Chicken & Dumplings

From Jo Ann Hess - my mother's recipe Serves 6 to 8

Chicken:

5 to 6 pound ready-to-cook stewing chicken, cut up or 2 large broiler-fryers, cut up
2 sprigs parsley
4 celery ribs with leaves
1 carrot, pared and sliced
1 small onion, cut up
2 teaspoons salt
¹/₄ teaspoon pepper
1 bay leaf

In a Dutch oven or large kettle, add enough water to chicken to cover. Add the above ingredients to the chicken and water. Cover: bring to boiling and simmer for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours or till meat is tender.

For Dumplings (I sometimes double the dumpling recipe to have more dumplings)

1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ½ cup milk
 2 tablespoons cooking oil
 2 tablespoons snipped parsley

Sift together flour, baking powder, and the ½ teaspoon salt. Combine milk and oil; add with snipped parsley to dry ingredients; stir just to moisten.

Drop from tablespoon directly onto chicken in boiling stock. Cover tightly; return to boiling. Reduce heat (don't lift cover); simmer 12 to 15 minutes.

Remove dumplings and chicken to hot platter; keep hot.

For Chicken Gravy: (I sometimes 1 ¹/₂ times the gravy)

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup cold water
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Broth from the chicken. Strain the broth. Measure 1 quart broth into saucepan. Heat to boiling.

Combine the flour and water; gradually add to broth, mixing well. Cook, stirring constantly, till mixture thickens. Add the salt and pepper.

To Serve: pour chicken gravy over the chicken and the dumplings.