Let's Split A Pizza

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Let's Split A Pizza

by Barbara Pierson, H. Jl. 3

A chocolate malt and a peanut butter and bacon sandwich, or a pizza and a bottle of pop? When you place your order for this imaginary, late-evening snack, you will also be showing your age by choosing the food that was a fad during your college years.

Since cookery began, certain foods have periodically appeared and have gained almost complete acceptance. However, after a certain length of exposure to the fickle public, these foods slip into oblivion and are unknown to following generations.

Had you lived in the 1840’s, the words “flummery” and “bolivar” would conjure visions of two sweet treats. Flummery was a rich, custard-type dessert. The bolivar was a large scalloped ginger cake named after “The Great Liberator.”

Some fad foods survive the period of popularity to remain as standards in American menu selections. Ice cream, hot dogs, prepared breakfast cereals, and the inevitable hamburger were first eaten chiefly for their novelty, but have achieved and maintained positions at the top of the list of favorite and most frequently eaten American foods.

In other instances the food will be popular for a period, then be forgotten and later reintroduced. Fried pies, or half pies, were extremely well received in the late 1800’s. Today the crispy, fruit-filled pastries have found a new appreciative audience and are again becoming a popular complement to a cup of coffee.

The college student often becomes a devotee of various foods that develop as fads. Peanut butter and bacon sandwiches were eaten with malts as a favorite snack of students in the 1930’s. Today’s student has popularized pizza.

Perhaps the high-calorie choices of former students are responsible for the latest fad in our culture. Diet foods—solids, liquids, and powders—are appearing all over our country and are being consumed with great gusto by individuals seeking an easy way to trim off pounds.