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August 24, 1972

Cookbook Committee
CURE
3386 30th St
San Diego, 92104

Mr. Walter J. Porter suggested I contact you. Our group is endeavoring to put out a series of cooking pamphlets emphasizing San Diego history and recipes from the Victorian time period.

Would anyone on your committee be interested in working with us in this venture, and if so if we could have a ~~list~~ list of names we could provide them with additional literature.

Any help you can give us will be appreciated. We hope to make this series a continuing project and we want to tie together bits of San Diego history with its cooking habits.

Sincerely,

Kay Westover

Kay Westover
2244 Front
San Diego, 92101

P.S . We all have copies of the CURE cookbook and just hope this new venture can be 1/2 as successful.

THE VICTORIAN KITCHEN COMMITTEE

At the time the airport purchased the property located at 2244 Front Street because the roof was too high, the house faced demolition. The house is old; it does not have the fancy chandeliers or exquisite staircases which many of the houses of its period had. It is just a plain house, but it has something else--it is comfortable and warm in a day of pressure. It belonged to a schoolteacher at the turn of the century and before that to a stockbroker--ordinary working people.

A group got together in some hope to attempt to save the house. The first thought was to gather recipes to get out a cookbook with the proceeds to help lower the roof and restore the house. Structurally it is sound but the house needs painting inside and out and the floors must be refinished.

However, the members realized that a oookbook as such was not different and from this standpoint it would be preferable to start a series of cooking pamphlets which would contain not only cooking hints and methods of cooking but favorite recipes from those living in San Diego along with part of the city history. The brochures would be put on sale to help restore the house. Emphasis would be on recipes used in Victorian times but thoroughly tested.

The Victorian Kitchen Committee

It was then the idea of the Victorian Test Kitchen evolved. Many people of different age groups, socio-economic groups, ethnic groups were working on the brochure idea and they asked themselves why not a real test type kitchen--one in which the group could come to know more about each other, a kitchen in which the best cooking ideas and arts and crafts, music, general culture, books, etc, could be exchanged on a volunteer basis. For example, some senior citizens might be interested in sharing some of their skills with others. One might, for example, be willing to give piano lessons to younger individuals. Mrs. Procter, one of the group members, is Editor of California Senior Citizen newspaper and she has been featuring a recipe from the kitchen in each issue.

After the group incorporates, it plans to raise funds and slowly reproduce a Victorian kitchen complete with pantry to eventually help feed some of the less fortunate. The Victorian kitchen would be an experimental kitchen with a purpose. As several of the kitchen members are excellent cooks, they might be willing eventually to give cooking lessons.

One of the members of the group is a management consultant and after analyzing the house he felt it would best serve as a nucleus meeting place that the present unit 4 with the view could be made into a meeting hall and small neighborhood center and that the test kitchen itself would require larger facilities. The central location would be ideal for this nuclear group.