

Ruth Wakefield

The Woman who invented. . .



The Chocolate- chip cookie

No doubt, many treasured recipes came about through accidental invention in the kitchen, but one of the most enduring -- and delicious -- of these recipes is, the chocolate-chip cookie. Ruth Wakefield had worked as a dietitian and food lecturer before buying an old toll house near Boston with her husband. Wakefield and her husband converted the toll house into an inn with a restaurant. One day in 1930, Wakefield was baking up a batch of cookies for her guests. The recipe called for melted chocolate, but Wakefield had run out of baker's chocolate. She took a Nestle chocolate bar, crumbled it into pieces and threw it into her dough, expecting the chocolate pieces to melt during baking. Instead, the chocolate held its shape, and the chocolate chip cookie was invented.

Andrew Nestle noticed that sales of chocolate bars jumped in Mrs. Wakefield's corner of Massachusetts, so he met with her about the cookie, which was fast gaining a reputation among travellers. At Wakefield's suggestion, Nestle began scoring their chocolate (cutting lines into the bar that allow for easier breaking) and then, in 1939, they began selling Nestle Toll House Real Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels. The Wakefield cookie recipe was printed on the back of the package; in exchange, Ruth Wakefield received free chocolate for life.



What will you invent?