



Times Remembered
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Sweet Corn

Sweet Corn, we grew it, picked it, sold it and ate a lot of it too. Dad always planted plenty, usually Silver Queen and Peaches and Cream. Actually, back in the day, we peddled – that is selling vegetables door-to-door. We

would prepare all the vegetables the night before and have them ready to load in the pick-up truck early the next morning. Peddling is similar to Farmers Market except we went from door-to-door.

I've spend most of this day shucking corn, and silking and cutting it off the cob to freeze. I had 22 quarts. I always purchase my corn from my cousin Doug. His corn is the very best.

There were many chores besides peddling to be done on the farm and many of them improved one's skills, including shelling peas, breaking beans, shucking corn, and peeling tomatoes and peaches.

Sharing the fruits of labor was not uncommon, especially when it came to sweet corn. Sometimes the weather and the birds wreaked havoc on the crop but usually we had corn out the ears.

At the time, as a young child, I often wondered why Dad gave away the extra corn. Why didn't we keep it? I had worked endless hours hoeing and weeding the corn.

But age and maturity have taught me a good lesson: that nothing replaces the good feeling and blessings one

receives from giving something without wanting anything in return. The Bible says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Early in the morning, Mom and Dad and my sister and I would take bushel baskets to the corn patch and start pulling corn. The silks had to be just right according to Dad and he always picked the largest and fullest ears.

When the corn was pulled for our use, we dumped it into the bed of the truck and drove to the pasture to shuck it for the cows and the hogs. When all of the corn was shucked we headed to the back porch to silk and trim the wormy ends.

When some of the corn was de-silked and trimmed, Mom would go inside and start the process of blanching, cooling and cutting the corn off the cob. Mom was the fastest, but we caught on quickly which made the job go much faster. It all had to done that night, because the quicker it was put up, the sweeter it would be. We always froze our corn and usually Mom put up about 25 dozen ears a year.

After all the process was completed it was ready to freeze. We had several 5-gallon buckets of corn cobs. The

fresh cobs were fed to the hogs. You would have thought they were served apple pie. They were so excited!

Mom served the corn in different ways. I love fried corn in bacon grease; it not good for you but it is mighty tasty. It's ok once in a while. And corn pudding for Thanksgiving was good. Corn Chowder was something I had never ate until I was traveling with my position as Equal Employment Manager at Blue Grass Depot and I went TDY (temporary duty assignment) to Radford, Virginia. My friend there insisted I try it, and it was very good. I also like Corn Relish and Corn Salad.

As a child, I favored corn on the cob. We called it "roastin" ears. Mom would boil water in a big kettle, fill it with fresh corn and serve it for supper. I loved the hot corn covered in homemade butter and salt and pepper.

The corn stuck on your teeth and butter dripped down your chin; but I didn't care. I could eat 2 or 3 ears if Mom would let me. That many ears of corn would probably give you a belly ache. Corn and watermelon was something I could never get enough of when I was a kid. I still love them both!

Kentucky Steam receives \$20,000 federal pandemic relief grant

Kentucky Steam Heritage Corporation has been named as a recipient of COVID-19 pandemic relief funding from the nonprofit organization Kentucky Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Kentucky Steam is one of 51 cultural organizations throughout the state named as recipients of the funding through the \$1.9 trillion federal American Rescue Plan Act approved this year. Kentucky Steam is on track to

receive \$20,000 in funding after being selected by Kentucky Humanities to benefit from a portion of the \$800,382 total available for entities in the Bluegrass State.

Kentucky Steam President Chris Campbell says the funding through the Kentucky Humanities ARP Grants is a welcomed midsummer gift which will help propel the organization's efforts in rural Estill County, Kentucky, especially in the wake of a year where fundraising was stymied by

the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We at Kentucky Steam are grateful to Kentucky Humanities for believing in our mission to help promote and educate the rich railroad-based history and tradition in Estill County and all of Appalachian Kentucky," Campbell said. "From our first conversation with the folks at Kentucky Humanities, we believed Kentucky Steam fit perfectly within their mission of telling Kentucky's overall story, and we're excited to be able to add another

chapter to that story through our efforts. The support we've received from Kentucky Humanities and the efforts of our congressman Andy Barr, and senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul to see this nation and this state through these difficult times mean a great deal to our organization."

Campbell says the educational opportunities both available and in development at Kentucky Steam's "The Yard" campus situated between the twin cities of Irvine and

Ravenna helped the organization meet Kentucky Humanities' criteria for consideration for the possible \$2,000 to \$20,000 in grant funding.

"The Yard" is a burgeoning tourism development in Estill County at the site of the former CSX rail yard dividing Ravenna and Irvine. "The Yard" will act as a fully immersive historical/educational experience where visitors will not only learn the varying aspects of the operation of historical railroad equipment including steam lo-

comotives, but they will also be greeted by an events venue, a brewery and restaurant, and much more. The centerpiece at The Yard will be steam locomotive Chesapeake and Ohio No. 2716, which is currently being restored to operational condition by Kentucky Steam volunteers and staff.

"Great things are happening at Kentucky Steam and this generous \$20,000 grant from Kentucky Humanities will push those efforts even further," Campbell said.

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