

Kingston Chronicles

The Kingston Historic District Commission held their second “Remember When Gathering” on May 6. The Commission is gathering information and stories from residents depicting the history of daily life back in the good old days. At the first outing, we discussed town meeting places, education, churches, and celebrations in town. The theme for this most recent event was business and commercial related activities in our town...so who better to act as moderator?? Yes, it was our very own Electra Alessio, who shared stories about the grocery store she and her husband Buddy opened, the development of the Carriage Town Plaza, the Kingstonian and the price of advertisements.

The HDC was most successful in getting stories and information, but to access these facts, how about a bit of trivia?? (answers to follow). Ever heard the word SPIZZERINKTUM?? What does it mean?? What was the first telephone exchange for Kingston and who had the first private line in town and what did it cost?? Where was that telephone exchange in Kingston where we had operators plugging numbers into their telephone boards and everyone could listen into everyone else’s conversations?? Does anyone recall the tragic tractor accident in East Kingston that killed a farmer in town leaving behind a young bride and three small boys? Does anyone recognize the slogan....”Let Florence Keep You Warm?”...referring to what product?? Did you ever make dresses from the grain bags...hoping to find two of the same bag?? One of the attendees shared the same birthday with a close friend and developed a yearly ritual for that date. Anyone remember the slate roofs – always the same color. Can anyone recall the opening and closing dates for the Bakie Store and the selling price?? (you will be surprised). The Bakie Brothers sold hand printed cards and those printing plates are still in town. There was a “recess restaurant” or a local shop where the Seminary students could hang out and get treats between classes...its name was?? We heard about a heroic story where Neil Parker thwarted off a would-be abduction. You read recently about Judkin’s Grist Mill on Little River Road, but do you recall the name of the Saw Mill on Mill Pond Road?? Three attendees worked on the Christie Chicken Farm...one of the largest poultry farms in New Hampshire.

Many of those in attendance brought framed pictures of ancestors, photos to share, newspaper articles, brochures, tons of memories and plenty of history. Many indicated a willingness to donate this memorabilia to the town for preservation. So – how did you do of the trivia questions??

Interested in answers?? Spizzerinkum was the buzz word for the Christie Chicken Farm, insuring Vim, Vigor and Vitality into all of their products. Spizz became the nickname for Jane’s younger brother. The huge Christie Farm was situated at the present site of the Carriage Towne Plaza. The first private line was in Charlie Martin’s house and for this service, they paid a whopping fifty cents. He said it cost extra to call Exeter and they complained, paving the way for consumer advocates!!! The operators worked out of the home on 141 Main Street, next to Gartell Restaurant and Store (presently Tratorria’s). The farmer killed was William Friend, father of Bill Friend whom I believe is today’s oldest living lifelong Kingstonian. “Let Florence keep you warm” was the slogan for Florence heaters – sold out of the barn at 152 Main St. It was Holly Ouelette who shared a birthdate with a good friend. She would send two quarters in the birthday greeting and the two of them would meet and go for ice cream (25 cents each) at Bolton’s. The slate roofs were always GREY. Bakie Store opened in 1888 and was sold in 1965 for

\$26,000. It was the Bartlett's Sawmill on Mill Road and Don Clark(in the hatchery), Nan Robie, and Rita Martin (in the egg room) all did duties at the Christie "Spizzerinktum" Farm, as did Rita's father, Don Nason (transportation and shipping).

There is a wealth of information from these people and dozens more who remember so much about our past. These memories need to be collected and preserved – hopefully in time for our 325th anniversary celebration in 2019!!! There is currently more talk about the NEXT event. Be part of the fun and enjoy the warm hospitality of the HDC, including refreshments, laughter and good times. We are looking for additional participants. For more information or to be added to our mailing list, contact Virginia Morse at 642-5059 or Judy Rubin at 642-8228.

PHOTO CAPTION:

Gathered here on the steps of the Town Hall were participants in the "Remember When Gathering" sponsored by the Historic District Commission on May 6th. These people are responsible for information used for the "trivia" questions in this month's Kingston Chronicles. Storytellers pictured here are: bottom right - Holly Ouelette, Row 1, L to R: Nan Robie, Kay Malloy, John Flanders, Don Clark and daughter, Rebecca Edminston, Virginia Morse. Row 2: Jane Christie, Robert Griffin, Kurt Springer, Ellie Alessio. Top Row: Rita Martin, Charles Martin, Melia Schiffler, Gordon Bakie, Bonnie Taylor and Dave Taylor.