

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE TURNS 80

THE CITIZENS of Whitman, Massachusetts, will celebrate a momentous event in our state's great history next month: the 80th birthday of the chocolate chip cookie, *writes our food editor, September 28, 2018.*

The inspired combination of cookie dough and chunks of chocolate was invented in 1938 by Ruth Graves Wakefield, the chef and proprietor of the Toll House Inn in Whitman. Originally created as an accompaniment to ice cream, Wakefield's recipe for "Toll House Chocolate Crunch Cookies" first appeared in her *Tried and True* cookbook.

Some accounts of the cookie's creation say it was invented accidentally, as vibrations from a mixer caused chocolate to topple into a batch of dough. Not so, says Wakefield. "We had been serving a thin butterscotch nut cookie with ice cream," she recalls. "Everybody seemed to love it but I was trying to give them something different."



Wakefield's cookie proved such a hit it soon featured on the radio, on the popular Betty Crocker cookery show. In 1939, Wakefield gave Nestlé the right to use her recipe and the Toll House name. The price was \$1, although Wakefield was reportedly given free chocolate for life.

The cookie's reputation spread during World War II, as troops from Massachusetts stationed overseas received care packages from home and shared their cookies with soldiers from other parts of the United States. Wakefield was soon receiving letters from around the world asking for her recipe: the chocolate chip cookie had gone global.