

Not every man is born with a tool in his hand — I have proof

Some men think that women are born cooks. Ask the Big Guy and he will tell you about the stew I used to make that you could stand a spoon up in. A natural cook I am not.

Some women think that men are born with screwdrivers in their hands — natural handymen. After 20 years of marriage and countless, shall we say, unusual repair

jobs, I know a lot better. One afternoon, way back in our city days, I first saw the light. Our kitchen tap needed a new washer. Trying to be helpful, I suggested that

the water be turned off before the repairs began. Knowing better, he advised me that it was a simple job and the water could stay on. Fearing the worst, I left

for higher ground, the upstairs bedroom. Not long after, I heard frantic screams. Racing downstairs, I found the Big Guy holding a salad bowl over a geyser of



Rural Route Ruth

Ruth LeBlanc

water, rushing out where the tap once was.

The water was ricocheting off his face and all over the counters and floor.

I will never forget the potato floating by the stove or the look of utter disbelief on the Big Guy's face. You can flood quickly, we found out.

Being an understanding wife, I did what I had to. I told him he should have listened to me in the first place and this would not have happened.

As the water flew, so did he. Heading for the downstairs water valve, his wet socks slipped on the wooden stairs and down he went — flying through the air.

Having survived the fall, he later told me that the water pressure blew the faucet off with such force that it barely missed his forehead as he struggled with the washer.

Moving to the country and our little house of horrors, he has learned through trial and error how to approach different repair jobs.

Just the other week the handle on the crank-out window needed a new hole made.

As he drilled, the bit hopped and next thing he knew the bit went through his finger.

As he clutched his bleeding finger and grimaced in pain, I kept quiet. That much I have learned.

One rural acquaintance lives in Sleepy Hollow. I live in Sleepy Hell. As soon as one improvement is made, another needs doing.

There are two types of Rural Routers — those who move into brand, spanking new homes and others who take the challenge of an older rural home.

To those of you in problem-free homes, aren't you lucky. To those of you in older, more challenging homes remember, you've got to laugh.

Having my own Tim The Toolman, there is no repair job too big for him to tackle — lucky we both have a sense of humor!

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