

# CAST IRON COOKWARE NEWS

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Vol.1 No.6

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### VICTOR SKILLETS BY GRISWOLD

Made from approximately the mid 1890's until the mid 1930's in sizes 7-9 which are not too hard to find and sizes 5 and 6 which are, having been made only during the later years. The No6 appears in a 1926 catalog while the No5 is shown in a 1932 catalog. Earliest versions are marked "VICTOR" and have the same style as the early "ERIE" skillets. The skillets pictured here are the latest version and have the most writing on the bottoms. Note the 7 on top of the handle in the nested set; upside down as have been all 7's on the late pans I've seen. Presumably Griswold made the Victor skillets for the same reason Wagner made their corresponding National skillets: "...to fill the demand for a low-priced, slightly undersize skillet. It is a utensil that can be featured in sales as a special". Unlike the National skillets, no covers were ever made to fit the Victors as far as I know. Also similar to the Victor skillets, in addition to Wagner's National, were Favorite's Miami (from Miami County where Piqua, Ohio and the Favorite plant are located) and Wapak's Oneta (Oneta being the last letters



of the town of Wapakoneta, Ohio). Pattern numbers for the Victor skillets are as follows: 5-695, 6-697, 7-721, 8-722, 9-723.

\*\*\*\*\*

-ed.

### From the Editor...

This is the final issue for Volume 1 of Cast Iron Cookware News. A renewal form for Volume 2 (issues 7-12) is enclosed. I have been quite pleased with the response to CICN and the way it has come along with two exceptions: First is that reader input has been lower than I had hoped for (my thanks to those who have contributed) and second, that I have not been getting CICN out on time with this issue being about four months late. I will have to work at being timely and can only urge readers to contribute from time to time: Pictures of your interesting pieces, short articles about your collecting experiences, loan of paper material which will be returned in same condition as received, want ads, etc. -ed.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dick & Esther Miller, McConnellsburg, PA, sent a rubbing of an unusual waffle iron... "probably to advertise, with KWIKBAKE in the center of the outside along with WRIGHTS-VILLE HARDWARE CO. and PATENTS PENDING.

It also has a base with no markings and with a side handle, no bail, which matches my Griswold bottom almost to the T. Could this be Griswold as I know they made ovens by KWIKBAKE?. I did some checking into the Wrightsville Hardware Co. and was told it had burned down. I have also seen an ice shaver by Wrightsville Hardware. The waffle iron itself seems to be nickeled." Also... "We have a #10 skillet, but only the size of a #0. It is not ground inside and has minor pitting around the New, the name on the back New Brighton. The New is hard to make out. Have seen larger skillets but never any this small."

Only two weeks ago, at a Pasadena, CA flea market I saw an identical KWIKBAKE waffle iron as Dick and Esther have. From the construction details it is definitely not Griswold and appears to have been made possibly in the 1920-1935 period. It was about a size 7 with wood handles similar to those on a Wagner iron. The outside was dimpled in a pattern and size like the arrangement of holes on a dutch oven trivet. Griswold's QWIK-BAKE oven is spelled differently than your waffle iron's KWIKBAKE. I am not familiar with your New Brighton skillet. -ed.

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Chuck Wafford, Springfield, OR sent a picture which, unfortunately, would not copy here well, of an early Griswold "FOOD CUTTER" display stand. Made of ash lumber, it has five shelves, each narrower than the one below it and each shelf wraps around the sides of the shelf. The back extends about 10" above the top shelf and has a large (about 7"x10"?) Griswold's ERIE diamond trademark casting in nickel plate and red with "FOOD CUTTERS" at the bottom of the casting. Has anyone else seen one? -ed,

Steve, would like you to know I have just purchased the following skillet: It is a #2 slant/EPU without the smoke ring. I have seen one other but since you do not have a listing for it in your skillet sheet (CICN p.3), I thought maybe you might be interested to have it verified. Enclosed is a rubbing and a photocopy. The pattern number looks like 703A...

Dick Miller, McConnellsburg, PA.

Dear Steve, Have another addition to your Griswold skillet chart on page 3 of your newsletter. Under your late large TM you only list a #3. Today I picked up a #11 that falls under that same heading. I am enclosing a copy of it for you to see. Also, about three week ago, I saw a #12 skillet that comes under your heading of GRISWOLD'S ERIE. I didn't buy it because it was plated. However, it definitely was a #12 GRISWOLD'S ERIE so you can add that one to your list.

Irv Wagenschur, Norristown, PA

Thank you Dick and Irv for your information. (Irv also sent a photocopy of the #2 skillet mentioned in Dick's letter above, and suggested I make a chart for Griswold griddles similar to that done for the skillets. A good idea although I'd need some help to make it as complete as the skillet chart). The #11 skillet you have Irv does not have the late, large TM. It has the same TM as is used on some pieces made in the late 30's such as the oval skillets. It is exactly 1/2" smaller in diameter than the block TM used on most #11 skillets. I have seen several of these #11 skillets with the smaller TM but have no explanation why the change was made. Just another of Griswold's unique variations that keep showing up. Note, too, that your #11 has the large CAST IRON SKILLET and ERIE, PA. U.S.A. on the bottom which would indicate that it predates the sm.TM skillets while the late, large TM #3 skillet is marked with the small, type-style ERIE, PA. The #3 skillet is still the only regular, round skillet I have seen or heard of to have the late, large TM. -ed.

<p>Add the following skillets to the chart on pg.3 of CICN. All have been verified:          GRISWOLD'S ERIE, Nos. 11 and 12          slant TM/ERIE, No13          slant TM/Erie PA USA w/smooth bottom, No2          sm. TM w/late handle, Nos. 6,8 and 9          Can anyone verify a No4 skillet with sm.TM and early handle?</p>
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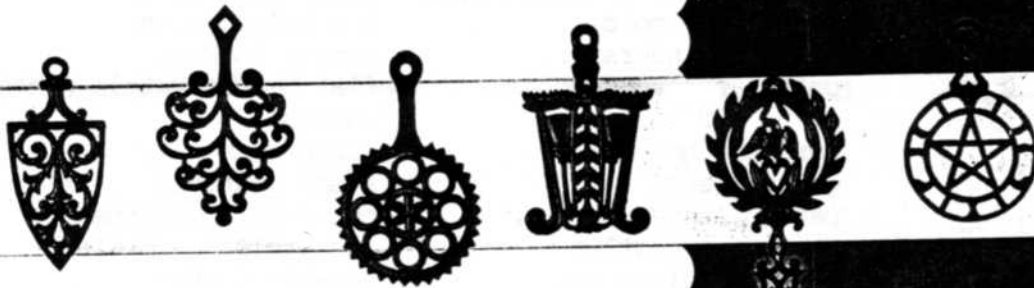
(note: stand is roughly 32"w, 42"h, 15"d)

# GRISWOLD

## EARLY AMERICAN

QUALITY CAST IRON

7 F 59



Useful gifts to hold hot dishes, potted plants, or as a wall decor.

With rubber tipped feet . . .  
won't scuff, scratch or slip.

Griswold Box For Cast Iron Decorative Trivets (shown 70% full size)

Picture courtesy of Irv Wegenschur, Norristown, PA. The front of the box is yellow and red with the trivets in a strip of blue. The back of the box is all yellow with the pictures in black. Take notice that the back is labeled Griswold Manufacturing Co. P.O. Box 709 Dept. P534 Erie, Penna. It is interesting that the Scotch Bowl on the reverse of the box was being offered as a gift. Was Griswold trying to sell excess stock of an otherwise unpopular item? The Table Planter looks like it is the #72 Deep Patty Bowl in a special holder. Date of box unknown but most likely early to mid 1950's.



SKILLET ASH TRAY



HEARTHSTONE SKILLET ASH TRAY

# GRISWOLD

## EARLY AMERICAN

QUALITY CAST IRON

other *Gifts* . . . that are different



COLONIAL SMOKING SET



WINDPROOF ASH TRAYS



SCOTCH BOWL



SUN DIAL



TABLE PLANTER

Individually gift boxed.  
Colonial Black Iron, with Brass trim. Rubber tipped feet will not scratch or slip.

For an illustrated brochure, write:  
**GRISWOLD MANUFACTURING CO.**  
P.O. Box 709 Dept. P534 - Erie, Penna.

Griswold items produced in cast iron

Including non-cookware items and listed in no particular order. Compiled by the editor.

regular skillets	All-In-One Dinner Skillet	deep fat fryer
scotch bowls	3-section skillet insert	deep fat fryer cover
yankee bowls	square skillets	oval bean pot & cover
maslin kettles	square skillet cover	barbeque grill
dutch ovens	food chopper display stand	rimmed kettles
muffin and gem pans	wood handled skillets	rimmed pots
corn bread pans	wood handled griddles	habachi type grill
bread loaf pans	bakelite handled skillets	sad iron trivet
flat bottom kettles	stove pipe dampers	ice shaver
regular skillet covers	dampener clips	fluting iron
flat bottom kettle covers	lamb, rabbit & santa molds	lemon squeezers
round waffle irons	bundt cake molds	low bulged pots
square waffle irons	coffee grinders	safety cookers
French waffle irons	coffee roasters	flat bottom kettle w/handles
American French waffle iron	stove lid lifters	sundial
shallow skillets	kerosene heaters	sauce pans
skillet griddles	gas heaters	steak platters
N.E. griddles	parlor stoves	hot service plates
flop griddles	Mortars & pestles	casseroles & covers
breakfast skillets	sweedish plett pan	rarebit dishes
patty & deep patty bowls	egg poacher	service dishes
patty irons	danish cake pan	fish service dish
wafer irons	monk pan	table service dish
handled griddles	low kettles	service kettles
bailed griddles	regular kettles	oval tree platter
long griddles	eccentric kettles	double skillets
oval griddles	regular bulged pots	Washington Bicentennial
long iron pans or heaters	extra large eccentric pots	Skillet Cover
sad irons	ham boilers	"Cliff Cornell" skillets
dutch oven display racks	teakettles	square egg skillet
skillet display racks	dutch ovens w/legs	odorless skillets
griddle display racks	flanged dutch oven covers	coffee pot stands
waffle iron display racks	gas/vapor stove griddles	sealing wax ladle
skillet cover display racks	gas stove waffle rings	hinged skillets & covers
toy cookware	gas stove sausage griddles	hinged dutch oven
oval skillets	gas stove grates	no.14 bailed skillet
oval skillet cover	gas stove cake griddles	hot pot or patty bowl & cover
chicken fryers	gas stove burners	low eccentric kettles
extra deep skillets	mail boxes	safety kettles
deep dutch ovens	tobacco cutters	flat bottom bellied sauce
dutch oven trivets	fruit & lard presses	pans w/cover
decorative trivets	gas stove skeleton grates	flat bottom round boilers
oval roasters	advertising skillet clock	odorless kettles
oval roaster covers	round skillet ashtrays	Victor skillets
oval roaster trivets	square skillet ashtray	Victor waffle irons
dutch oven covers	windproof ashtrays	oval waffle irons
loaf pan	cowboy hat ashtray	burglar alarm
loaf pan cover	hearthstone skillet ashtray	cylinder rings for stove pipe
skillet grill	colonial smoking set	adjusters
heat regulator	nursery hot plate	shovels
long broilers	Griswold pup	stove pipe shelves
double broilers	hammered finish cookware	tack hammers
gas hot plates	chromed finish cookware	fire sets
food choppers	nicked finish cookware	boiler handles
spitoons	"Cast Iron Grill"	pokers
copying presses	boot jacks	scrapers
nut crackers	Best Made cookware	tongs
Puritan & Merit cookware	Mountain Grade cookware	

Made in U. S. A.

**GRISWOLD**  
Cast Aluminum Ware  
QUALITY, BEAUTY and  
DURABILITY Combined

**ONE NO SEAMS**  
**PIECE NO RIVETS**

Trade Mark  
Reg. U. S. Pat. Office

Manufactured by  
**The Griswold Mfg. Co.**  
ERIE, PA., U. S. A.

**THE GRISWOLD IMPROVED CAST IRON SKILLET**

**Cast Aluminum Waffle Mould With Cast Iron Ring**  
No. 1048 259 Certificates

**Cast Aluminum Skillet**  
No. 639 175 Certificates

**Colonial Design Cast Aluminum Tea Kettle**  
No. 640 300 Certificates

**Cast Aluminum Griddle**  
No. 1047 165 Certificates

**Cast Iron Skillet**  
No. 1086 70 Certificates

Sold with a Guarantee



Cast Aluminum Skillet  
No. 639 175 Certificates



Colonial Design  
Cast Aluminum Tea Kettle  
No. 640 300 Certificates



Cast Aluminum Griddle  
No. 1047 165 Certificates



Cast Iron Skillet  
No. 1086 70 Certificates

**Gem Pans**



Style K, size 5 x 7 inches

List.....\$1 80 per doz. List.....\$1 80 per doz.



Style L, size 4 1/2 x 6 3/4 inches

List.....\$1 80 per doz. List.....\$1 80 per doz.



Style M, size 3 5/8 x 9 1/2 inches---List.....\$1 80 per dozen



Style N, size 2 3/4 x 11 1/2 inches---List.....\$1 80 per dozen



Style O, size 3 1/4 x 9 1/2---List.....\$1 80 per dozen

**Handled Gem Pans**



No. 1.....list, \$1 75 per doz. No. 2.....list, \$1 75 per doz.



List.....\$1 80 per doz.

All Gem Pans are plain smooth castings.

above From a July 1922 United Cigar Stores Premium Catalog. Redeemable at premium stations or by mail, United Cigar Stores "secured articles bearing the names or trademarks of manufacturers of high-grade merchandise". The 40 page catalog, courtesy of Phil Taylor, Ottumwa, IA, contains all sorts of household and personal goods. Note that Griswold's block trademark, which the editor believes first appeared sometime between 1920 and 1922, is used. What "improvement" might have been made on the cast iron skillet? The only thing that really changed about this time was the elimination of the heat ring on the bottom of the skillet.

right From an 1897(?) Wagner catalog. These pans are often found unmarked. See pages 4 and 11 of CICN for other muffin pans made by Wagner. With the exception of the Little Slan Bridge Pan and some variations of the pans shown, all Wagner muffin pans known to the editor have now been pictured in CICN. (I would like to buy or trade for any of the pans shown here). -editor



*"There's nothing like iron  
to cook in"*

**GRISWOLD**  
**EARLY AMERICAN**  
**QUALITY CAST IRON**

PRE-SEASONED—READY TO USE  
... JUST WASH AND DRY

See Reverse Side for Directions P-531

**LIFE - TIME GUARANTEE**  
GRISWOLD MFG. CO.  
ERIE, PA. U.S.A.



THE ULTIMATE IN QUALITY FOR ALMOST 100 YEARS

Label that was placed in Griswold skillets for advertising. This label was generously provided by Charlotte Fitz, Santa Monica, CA, whose father, William F. Smith, was a sales representative for Griswold from 1915 to 1957. The pancakes and bacon are printed in their actual color on a black background. The bottom of the label is a medium blue with yellow and white writing. The rectangular "card" portion is in light grey-blue with red and blue writing. Note the "Life-Time Guarantee". Do you think that General Housewares Corporation, which now owns the Griswold name, would still honor the guarantee? Another label, P-530, has bacon flanking two eggs, sunny side up.

**Ask the Old Farmer:** I seasoned the three new cast-iron skillets I bought by rubbing them with cooking oil and heating them over a low flame. But everything that I have cooked in the skillets tastes like metal. How can I treat them so this won't happen? E.G., Wadsworth, Ohio  
*New cast-iron skillets sometimes have an iron taste. This should help: Fill the skillets with water and boil a handful of hay in each one. You can use this hay water to sweeten wood and tin dishes, too.*

Clipping from The Old Farmer's Almanac, 1988, courtesy of Jerry Predika, Santa Cruz, CA. For those of you who have skillets that give the food cooked in them an iron taste you might try this and report back if it works. I have never heard of it although I have noticed an iron taste after cooking some foods, especially acidic ones like tomato sauce, in an unseasoned iron skillet.  
 -ed.

## Special Offer!



**GRISWOLD MFG. CO.**  
 P.O. Box 709 Dept. P530  
 Erie, Pa.

Enclosed find \$1.00 (check, cash, or money order) for two 5-inch authentic Colonial reproduction **GRISWOLD TRIVETS** parcel post prepaid. (please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_



*"There's nothing like iron to cook in"*

**... there's no iron like GRISWOLD EARLY AMERICAN CAST IRON. NO WARPING . . . NO BURNING . . . NO STICKING . . . NO WEARING OUT**

For almost 100 years American housewives have known that food is easiest to prepare and tastes better when cooked in GRISWOLD QUALITY CAST IRON WARE.

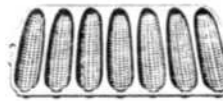
GRISWOLD'S famous cast iron is the proper weight for perfect cooking. The heat is distributed evenly, the heat is retained longer . . . the flavor of all foods is improved and fuel bills are lower.



**DUTCH OVEN** with cover and trivet for roasting, baking, frying, and stewing.



**FAMILY GRILL** for chops, steaks, fish, sausages, hot cakes, bacon and eggs.



**CORN CAKE PAN** for baking corn sticks and corn bread, southern style.



**SKILLET GRIDDLE** for frying on both gas and electric ranges.

### FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE DIRECTIONS FOR BEST RESULTS

After each use—wash with hot water and soap . . . rinse . . . dry over low heat . . . keep uncovered. Wash only with pure soap and water. Scouring powders or strong detergents tend to remove seasoning. To insure maximum satisfaction after washing your new skillet, grease inside lightly with unsalted shortening and place over low heat, allow to simmer without burning.

Reverse side of label shown on previous page. Grey print on a buff background. Griswold is touting "almost 100 years" so this label must be from the period immediately preceding the end of production in Erie in 1957. Note that the dutch oven is now being sold with the stamped aluminum trivet. The Family Grill is actually the No.18 "Cast Iron Grill" and the Corn Cake Pan is the common No.273 cornstick pan being sold right to the end of Erie production. Finally, note Griswold's directions for use and care.

**SHIPPING CAST IRON—SOME TIPS:** Pack your piece more than adequately with a least 2" of space between any part of the piece and the box. Pack with crumpled newspaper, bubble wrap, styrofoam, or a combination. If using styrofoam "worms" be aware that your piece could migrate through the chips toward the sides of the box and, thus, could be damaged. Include some crumpled newspaper or other material to keep the piece in the center of the box. Protect projecting handles especially well. I know of a No.13 skillet that had its handle broken off in shipping. Insure for full replacement value or more in case you need to make a claim on a damaged piece. If you use a packing service check to see what liability they accept, if any. I use UPS but learned to pack extremely well as they tend to pile lots of heavy boxes on top of mine in transit. -ed.

BUY-SELL-TRADE

Advertising is free to subscribers. Please limit length of ad to 24 lines @ 42 spaces per line plus name, address & phone. Longer ads will be run if there is room.

FOR SALE: Griswold labels, \$10.00 ea. (see pictures on pages 38 and 39). Salesman's samples. Excellent condition. Supply limited. front: picture, in color, bacon/eggs, or bacon/pancakes. back: black/white advertising, care of cast iron. size: bacon/pancakes 7" bacon/eggs 7" or 5". Specify quantity, picture, size. Send money order to: C.S. Fitz, 515 19th St., Santa Monica, CA 90402

FOR SALE: Due to dietary changes, my set of Griswold skillets is for sale. It is complete #0 thru #14, except for #13. They are all matching with large block logo. All are clean and ready to use. #0 and #14 have never been used. John Young, Route 63, Westmoreland, NH 03467

TRADE ONLY: Griswold muffins #13 pattern #640; #27 (638); #140 (635); #240 (631); #2700 (632). No1 square waffle iron, pattern #907; wafer iron; #3 coffee roaster; 3 tier #1065 dutch oven display stand; bundt pan #935 (#965?-ed.); also Hay & Sons bundt pan; #20 hotel skillet. Lots of good R.R. locks and keys. Glen D. Gary, 4420 Englewood Dr., Owensboro, KY 42301 Phone (502) 683-1939 after 4 p.m.

FOR SALE: "ERIE" No9 extra deep skillet, (pattern 733). TRADE: No2 slant/EPU with heat ring skillet for No2 skillet with lg. block TM and heat ring. Bud Desforges, 4225 N.W. 21st Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32605 (904) 373-1499

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Early Griswold tobacco cutter; open frame; big, fancy "ERIE" on one side, Griswold Mfg. Co. Erie, PA on the other. Pat'd Oct.16-'83. Very good condition. Trade for skillets or ???

WANTED: Griswold #8,9 or 10 deep skillets. Mike Allen, (318) 396-0199

WANTED: Ace Cloverleaf Donut Form donut maker, cast iron, that makes six donuts. Hinges open and has long wire/wood handles. Carolyn Nelson, 775 Quincy Dr., Roselle, IL 60172 (312) 893-6186

WANTED: Griswold square sad iron heater. Also Griswold style pups, marked or not. Paul Conrad, 11940 Lavidia Ave., St. Louis, MO 63138 (314) 741-4171

TRADE ONLY: Griswold #282 Cornorwheat pan; #19 golfball pan; #27 Whole Wheat pan; #2 skillet, block TM, smooth bottom; Hay & Sons bundt pan. WANTED: Griswold #28 loaf pan; #50 and #2800 muffins. Courtney McClendon, 11233 SW 114 Lane Circle, Miami, FL 33176 (305) 253-8035

WANTED: Parts for Griswold 500 series Hot Plates. Advise what you have including part numbers. Need one half "Wagner" toy waffle pat'd 1910 including handle. Must be old (not reproduction). Need base for "Wagner" toy waffle pat'd 1892. Johnston, 293 LaCosta, Nokomis, FL 34275

WANTED: Following nickel plated Griswold items: #2 skillet; #3,4,5,6,7 skillet lids; square ash tray; #6 dutch oven w/lid; square egg skillet. Also two #2 skillets, black iron. Roy G. Meadows, 716 Christian Dr., Charleston, W.Va. 25303  
Phone days: (304) 747-4522

WANTED: #3 and #9 oval roaster lids; #15 oval skillet lid; #13 oval skillet complete (I have never seen or heard of a lid for the #13, -ed.); any skillet lids #10 up, especially #14 bailed skillet lid (was one made? -ed.); #21 corn bread; #15 roll pan; #6 Vienna roll; #140 turk head pan; #20 turk head pan; #0 ashtray. Merl E. Henry, Box 311 R.D.#5, Lewistown, PA 17044

WANTED: Cover for Griswold No13 Tite-Top Dutch Oven; trivet for same. Also No20 skillet. Art Revel, 19260 S.E. 395th Ave., Sandy, OR 97055 (503) 668-5003

FOR SALE: Three Griswold boxes (see page 35 for pictures) with new trivets in them. 2 boxes have the Hex, 1727, in them. The other box has the eagle, 1730, in it. \$50. each. Irv Wagenschmur, 317 Oxford Rd., Norristown, PA 19401 (215) 277-2630

FOR TRADE: Griswold Santa cake mold; #13 slant/EPU skillet; #27 wheat pan; rabbit mold; other misc. pieces. Looking to trade for Griswold muffin pans. Darryl Lambert, (312) 664-6172 eves; (800) 678-5300 days.

FOR SALE: The following numbers have been sold from my Nov.88 list. All other numbers are still available for sale: 10,26, 26a,27,35,47,74,88,107,111,124,129,133,134, 136,142,152,176,179,219,223,226,236,252,257, 261a,277,289,290,296,301,302,306,319,320, 321,328,330,336,337,346,362,367,368,371, 376,377,380,398,409,413,426,428,429,431, 435,447,451,469. Steve Stephens, 28 Angela Ave., San Anselmo, CA 94960 (415) 453-7790