



"When you sit by the fire
yourselves to warm

Take care that your tongues do
your neighbors no harm."

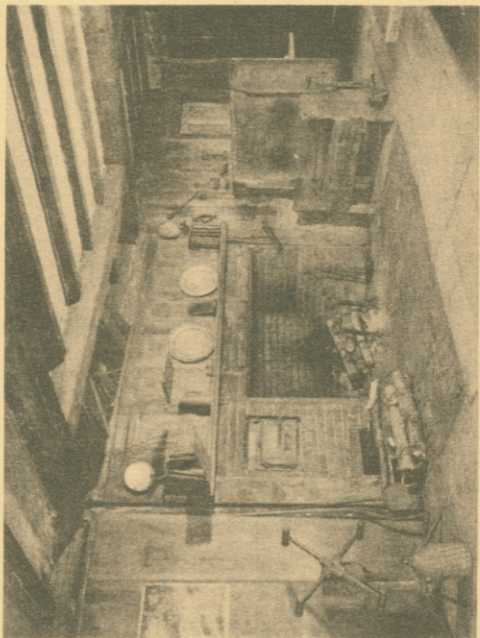
Hartwell Farm

Is this the Hartwell Farm? Yes, won't you come in? You may leave your wraps in this room if you care to. Aren't those beautiful old trees in your front yard? Yes, they are more than 200 years old. Is that the old well? Yes, that was where the Hartwells went for their water. May we look around before we have dinner? Yes, indeed. I have been here before but I want my friends to see the old house. Were these paintings on the wall when you came here? No, those were painted by George Robert Wren in January, 1934. Was that corner cupboard in the house? No, we bought that in 1933. A friend of mine told me that this room was yellow. It was a pumpkin yellow when we bought the place, but the color was very difficult to work with - we could never find curtains to match it so in 1934, we just scraped off the yellow



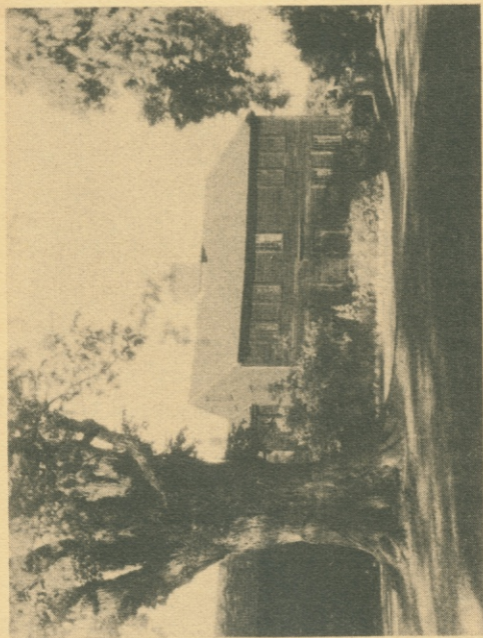
HAYING TIME

paint. Wasn't there any paper on the walls? Oh, yes, there was paper which had been on about 4 years when we bought the place, a colonial paper, but it was not old so we scraped that off, too. You haven't painted right on the plaster, have you? Yes, we have. Won't it crack? We don't know. Were there any H and L hinges on the doors? On some of the doors there were and on the door leading out into the old kitchen, we found the imprint of an old strap hinge when we took off the paint. Have you bought the place? Yes, we bought it in December, 1924. Was there anything in the house at the time? Only a stove, a tip table, a bed and a couple of chairs. Where was the stove, in this room? No, the stove was out in the old kitchen. If you will come into this room, I'll show you where it was. So this was the old kitchen!! Yes, this was the old kitchen and when we came here, there was a piece of tin in front of the fire-



place and a stove with a pipe running into the chimney through that tin. Beside the stove was a hot water tank and at the right of the door, which goes out to the terrace, there was a sink. The old ceiling was covered with wallboard which was badly warped by the steam and heat, and on the old floor had been laid a hardwood floor which we promptly ripped up and made into a hen-house. How did you know what you would find under those boards? We didn't? Were the boards rotted? Not badly, one or two on the north side, but we pulled them up and found the sills weren't in too good shape - a hole in the roof in earlier years had allowed the water to leak down and do considerable damage. That beam over there doesn't look like the others. It isn't. The old beam was badly rotted so we got a jackscrew, took it down cellar to hold up a cross beam while we sawed out the rotted part in the old

upright and that beam you see there now, came from the old Bowditch Barn in Brookline. Then we moved the bathroom from its location directly over the old kitchen into what was once the hired man's summer bedroom; scraped off seven coats of paint; tore up the floor and pulled down the ceiling. It was really very thrilling when we got shovels and ripping bars and tore through that wallboard! We started in the middle and found a beam right away. We followed that beam and there was great excitement when we found another beam running the other way. It took us about half an hour to rip the stuff down, but it took us more than a day to clear the mess we had made. Were all of those wide boards in the house? of course, they were. They run from the cellar to the attic. Why did you call it Hartwell Farm? Well, we liked the name "Farm" because, as a rule, one expects to get enough to eat on a farm and it had always been a



farm - so why change it? We
couldn't call it the Fitch-Poor Farm
or the Poor-Fitch Farm and since
the Hartwells had lived here until
1875 and they built the place, we
thought they should have a little
credit for the fine old house. What
Hartwell was that? According to
the genealogy, William Hartwell
came to Concord in 1635 "because
Boston was too crowded." (this part of
Lincoln was once Concord) There
wasn't any Back Bay built up in
those days, the Charles River came
right up to Charles Street and people
had to pasture their animals somewhere
the Common was getting crowded. Boston
had been settled since 1630, you know.
Then this house was here during the
Revolution? Yes, and it was on this
road in front of the house that the
British tramped when they went to
Concord. In 1775, Paul Revere rode
out to tell the settlers that the British
were coming, but just before reaching
this house, Mr. Revere was startled by

British soldiers and taken captive. He escapes later, but Mr. Prescott returning from Lexington where he had been calling on a young lady, carried the message on to Concord. The story is told that Prescott rode through the fields and did not stop until he reached this house. He tapped at the back door, that one which leads out onto the terrace, and rode on. Who was living here at the time? Sergt. Samuel Hartwell, and he began at once to get ready to join the Lincoln Company. Mary Flint Hartwell, his wife, asked Sukey, their negro slave, to run down the road to Capt. Smith's to tell him about the British. It was a moonlight night and Sukey was frightened of the shadows so Mrs. Hartwell asked her to hold the baby and she would go. Mary rushed down to Capt. Smith's to warn him and returned quickly to get an early breakfast for her husband. After he left, Mrs. Hartwell and Sukey milked the cows and turned them out to pasture, then she sat quietly at home with her children to await the return

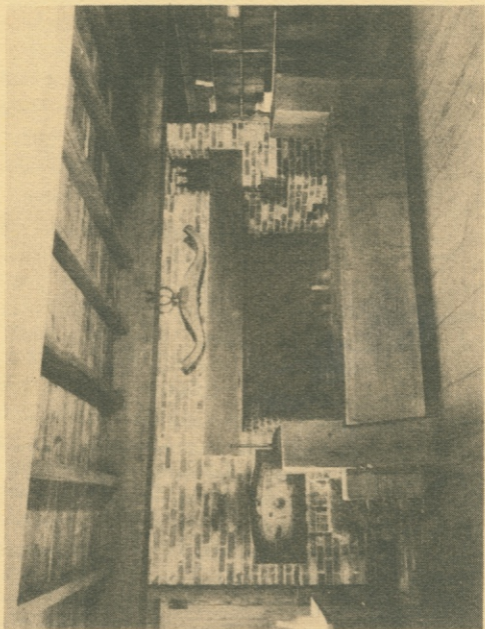


of her husband Samuel, but Seakey dashed into the woods back of the house and was not seen until the next day - long after the battles were over. Did the British do any harm to this house? No, not that I have heard about. Mr. Hartwell was a gunsmith and this house was to have been burned, but when the British went by, they were in too much of a hurry to stop. One soldier put his bayonet through a front window and Mr. Hartwell found the gun when he returned, repaired it and used it for hunting. Who was the last Hartwell to live in this house? John Hartwell, who was born in this house in 1848. Is there any book which describes in detail what happened on this road in 1775? Yes, there is a book called "Heroes of the Battle Road" written by Frank Wilson Cheney Hersey. Do you serve dinner at this time of day? Yes, we serve dinner all day, lunch all day, and tea all day. When we open at twelve, we can't be bothered watching the clock to see when it is two o'clock or three o'clock for tea and wait until six o'clock for dinner; everything is in the kitchen so we decided to serve people what

they want when they want it. How late do you stay open? We plan to close the kitchen at eight o'clock in the evening. Will you come out here for your dinner? What! you have another room? Yes, we built an addition in 1928. What is this part which we are walking through now? The part which comes as far as these napkins was our first kitchen. We had a sink, which is still here, a small household stove, an ice box and shelves built from the floor to the ceiling. After we had been here a year, we moved the old shed which is shown in one of the earlier pictures, turned it around and raised it eight feet and built down. You can see where the bottom of the shed is - see up there where the ceiling is. What are all of these pictures? These are pictures of different things which we have done since we came here. What are these people doing here on the roof? Oh, after we had been here about five years, we tore off the old wooden shingles and put on an asbestos roof. We had many to help us by that time. Now we didn't notice when we came in that the roof wasn't old! Well, we used asbestos shingles which are ribbed to look like old wooden shingles, and of course, we didn't change the direction of the sagging roof when we put them on.



What are those pictures which look like piles of bricks? One is the ham room where the Hartwells smoked their hams and the other is the arch which supports the six fireplaces in the house. What's this picture of everybody shovelling? Do you stay out here all winter? Yes, we are open every day in the year from twelve at noon until eight in the evening. Arent you snowbound? I don't wonder that you ask but the state roads are like avenues and the road leading to our house is always well plowed. Weren't you even snowbound in the winter of 1934? No, we weren't. We were always dug out before noon every day, and the roads in the afternoon were always in grand shape for a punting ride. We all went punting, too. You mean to say that you stay out here all winter!! Yes, we certainly do and we keep warm, too, for we have two furnaces in addition to the fireplaces. Our pipes don't even freeze. What, is this a bar? No, we don't have a bar; we used to make the salads here, but when we enlarged the kitchen, we moved the salad department out there and one of our boys built this into the corner in order that we might have a place to do the necessary accounting, which naturally has to be done. What! do you leave your kitchen wide open so that people may look into it?!



Certainly, you may step right into it, if you care to. I think we'll have our dinner. I'm getting hungry. Will you come right out this way? Now this part which we are walking through now is back of the wood shed. We built this in order to have a break between the old part and the new part. Will you sit down and tell us more about this place? I'll be glad to tell you more, but I think I'll wait until after you have finished your dinner, if you don't mind. While you were gone, we heard footsteps overhead, have you more rooms upstairs? Yes, our boys and girls who work with us, live here. Where did you get that big fireplace? We built it when we built this part we call the "Barn". Is this part new? Yes, Miss Poor and I had a lot of fun doing this part. About August 1, 1928 we began looking around the countryside for old boards and old beams which would be suitable for an addition. By November 1, 1928, we had collected floor boards and 3x5's from an old ice house in Wakefield, bricks for the fireplaces from old torn down houses in Boston, boards for the side walls from an old cider mill on the Wheeler Estate in Lincoln, beams 12 x 14 from the old Latin school in Somerville, a brick oven door from the cellar of a hotel supply house in Boston and we set to work to build what we now call the "Barn", and by April 19, 1929 we had it ready to open. But who drew the plans? Well, we did. I drew

a plan and Miss Poor drew a plan, each in opposite corners of the room, then we compared plans, picked flaws in them and then went back to our corners to do them over again. After a few trips back and forth, we had something which seemed to both of us would work. You didn't do it all alone, did you? We worked right along with one carpenter, a helper and a mason for the chimney. How could you get those big beams into place? Well, we waited until some tradesman came along and with our block and fall in place, we just all pulled and the beam went up as neat as a pin. What's that big bench in front of the fireplace? That was once a part of a cider press. Isn't it a remarkable piece of furniture! The man who was tearing down the cider mill was trying to cut it up and we asked him if we might have it. He said that he'd be glad to have us take the thing out of his way, so we took our little old half-ton Ford and rolled the stick on and brought it over here. You should have seen the tires on that car - they were nearly flat on the ground for that bit of wood weighs nearly a ton! How many bricks are there in that chimney anyway - looks as if there were enough to build a house! Not quite, but there are 13,000. How many candles do you burn in a year? Between twenty and

