

My Favorite Summer Meal

We all know that summer in the northern hemisphere officially starts on June 21. Unofficially, the barbeques start on Memorial Day and go through Labor Day.

With the heat in Oklahoma, you might think my favorite summer meal would be homemade ice cream. Sweet and creamy, the ice cream settles on your tongue, reminding you of home and your childhood.

That is not my favorite summer meal.

Unfortunately, I can't get my favorite summer meal here in Oklahoma. I can get part of it here, but some of it is only available in the state where I grew up.

My favorite summer meal was served at a small seasonal snack bar near my hometown. Since it was dairy farm country, I suspect the beef they used in their burgers was fresh. Though I guess it would depend on whether one of the local farmers had butchered a cow recently.

Their burgers would hang over the edge of the bun and were pressed thin like a steakburger. They came with a slice of fresh tomato, though how they managed that so early in the season was beyond me. They used leaf lettuce and not iceberg lettuce. You could also get pickles and mayonnaise. All of these made the burger good, but the burger wasn't the best part of the meal.

With the burger, you could get some of their fresh-cut french fries. These thick sticks of potato were fried to a golden brown and salted perfectly. When they got to the table, there was always a bottle of malt vinegar sitting there. You would dump your fries on the tray and pour on the vinegar for a distinctive taste. The vinegar wasn't strong like you find with salt and vinegar chips. It went just right with the fries.

Once you were done with this meal, you would need to go back to the counter. There you would order a maple creemee (maple soft-serve for those of you not from New England). The sweetness of the creemee was just unbeatable after the savory burger and salty fries.

Unfortunately, the B&W snack bar was sold shortly after I moved out of Vermont. I was tempted to buy it the last time I saw it on the market. It's no longer for sale, but Google says this location is permanently closed. I will have to let my favorite summer meal just sit in my memories.