

Excerpted from the *Idaho Statesman*, Boise, Idaho, January 4, 1996, Life Section, page one, by Ellie Rogers. A full copy of the article is on microfilm in the Boise Public Library, Boise, Idaho.

"Meet the 'foodies'"

"... Call them "foodies:" homebodies who view food and cooking as entertainment. Dinners must be prepared with the best cookware, the sharpest knives and the latest gadgets. And the wine ... oh, yes, the wine must be the perfect compliment..."

"Robin and Robert Young are also members of the foodies cult. 'We see cooking as a source of enjoyment and sharring with each other,' says Robin... 'Sitting down and eating a meal together or with other people is a way of becoming closer. It's a bonding process,' adds Robert..."

Robert does Oriental. Robin is more French and Italian. She also loves to experiment with vegetarian dishes and cooking with grains.

Twice this year the couple prepared a boned turkey stuffed with buffalo. And they hauled all the necessary gear to California to prepare Thanksgiving dinner for family. They love to take cooking classes and shop for new cookware says Robert, moving from an easy chair in the couple's cozy living room to the kitchen. He retrieves a razor-sharp Joyce Chen chopping knife he'll use to prepare a dinner in a Joyce Chen wok. 'It's *Tool Time* in the kitchen' quips Robin, referring to the fictional tool show in TV's *Home Improvement*.' Robert admits that like many men who cook, he views his cookware as tools to be revered...

'Men choose their cooking tools with the same scrutiny they'd use when buying a chain saw,' says Toni Douglas, owner of the *Grand Gourmet* in Boise...

Ed Slough, program head at the Culinary Arts Program at Boise State University, also compares the trend to *Tool Time*. 'Men and women approach cooking differently. It used to be that women were always in the kitchen and did survival type cooking, and we didn't have the money to buy all the fancy stuff.' Now that people are entertaining more at home, men are becoming more interested in cooking, he says. 'But they just can't use any spoon that will bend. They need one that will lift a railroad car. Their tools just have to be racier,' Slough says..."