

Another thing that hasn't changed is spending time with my family in the summer. Everyone will come to our house with a dish, and because we have a pool at our house, the grandkids can splash around in the water while we're grilling. Chicken and burgers are crowd favorites, but our family's go-to is bratwurst. The secret to a great brat is to keep the temperature low enough so it doesn't burn. Brown it over low heat for 24 minutes, turning the brats every six minutes. The first bite of a perfectly cooked brat, when you're outside surrounded by family, is the definition of summer.

-Jim Monast

KNOCK KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?

The Wacky Evolution of the Knock-Knock Joke

Knock knock!
Who's there?
Theresa.
Theresa who?
Theresa crowd!

Unless you're living under a rock, odds are you've laughed, grumbled, or groaned in response to a knock-knock joke. You may have even told a few yourself before you realized knock-knock jokes had gone out of style in favor of sarcasm and memes. That's because at their core, knock-knock jokes are a quintessential American experience — and the perfect homegrown fodder for International Joke Day, which falls on July 1. But where did they come from, and why do so many people knock the knock-knock joke today?

Well, according to NPR, knock-knock jokes have had a roller coaster of a history. Near as we can tell, they actually evolved from another kind of joke: the "Do You Know" joke. This style of joke was popular in the early 1900s, and according to an Oakland Tribune article NPR dug up, this was a typical one:

Do you know Arthur?
Arthur who?
Arthurmometer!

Not very funny, is it? Well, over the years this style of back-and-forth jesting evolved into knock-knock jokes. The popularity of the "knock knock" bit of the joke could harken back to Shakespeare, who BestLife credits with "the first-known occurrence of a knock knock, who's-there dialogue" in Act 2 of "Macbeth" (though it likely wasn't intended to be funny), or it could be a reference to 1936 vice presidential hopeful Frank Knox, whose name made "knock knock" irresistible wordplay for the radio.

Whatever the reason, knock knocks were all the rage in the 1930s, to the extent that people formed knock-knock clubs, businesses held knock-knock contests, and orchestras set them to music. However, the heyday was short-lived. In the following years, people started getting sick of knock knocks, and even psychologists turned against them. According to NPR, "people who loved knock-knock jokes were said to have social problems."

Today, knock-knock jokes are still around, but they're mostly considered a game for kids or demoted to the realm of "bad dad jokes." Maybe you think that's warranted, maybe you think it's tragic — either way, odds are the format will continue to evolve and probably outlive us all!



CLIENT STORY

CATHY HIGHMILLER

We all know those folks who just keep on going when the going gets tough and refuse to let life's trials keep them down. There's an old Scottish ballad by Sir Andrew Barton that goes:

*"Fight on, my men.
I am hurt, but I am not slain;
I'll lay me down and bleed awhile.
And then I'll rise and fight again."*

We have lots of clients like this, and they are an inspiration. Life can be hard even in the best of times. But, it's in the hard times we find out what we're made of.

Cathy is one of those folks who just keeps going. Only a few years after graduating high school, she became supervisor of housekeeping at Essex of Springfield. Essex is a skilled nursing facility, so the demands on those who keep it clean and tidy are high. Cathy ran the show over there for 30 years.

In 2008, she added a part-time gig at Springfield Antique Show & Flea Market, keeping the place

cleaned up. Those familiar with the market know it's big. In fact, it's large enough that Cathy had a golf cart to ride from one end to the other. One day, while riding as a passenger on the back of the cart, she fell out, hitting her head on the concrete, bouncing three times, and fracturing her skull. Knocked unconscious, she went to the ER in Springfield and was then transferred to OSU's head trauma department, where they treated Cathy for internal bleeding and seizures.

She required extensive speech therapy as well as learning how to adjust to short- and long-term memory issues. She had to stop driving and cooking unless supervised.

Not surprisingly, in spite of all the rehab efforts, Cathy was granted permanent total disability by the Industrial Commission. But, here's how that story ties in to my statement about people who just keep on going!

Wilma called Cathy recently to wish her a happy birthday. Cathy said she doesn't sleep well and is up a lot. The two fans in her bedroom just weren't cooling things down enough, so she decided at 2 a.m., by herself, to install a window air conditioner!

Wilma said, "No, you did not!" And Cathy said, "Oh, yes, I did!" While most people are sleeping, Ms. Cathy became an instant AC installer!

You go, girl! Keep on keepin' on!



Some Good News



Photo from <https://www.JustGiving.com/fundraising/tomswalkforthenhs>

99-YEAR-OLD VETERAN RAISES MILLIONS FOR COVID-19 SUPPORT

There are many ways to celebrate a big milestone birthday. As World War II veteran Captain Tom Moore approached his 100th birthday in April 2020, he decided to give back and raise money for the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS). Moore, a resident of Bedfordshire, England, wanted to thank the NHS for a new hip he'd recently received. The 99-year-old veteran vowed to walk 100 laps of his garden, 10 each day, leading up to his 100th birthday.

Moore's community in Bedfordshire pitched in pledges and quickly helped him reach his original goal of £1,000 (around \$1,200). Then, when the local news picked up Moore's story, word of his mission spread. Soon donations were pouring in from around the world. By his 100th lap, Moore raised over \$37 million. He said he was "overwhelmed" by the money he raised for the NHS.

"They all deserve a good pat on the back because they're all working so hard, and they continue to work hard and putting themselves into mortal danger day after day," Moore said in an interview with CBS.

The donations went to the NHS and helped support health care workers in the U.K. struggling to handle the COVID-19 pandemic. Moore's good deed made him a household name. When it came time to celebrate his 100th birthday, the world celebrated with him. Two WWII fighter planes flew over Moore's home to mark his birthday, and Moore received over 125,000 birthday cards, including one from Queen Elizabeth II herself. For his actions, Moore was even made an honorary colonel.

By raising much-needed donations to help health care workers, Moore gave people around the world a little hope in difficult times. He reminded us that, no matter our age, we have the power to make a difference and there is hope for tomorrow.

"One day the clouds will roll by and we'll all be very happy people again," said Moore. "It will happen."

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ANSWER

NIBBLES WITH NUG

BREAKFAST SAUSAGE KEBABS

Inspired by [TasteOfHome.com](https://www.tasteofhome.com)

This simple recipe can make any breakfast a little more fun. We recommend pairing your kebabs with your favorite kind of eggs.

INGREDIENTS

- 7 oz frozen, fully cooked breakfast sausage links, thawed
- 20 oz pineapple chunks, drained
- 10 medium-sized, fresh mushrooms
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- Maple syrup, to taste

Equipment

- 5 metal or soaked wooden kebab skewers

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut sausages in half. Thread alternating sausages halves, pineapple chunks, and mushrooms onto kebab skewers. Brush with butter and syrup.
2. Grill over medium heat, regularly turning and basting with syrup, until sausages are lightly browned, about 8 minutes.

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A MEAL FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

Meals on Wheels Goes the Extra Mile

Meals on Wheels doesn't often get the credit it deserves. The international nonprofit ensures those who are unable to buy or make their own meals get the food they need to survive. Of course, for many recipients, the efforts of the organization go far beyond "survival." For those who receive food daily or weekly, those deliveries may be their only source of social interaction. And during times of social distancing, the program became more important than ever.

Meals on Wheels doesn't just serve meals to the elderly and people with disabilities — it also serves those people's pets. In 2019, Meals on Wheels Atlanta realized there was a huge need in their community to feed the pets of senior citizens. It stands to reason that if an elderly individual is unable to shop or cook for themselves, their pets may be in a similar predicament. And when someone's pet is their entire world, making sure the animal is fed and healthy means everything.

In response to this need, Meals on Wheels Atlanta began stocking up on cat and dog food, creating their own pantry to serve the local pet community. When volunteers made their rounds delivering meals to seniors, they made sure to bring cat and dog food along too.

One volunteer with Meals on Wheels Atlanta, Larry Auberbach, had a unique experience delivering meals to Jeffery Jones and his dog, Grizzly. The volunteer told 11Alive News in Atlanta that Jeffery and Grizzly "have their own special relationship." Larry loved Grizzly long before Meals on Wheels Atlanta started the pet pantry because he saw how much Grizzly's companionship meant to Jeffery. Now, Larry enjoys his service that much more since he gets to provide for Jeffery's beloved pet, as well.

On top of delivering food to seniors and their pets, Meals on Wheels Atlanta also delivers pet toys and



pet beds, and they are happy to take in any pet-related food or items for donation. The organization says this endeavor was done out of love, not only for the people they serve but also for the **whole** family — wagging tails, fuzzy whiskers, and all.