



FROM FIREPLACE TO MICROWAVE

1750 1850 1950 1992

The Fourth Annual Historical Society Exhibit will feature four typical kitchens as they might have existed in 1750, 1850, 1950 and 1992.

This exhibit may cause you to stop and think about the various things we do today that were completely unknown even a hundred years ago. We can cook without a fire, on a piece of what seems to be furniture, with no obvious means of heat. We have microwave ovens that take just minutes to prepare a meal from "scratch". Our freezers keep food fresh for months. We have frozen TV dinners for the person in a hurry. We also must not overlook our powdered eggs, milk, and other dehydrated foods, our instant liquid breakfasts, cake mixes, soup mixes, and dozens of other convenience foods.

John Blessington and Carl DalBon will demonstrate how food was prepared and preserved in a 1750 kitchen. An elaborate fireplace, complete with a crane, has been constructed by Harold Weigold for the exhibit.

Typical table settings for a farm family and for a more affluent family will be featured, showing the difference in utensils and dishware of the time.

Samples of a colonial bread made of corn and rye flour will be served by Carl and John.

The 1850 kitchen will feature a cast iron stove. The convenience of the stove for cooking had more influence on its eventual popularity than all other

factors combined. Food was said to be better cooked in a fireplace, but the operation was slow and much labor was required to prepare a meal. The utensils and pots and pans of the 1850 era will be shown.

A handpump and a simulated iron sink complete with huck towel and roller bar will be shown, along with an icebox, which was a lined box designed to make the ice last longer. There will also be a cabinet of preserved foods and jellies.

A table will be set for two, featuring china and flatware that were used in Willington during that time period.

Pam Wheeler and Isabel Weigold are in charge of this kitchen and will be serving samples of baked beans and brown bread.

The 1950's kitchen exhibited by Joan Nevers and Thelma King will feature a Post World War II kitchen. The convenience of the clean heat that gas and electric stoves provided eliminated the smoke and fumes of a coal or wood stove. Housewives would no longer suffer the heat of a fireplace or wood stove in the summer since stoves could now be turned off when not in use.

Easy-to-care-for enamelled steel cabinets were popular during this time period; refrigerators and freezers would revolutionize the way food was preserved.

Thelma and Joan will have a table setting of inexpensive china and samples of salted peanut crisp cookies made in that time period.

The 1992 kitchen will feature a microwave oven which was the top-selling kitchen appliance in 1983, and will show the relaxed style of living and the typical teenager's eating habits.

Heather Green and Felix DeLaTorre are in charge of this kitchen and will serve pizza and raw cookie dough which, if you haven't heard, is the rage these days.

In addition to the four traditional kitchens, there will be a General Store set up on the stage of the Old Town Hall. This will be Miner Grant's General Store which was established in 1797 on the Town Green. Karyn O'Donnell is in charge of this exhibit, which will feature food, housewares, hardware, farm supplies -- almost anything you might think of.

We are looking for items for the general store, such as: tinware, dishware, cookware, basketweaving materials, trunks, saddles, harnesses, washboard, potbellied stove, etc. If you have anything you think would be appropriate to a general store - please let one of the executive committee know.

The Executive Committee members are: John Blessington, Betty Robertson, Thelma King, Isabel Weigold, Harold Weigold, Karyn O'Donnell and Joan Nevers. They have been meeting since the spring to plan and organize this exhibit and hope you will come and bring your friends. The date is September 12 - from 10:00 to 4:00 in the old Town Hall while the Flea Market is in progress.

CASTLES, GARDENS AND CATHEDRALS OF SCOTLAND

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM - Date: Sept. 18, 1992
and POT LUCK Place: Center School
Time: 6:30 P.M.**

SPEAKER: Professor Fred Cazel

We are fortunate to have Professor Fred Cazel as our guest speaker at our annual meeting and pot luck supper. Professor Cazel taught Medieval English History for 40 years at the University of Connecticut and is now retired. Since his retirement, he has traveled abroad several times to both Scotland and England, where he provided historical background for a tour group sponsored by the Museum of Natural History.

He will show pictures of cathedrals, gardens and castles taken on his latest trip this past spring in Scotland. So come and enjoy! Non-members are welcome as always. Come and bring a friend and a favorite dish.

WILLINGTON'S HISTORICAL SLIDES TO BECOME PART OF SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Some years ago, the Historical Society had many of their oldest photographs made into slides, which have been shown to many groups, including Willington school children, over the years. Just recently, the social studies teachers suggested that these slides could be copied and put on videotape, with an accompanying narration. However, they wanted to have the presentation changed to fit their curriculum, focusing on industries and immigration.

Isabel has been working on this project during the summer, and has included as a part of the narration the voices of Monroe Usher, who explained the ice works in Willington, and William Parizek who talks about the button shops and the process of making buttons.

This presentation will be a permanent part of the social studies curriculum, and has been enthusiastically endorsed by Superintendent Michael McKee. If this proves successful, presentations with a different emphasis could also be done.

MUSIC OF THE FORTIES PROGRAM A GREAT SUCCESS!

The 'Music of the Forties', presented last May, was an unqualified success. Those who had not bought tickets in advance found a waiting line to get in. We had to turn some people away, unfortunately. All those who performed were enthusiastically received. There were some new performers, along with those who had participated the two years before. The Community Chorus sang some hit tunes from movie or Broadway Shows such as South Pacific and Meet Me in St. Louis. The Three A's, The Never Beens, and the Quarter Notes were particularly popular and well-recognized past performers.

We were particularly fortunate to have a Willington vocalist, Valerie Voboril, who since has been touring Europe with a traveling company, entertaining the troops.

The Willington Brass Quintet, David and Carol Jordan and Aldona Downing also entertained the audience and left everyone wanting more.

We took in \$740.00, which went towards the Renovation of the Town Hall Fund.

TOWN HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

To date we have raised \$8,687 toward our goal of \$12,000. The town hall has been painted and the new chandeliers (all three of them) have been installed. There is a light in the foyer as well as new carpeting.

To be done: We need to get 200 new chairs before we can refinish the floor. The Board of Selectmen has set aside \$4,000 in this year's budget, which could be used to purchase chairs, but they require that we put it out to bid, as too much time has elapsed since we last asked for bids. At that time, we received only one response out of four requests.

PLEASE SEE THE OTHER SIDE FOR
IMPORTANT LETTER FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT'S

CAT



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Members are reminded that dues for the new year 1992-93 are payable as of September 30. There is a membership form attached indicating the fees. If there is any change in your address, please note this on the form.

By Comm.
Oct. 21st

COMING EVENTS

September 12 - Exhibit and Flea Market on Willington Hill - 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

September 18, - 6:30 P.M.: Annual meeting and Potluck Supper at Center School
Presentation: Castles, Gardens and Cathedrals of Scotland by Professor Fred Cazel

November 13 - Possible presentation on Antique Furniture

Check T. Hall

November 19-20 - St. Jude's Bazaar

From the desk of
His Most Royal Majesty

FARFLE I

King Of Willington
Protector Of The (Feline) Realm
Lord Of His Domain
Master Of All He Surveys

Well, I guess Autumn is coming again. I can tell because the old man has pulled out his clackety-clack machine again and sits at his desk, pounding at the keys instead of doing his primary job, which is petting me.

He says it's because the Historical Society is gearing up again for another year. I don't see what is so important about it. Nothing worthwhile could have possibly happened more than four years ago, when I came to town and assumed the crown.

The old man says different, but what does he know? He says that European settlers were living here three hundred years ago and that this was a hunting ground for the Nipmucks for thousands of years before that. Yawn!

The old man says that the Society is going to start off the year with an exhibit at the Flea Market on the Green on September 12. The subject of the exhibit, food, is interesting enough, but there is not one mention of what cats have been fed through the years. It is only about the strange things that people eat. The exhibit will give information on their diets from what he calls the year 1750, (although the proper designation is 238 B.F., [Before Farfle]), and then in 138 B.F., 38 B.F., and present day. The old man says they didn't have cans in 238 B.F., so I suppose they must have just turned an empty can opener to call my ancestors to dinner.

The old man says that on September 18 they are going to have their meeting at the Center School. It starts at six-thirty P.M. with a pot luck supper. He says I can't go, but I don't know why. I'd be willing to bring a mouse for anyone who wanted one in the hope that someone would have some smoked salmon for me.

After the supper there will be a program on Castles, Cathedrals, and Gardens of Scotland. That should be interesting, I understand that there are mice in the castles and moles in the gardens. But since the program is being put on by a human he'll probably just talk about boring things like architecture, plantings and aesthetic beauty. How dull! I think I'll stay home and take a nap instead.

The other programs haven't been set yet. There are rumors of one on antique furniture, one I could really sink my claws into if he would let me. And of course in May they will do their music program. He won't let me yowl at that one, either.

The old man is coming back so I'll have to wrap this up. He doesn't like me playing on his clackety-clack machine. He says it's because I interfere with his writing but I think he's just jealous.

After all, I'm a better writer than he is.

