



Book
Club
Kit

**THE
YEAR WE CHASED
THE FIREWORKS**

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Discussion Questions



1. Why was the Bicentennial so celebrated?
2. What circumstances made parenting different in the 1970s?
3. Describe a time when you didn't fit in?
4. If you were Tottie' at the sectional competition, how would you have reacted?
5. Who was a stronger influence on Tottie—Joe, or Susie?
6. Which character frustrated you and why?
7. Was Tottie free to make her own choices?
8. What scene do you remember vividly?
9. How has travel influenced the 21st century?
10. How festive will America's 250th anniversary be?

Bicentennial Factual Events



The '76 Bennington Flag—Associated with the revolutionary battle at Bennington the thirteen stars represent the original colonies, while the '76 signified the signing date of the Declaration of Independence. As a result, the flag became popular during the Bicentennial.

Bicentennial Youth Debates—Nearly a million high school and college students participated in the speech contests. The prizes, for example, \$6,000 for a regional first-place win, were drastically reduced to a \$1,500 savings bond. Forty-eight finalists received a trip to Washington, D.C., but there is minimal documentation that college scholarships were awarded as advertised.

Fire Hydrant Painting—Ruth Von Karowsky created and copyrighted her *plug* designs, which were used throughout the United States. The red, white, and blue paint endured for much of 1976, and in some communities, through the following year.

Tall Ships Parade—Officially known as Operation Sail, sixteen tall ships from the United States, and some as far away as Russia, were cheered by at least seven million people in New York and New Jersey. The floating armada was the largest parade since the Revolutionary War.

Bicentennial Souvenirs



7Up Cans-Wildly popular, collecting all fifty 7Up cans was once a challenge. Today, however, fifty years later, a pyramid can easily be completed by shopping on eBay if a state is missing.

Commemorative Stamps-To build excitement for the Bicentennial, the United States Postal Service issued commemorative stamps beginning in 1971. Over a hundred different stamps were issued to celebrate America's 200th birthday, including a sheet of fifty state flags, each in order of entry into the union. Some of the more popular were the four-se-tenant block featuring The Boston Tea Party and others depicting key events of the American Revolution.

Bicentennial Coins-Three coins featured the date range of 1776-1976, with new reverse designs issued by the U.S. Mint to commemorate America's birthday. The half-dollar, depicting a colonial drummer, was the first launched in July of 1975. Independence Hall, on the reverse side of the quarter, was the second in August, followed by the Liberty Bell and the Moon on the reverse of the one-dollar coin of President Eisenhower.

Tottie's Food Favorites

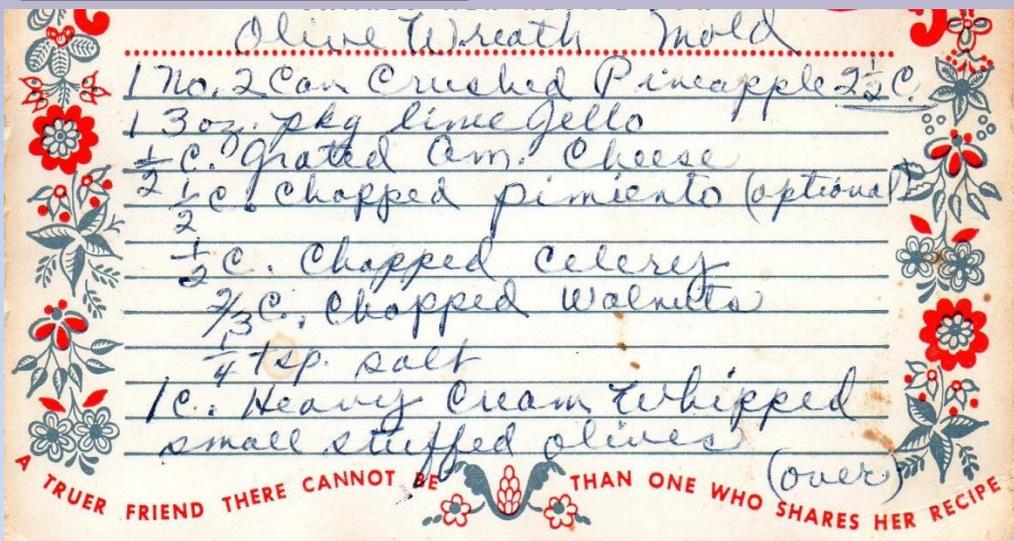


Sloppy Joe's

- 1.5 pounds lean hamburger
- Some diced onion
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup ketchup

Brown hamburger, onion, salt and pepper, transfer to sauce pan. Add in soup, ketchup, chili powder, paprika. Simmer covered for 2 hours. Serve on buns.

Olive Wreath Mold



Drain pineapple. Heat pineapple syrup to a boil. Add to lime Jello, and stir until dissolved. Cool. when gelatin thickens add pineapple, nuts Cheese, celery + salt. Fold in whipped Cream. Put sliced olives in base of mold (ring mold) 9" | Pour gelatin mixture into mold and chill to firm. Makes 8-10 servings.

Playlist

