

# Seclusion not a problem

This makes eleven weeks since I have been inside of our grocery store, or any other store for that matter. That's over two months I have not spent any money, interacted with friends, bought my own groceries, or had lunch with friends or family. But yet when I think about this situation I remember back when I would visit with my grandparents up in Montgomery county. During the days there we never left the house; they had no ve-



Peggy's Take

hicle. We very rarely had company unless my Aunt Ida or Grandma Key was visiting. And, truly I don't remember being lonely or secluded. Maybe it was my age that knew none of those feelings, but I remember just being content and happy playing by myself or helping

my grandmother with her chores. Of course, the only semi-tech thing in the whole house was an old tubed radio that sit on the table just inside the door right next to my granddaddy's straight chair. He would lean back on the two back legs and listen to that old radio every night. I can remember him listening to Amos and Andy sometimes at night. And then of course there was the Grand Ole Opry if I was there on a Saturday

night. During the day we were always busy with sweeping the floor with a little broom sage broom tied together with twine, or cooking on the old black wood stove, or in the spring and summer working in her garden right beside their house. And me,

I was usually playing in the old corn crib where I had a playhouse built with one of my dolls, usually my favorite, "Margie".

There was no worry about stock markets, taxes, government take-overs, and surely no Coronavirus. You could not turn on the television, because they did not have one, and watch the president or governor telling you to stay at home or get on your computer or iPad and look up needed information. They used the old passed down knowledge to heal colds, sore throats, cuts and scrapes. They, I am sure were worried about some things like the weather, family, and when to butcher the hog or plant corn. Nothing like the things we are concerned with today.

My days for the past few months have begun with me checking how many of our neighbors have come down with Covid 19 from yesterday's count. I don't like this, and I do not want this to be my normal from now on, no matter the time left. I want to get up in the mornings and look forward to cooking and visiting with my family that night or going to lunch with friends or going to Dirt

Cheap. (I really miss that!) Today as I sit here writing this on my Apple computer, my dreams and my hopes are for an end to our concerns and for my life to go back to a place just like that place in Montgomery county.

My grandmother grew sweet potatoes in their garden, and we would lay them in her oven and cook them really slow till all the sticky brown syrup would run out. Those that were left were made into sweet potato bread.

### SWEET POTATO BREAD

- ¾ cup of sugar
- ½ cup of oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup of sweet mashed potatoes
- 1 t. vanilla
- ½ t. nutmeg
- 1 t. cinnamon
- 1 ¾ cup s. r. flour

Mix all dry ingredients and then add the wet and mix just until incorporated. Pour into a greased loaf pan and bake for 1 hour at 350\*. Of course, we would serve this warm with some of her churned butter but "just" butter is great.

*\* Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*



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