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Arizona Iced Tea and other T's

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This morning I had an idea. A cheap one mind you as I've had to be careful with my pocketbook. I thought, "Where can I find Arizona Raspberry flavored tea in Calgary?" So I began a quest and doing research doesn't just mean sitting at the computer. Why I say that is I've loved this tea since the first time I tasted in back in the early 90's. It was carried for awhile by Jones Soda Company but they sold the distributorship to someone in Vancouver and I lost the trail from there.

Arizona comes in those large, brightly decorated cans that I love. When Sis goes down to Las Vegas to visit family she always picks me up a can of Arizona and the past few times Luzianne tea bags. Supposed to be the best Southern tea for real brewed iced tea out there. I've enjoyed it but I also play around with a variety of other tea including the Orange Pekoe from London Drugs, Earl Gray, White Tea's from China, a Corn tea a few times which gives an unusual sweetness as long as you don't overdo it. Other favorites are Tetley and when I go to Chili's I enjoy their tea from Texas. I have a gift from them of a very large tea bag which I need to work on as it will give me a weeks worth of iced tea. As I drink it so much it a lot I make half a gallon with 3 tea bags every 2-3 days depending on the weather.

With this love for Arizona I had a stashed can I was waiting to drink which Sis picked up but when I checked it a few weeks back I found it was Canadian styled which means they had added lemon flavor. When I first got to Canada and drank the Nestea plunge with excess sugar and excess lemon I couldn't stand it and tried to get the restaurant to make me some real tea. She had never made it before and brought me a glass of cold water to put the tea bag in. That didn't work so she brought me a glass of hot water and a separate glass of ice. I guess I must have laughed and cried because I realized I was in a different country.

Anyway I ended up having to put aside my love for tea except when mom made it. I wasn't into making my own so went through years of experimenting with different drinks and drink combinations trying to find a better replacement. Apple juices and drinks, Cranberry/raspberry combinations, and Lemonaid

and orange juices. Those went their way and I got back into Pepsi and Dr Pepper big time and they are still part of my drink menu. But when I got injured and a multitude of health problems advanced I got back into real brewed tea. I found a tea pot at a garage sale I liked and heated my own water and put in sugar to taste. Both mom and sis suggested honey and I added that but it wasn't quite enough so I mixed in a taste of sugar. I probably go through half a gallon of honey every 3 months which can be quite expensive.

All these things were wonderful but I loved the Arizona Raspberry flavored tea but when I couldn't find it I turned to Lipton's real brewed tea with the same flavor. That was great but the Arizona brand began to vanish from store shelves as other types took over. Finally I relied on Sis to pick me up a can on her annual trips.

But now with terrorism, the biggest T around these days, the airlines have instituted new laws about liquids which sounds like Arizona is off the menu. And that hurts. So I thought about it this morning. What do I do? Do I travel down to the states, to Montana to get my fix? Or do I try to find who the new distributor is and see if I can find it in Calgary. Surely someone must have it. After a fruitless search on the Internet I decided I would walk over to the local 7-11. It was a quiet morning and there was only one customer in the store. The big boss was there talking to one of her men and there were two employees behind the counter waiting for customers. I searched the bottled shelves and was disappointed when I didn't see any Arizona cans. I decided to speak to the guy in the red shirt and found out his name was Adam. We started talking about Arizona and he said "We carry it" and sure enough they did. It was carried in bottles with colorful new styles. Adam told me the distributor was Coke and he would make sure that they brought in the Raspberry flavored tea and he said it should be in by Sunday. I told him I'd be back by next Monday morning and he was first on my list.

So, here I am writing this little article on Arizona iced tea. A fan for sure and yet one who has learned to find you sometimes have to put your feet to walking and your lips to talking.

I pray I will continue to enjoy real brewed iced tea for many years to come. I'll make it and I'll buy it. And hopefully some day when I get to heaven they'll have tea there. And in heaven they will surely know the mention of 'real brewed' because I've

talked about tea to heaven before. And in the process of life I pray they have ice also even if someone needs to climb a mountain and find it in some crevice.

Anyhow I pray you have a good day. May Gods blessing grant you the healing tea of joy of hope.

Love to All.