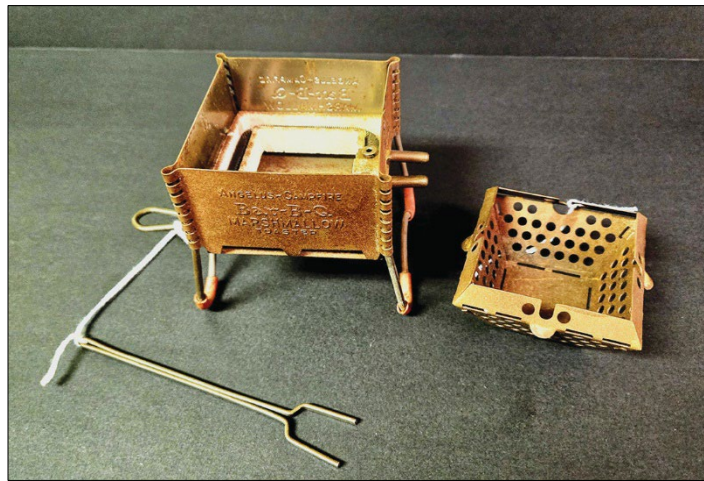


Summer's Favorite Treat

By Macey Wommer

With prime camping season, I thought it fitting to share one of my favorite items from the museum's collection. There's nothing I enjoy more than s'mores with golden-brown marshmallows roasted over an open fire. However, ideal weather is not always guaranteed, and microwaved marshmallows just do not offer the same satisfaction. Thankfully, someone came up with a brilliant solution: the Angelus-Campfire Bar-B-Q Marshmallow Toaster.



The brilliant invention for making summers better: a genuine Angelus-Campfire Bar-B-Q Marshmallow Toaster

Manufactured between the 1910s and 1930s, this ingenious device is one of many small electric appliances that emerged with the growing use of electricity in the home. The toaster is constructed from thin metal, with a square heating chamber supported by metal legs. Inside are coils connected to prongs where a power cord would be attached to generate heat. A perforated metal screen serves as both the lid and the tray to hold marshmallows. Fork-like spits allowed users to rotate the marshmallows over the heat until they reached the perfect golden color.

This quirky yet clever appliance reminds us that innovation often meets even our simplest pleasures, like roasting marshmallows. While today we might head to the microwave in a pinch, the Angelus-Campfire Bar-B-Q Marshmallow Toaster captures a moment in time when people found creative ways to bring the joy of the outdoors inside. It's a sweet reminder that history isn't just about big events, it's also about the little things that make everyday life more enjoyable.