

FOOD

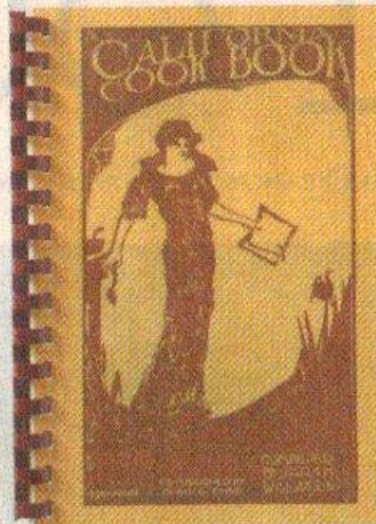
WHAT'S NEW

Recipe blast from California's past

"Cookery is the poetry of housework," writes Sarah Williamson in the preface to "A California Cook Book." First published in 1916 and reprinted late last year, it features a compilation of recipes from kitchens of prominent Bay Area figures such as financier Henry J. Crocker and horticulturist Luther Burbank.

Recipes are endearingly written with vague instructions and amusing measurements like "Dumplings are made the usual way with flour and water..." and "5 cents' worth candied cherries."

Susan Evind, creator of mysfstories.com, republished her grandmother's 91-page kitchen treasure as a "treat for history and cookery buffs." Most recipes are not easily workable for the modern cook, but the collection is an enjoy-



Craig Lee / Special to The Chronicle

able peek into the domestic culinary history of California.

The 2009 version of "A California Cookbook," by Sarah Williamson is available for \$12.95 at Phoenix Books and Cover-to-Cover, both in San Francisco; from Pt. Reyes Books in Pt. Reyes Station, and online from mysfstories.com.

— Pailin Chongchitnant