



## Kitchen

07-20-2015 by Harry Zirkelbach  
Sun and Star date 34124

The featured players in this drama are in the great beyond.

The seed for these words were planted after last weeks reading, when Mary Lu McGinnis's reading tour ended and she passed out the refreshment, Biscotti. She is known for her quality Biscotti. It happened that the batch made for the Writers on Monday 13 July 2015, did not meet her minimum standards, and she bought the commercial product, made by NONIES, their authentic family recipe. Delicious too.

That takes this family back to when their Denver time began. Neighbors were all friends. No problem for women to walk into anothers' house, unannounced, share conversation, laughter, gossip, and recipes. These two grand dames were a decade apart in age, sisters in adventure. The younger, Greek, came here to Colorado to wed; the elder, 2nd generation Coloradan. Both without husbands.

The younger, handsome widow, pursued by every lecherous Greek elder, married or not, also noted for her gift as cook. The elder, employed during the week, supporting four children, remained at odds with anything resembling cooking.

It is in this difference that their interests joined.

The younger, chef trained in Greece as girl, produced endless morsel of food that served to delight the palette of all. And that became a downfall to her, but joy to the elder's family.

She had become a perfectionist. No matter the Church or social gathering, her Greek preparations of sweets were in demand. She loved complying. Georgia made large batches of finkia, baklava, galakloboursh, with generous portions of honey, ground nuts mixed in with the paper-thin phyllo dough. The later became the challenge, for the brownness of the dough was critical to this diminutive chef. When not perfect, she began over, baking anew until acceptable in her eyes.

These “flaws” began decoration the dinner table of her older comrade, to the delight of the two boys and two girls who tasted and saw nothing but perfection in these pastries. Except they tended to peak around the Greek Church and National holidays. What a blessing when the Orthodox and Catholic Church holidays coincided, especially Christmas and Easter. They created “finger lickin-good” long before Colonel Sanders, as the honey and other sweets dripped from everything baked, especially onto their fingers, hands, table, napkin and clothing.  
A delightful, imperfect, cleanup.

In the subsequent years, then each in our family, children and parents, benefited from her imperfections too. So much so, that from our complements, there might be a suspicion she “tossed” some treats because we hadn’t been spoiled for a month. The ladies friendship continued over thirty years, never waned, became the shared friendship between their children, even into the years Grace Foley’s Greek friend lost just a shade of her physical beauty and charm, no longer had to fend off every amorous Greek male, always remained in demand as cook with her Denver Greek family.

