



Meet a Special Mother - Shirley DeSantis



Shirley was a home cook, who became a champion recipe contest winner, creating some of the best recipes. She was also everyone's best friend, lending a helping hand and giving them encouragement to create their own recipes. She had 3 children, one daughter and two sons and an enthusiastic husband that teamed with her in several contests. She was a legend in the culinary contesting world.

Apple Orchard Chocolate Chippers

One of Shirley DeSantis's winning recipes

1/2 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup apple butter
1-1/2 to 2 cups unbleached flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup mini sweet chocolate chips
1 apple, cored and fine shredded
1/2 cup chopped nuts (we used pecans)

- In a large mixing bowl, cream butter, sugars, egg, and vanilla until light and fluffy.
- Add apple butter; mix well.
- Add 1 cup flour, baking soda, and salt, and mix until well blended.
- Gradually add remaining ingredients just until dough is no longer wet and sticky.
- Stir in chocolate chips, shredded apple, and nuts.
- Drop by Tablespoons onto lightly greased baking sheets, placing dough about 2 inches apart.
- Use an upper oven rack, bake in a preheated 350 degrees F. oven for 12 to 14 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Makes about 2-1/2 to 3 dozen cookies

Cook's Note: I rolled some of them into balls and lightly pressed the tops before baking for flatter cookies.

About the Recipe: Shirley loved to use apple butter in her recipes and for this one, she added it to a chocolate chip cookie recipe. The apple-sweet, little cookies are super easy to make. They are crispy on the outside but have a tender cake-like texture inside. It was included in the book, *Search for the Perfect Chocolate Chip Cookie*.