

## APRONS MAKING A COMEBACK IN AREA KITCHENS

By Jennifer Silverstein



CUSTOMERS LOOK AT AND MODEL APRONS AT BRANDON'S ROLLING PIN KITCHEN EMPORIUM. THE APRON IS MAKING A COMEBACK TO KITCHENS EVERYWHERE, AND ROLLING PIN OFFERS 50 DIFFERENT STYLES.

If you are still scurrying to finish your last-minute Christmas shopping, consider stopping into Rolling Pin Kitchen Emporium in Brandon for the newest fashion comeback: the apron.

The apron is making a comeback in a big way. According to the blog Addicted to Aprons (www.addictedtoaprons.com), "By the 1950s, the apron was seen as a symbol of the happy American housewife, along with high heels and a pearl necklace."

With the feminist movement in the 1960s and 70s, the apron went to the wayside as women began to enter the workforce and not be the stay-at-home mom with the apron, preparing meals and doing housework.

Now, young ladies are remembering their grandmothers and mothers in the kitchen cooking fondly with memories of food and family. Some of them are using their old hand-me-down heirloom aprons, but others are buying retro fashionable

aprons, with Website www.etsy.com selling many as well (simply search for "aprons").

The apron is making such a big comeback, in fact, that it was featured in the blockbuster Sex and the City 2, with character Charlotte wearing one while decorating cupcakes with her two young daughters.

And local cooking store Rolling Pin is seeing an increase, according to Marketing Manager Kelly Bock, in the amount of aprons for both men and women.

"The aprons are coming back because more people are starting to cook and bake at home," said Bock.

For women's aprons, they are usually decorative and feminine, often with polka dots, fruit, ruffles, lace and other womanly accents. Some of the aprons at Rolling Pin say things like "Domestic Diva" or "Hostess in Training."

For men, who usually wear their aprons while grilling, many choose to wear funny aprons with a joke or saying on it. Other times, they say things like "King of the Grill" or "Grill Master."

Rolling Pin has more than 50 different styles of aprons available at its brick-and-mortar store, located at 2080 Badlands Dr. in Brandon, and also has them for sale in its online store at www.rollingpinonline.com.

Prices range from \$14.99 to \$39.99 for aprons at Rolling Pin.

For more information, please call the store, which is open on Christmas Eve from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., at 653-2418.

## AMTRAK: TRAIN TO EVERYWHERE

By Suzy Wiesenhart



AMTRAK TRAINS TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND ARE DEFINITELY A CHEAPER WAY TO TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION. VISIT THE AMTRAK WEBSITE FOR SCHEDULES AND ROUTES.

My husband, Tom, and I went to visit our son and daughter-in-law in Greensboro, North Carolina for Thanksgiving and decided to take the train one way. It was going to be an adventure. We got on the Amtrak Silver at the station in downtown Tampa. There is absolutely no security. We had three bags, two carry-ons per person, plus all the blankets, pillows and food you can carry. I guess terrorists don't travel by train. There was a sniffing dog who walked through the car, but we're not sure what he was sniffing for.

Anyway, we took our seats, which have more than twice as much leg room as an airplane, plus a foot rest and it reclined for total comfort. We did not get a sleeper car, as it was almost \$300 more, and were quite happy to sleep in our seats for the \$99 one way for both of us.

Most people were making their way home to loved ones for the Thanksgiving weekend. It was quite a mixture of travelers -moms with kids, older couples, college-age kids and business people - all traveling by one of the oldest modes of transportation. The conductors still wear their same uniforms with round hats, and although they don't collect tickets, they do write down your destination on a piece of paper to put it in a slot above your head so they don't miss your stop. No computers in sight. The 15-and-a-

half hour trip seemed long because of the 10 stops it made at various cities throughout Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

What was funny is that we went to the dining car five cars up to grab dinner; we sat at a table with an elderly gentleman also named Tom, who was traveling to see his children. He said, "I don't like to fly, but my wife flew; I like the train instead." It turned out that he and Tom went to high school in the same city in Illinois (10 years apart) and even knew some of the same places and people.

It was a great experience but a very long, bumpy ride. It really took me back to a slower time when it was the only means of travel and I had a better understanding of what our forefathers had to endure, except for the WiFi at every seat.

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