By Pam Rogers

“I can’t take nothin’ for it and I don’t want ‘em to thank me or nothin’, or it won’t work.” Those were the words of my great-uncle, Arthur Steele, trying to explain, without giving away the secret of how it’s done, how he “spooks” warts. He says it was “given” to him by an old Indian Chief in Bellfoose, South Dakota, when he was twenty-one years old.

To “just forget it” might be the easiest way to get rid of a wart. Uncle Arthur says he just has to put his finger on it and you have to forget about it and not look at it for three days. After the three days are up, the wart should be gone. Unless, of course, you gave him something for doing it, such as just thanking him. Then the wart will not go away and it will have to be spooked all over.

If Uncle Arthur wants to continue spooking warts he can’t tell anyone how it’s done. When he feels he’s ready to pass it along, he will tell one person and then he will no longer be able to remove warts, but whoever he tells will, until they tell someone else.

He and his wife Lola have been married for thirty-four years, and have one son, Rick, who is thirty. They also have two dogs named Missy and Ringo that stay with them in the house. When you knock on the front door, Ringo jumps up on it and pulls the curtain back to see who’s out there. Meanwhile, Missy jumps up on the couch and covers herself up with a blanket and goes to sleep. Uncle Arthur says he’s even taken a wart off of Missy!

He says that he’s probably spooked about four thousand warts and he gets asked to do it a lot.

His wife, Lola, tells us how he removed a wart from her. She said he put his finger on it and “did whatever it is he does” and in three days it was gone. Lola says they have been married for thirty-four years and he hasn’t even told her how he does it! So chances are he won’t tell anyone else for quite awhile.

I guess that means you’re out of luck if you want to learn how to spook warts, because chances are that anyone who knows how will not tell until they get good and ready. And Arthur Steele is not ready yet!

If you are not so fortunate as to know someone who spooks warts, there are other ways to get rid of them. There is no guarantee that any of them will work, but how will you know until you try? Some are listed below:

Cut long fingernails and plant them in the ground. Then the wart or warts will go away.

Put well water on the wart or warts after the water has set out for about one day. Then returning the penny to the person.

Rub chalk on the wart.

Wish a wart away.

Put a dead black cat in a graveyard at midnight.

Cures compiled by Pam Athon and Paula Murray

Arthur Steele has an unusual talent—the ability to “spook” warts. He is pictured here with his wife, Lola, and their two dogs, Missy and Ringo. Mr. Steele has not only removed a wart from Lola, he even cured Missy of the problem once!

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