

## *Ice-Cream Sundae*

Winter is just around the corner, but this cool season of the year doesn't dull my appetite for ice cream. I love the stuff, and always have. From my early boyhood days, I recall walking three miles across Cookeville, Tennessee, from my home to the Dairy Queen store for a milkshake -- with great anticipation in every step. When it comes to ice cream, I am a non-discrimination eater. Every flavor appeals to me, and everything is better with ice cream on it.

This leads me to a fascinating little story about ice cream and the ice-cream sundae.

A merchant from Wisconsin named Smithson, out of necessity, invented the ice-cream sundae in 1890. Here's why. The store did not deliver on Sunday in those days, so to avoid running short, he reduced the amount of ice cream with each order and added chocolate syrup or some special fruit topping to the mixture. The result was so well received that he was asked by his customers to serve it on the other days of the week as well.

He wanted to meet his customers' needs and desires, but some people objected to his use of the word, Sunday, for the product because it was the Lord's Day. They felt that to call an ice cream dish after the Lord's Day was profane. That's when Smithson modified the spelling to "sundae." Today, the ice-cream sundae is a favorite among millions of people -- including me.

Just think -- we might never have had the sundae had there not been a shortage of ice cream.

The story illustrates what a little creativity can do, and proves again that necessity is the mother of invention.

--Beecher Hunter