

Old meets new during a summer weekend.

The Apple Cookie Jar stands on the new kitchen island top as if it were a century. It is filled with power while guarding a remodeled kitchen, not just shielding the stash of goodies it hoards. The jar is red and yellow with green leaves adorning the sides. The top is a 5 inch red lid with a mock stem as a handle. The receptacle measures 8 inches high with a circumference as big as Santa's belly. It is old fashioned, an artifact of last century. Country Great-Grandma filled one like it weekly with cookies for all the children to sample.

Now, sunshine focuses on a different cookie jar in this remodeled 1970 eating and meeting place. Wooden floors lead the way to the countertops designed to enhance family conversations and speed food preparation. The Apple Cookie Jar is a main attraction as it brings charm of earlier days way before the house was constructed with western looking cupboard doors, a one sink washing up area and an island countertop sporting knife cuts and stains of yesteryear catastrophes.

The modern kitchen breathes in sunshine and space; a kitchen in which every mom and dad can prepare edibles from peanut butter and jam sandwiches to chicken cacciatore to chocolate chip cookies. Family gatherings fill laughter and stories into the nook and crannies. Countertops absorb smells of potato salad, garlic aromas and newly made cookies from city grandma as she hides them in the cookie Jar.

This Apple Cookie Jar steals the show, though, as tiny hands from the five grandchildren lift the lid and reach in to extract the chocolate chip cookies thought to be resting inside safely. This is an old story in a new kitchen. Tiny fingers know no difference between 1940 and 2017. The Apple made by Hull Pottery would have it no other way. The Apple Cookie Jar has been fruitful in its design, bringing members of families together for decades of tasty treats.

Traditions make families strong. An Apple Cookie Jar has been presented to each of our children as they became engaged. The Jars filled with goodies is a way to keep Country great-grandma in hearts and memories along with stories of long ago. In the 1970's one of the cousins received the coveted family apple cookie jar. From that time a search has been made to find the "apple of great-grandmas eye" and pass one along to each of our children. Now, the jars in each home, are kept filled with favorite cookies that disappear faster than snow in a Chinook wind.

Traditions are old and comfortable like wearing favorite socks on a winter's night. Each tradition keeps a family closer, knitting a place in a web of ancestors, even if we do not know it, even as little fingers reach for the comfort of a cookie.

New meets old with every cookie each person snatches from the confines of their Apple Cookie Jar. Traditions come in all forms, however they are all fruitful.

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