My Memories of Working at Bennett Creamery

By  
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Donating the white uniform and hairnet with brim that I wore while working at Bennett Creamery brings many memories to mind. I worked at Bennett Creamery during the summers of 1964-1968 while I attended college at University of Kansas. Bennett’s employed a number of local college students during the summer. It was one of the higher paying summer jobs around. We used to joke that we attended college on Bennett Creamery scholarships. It worked out well for Bennett’s and for us because they had much more demand for ice cream products during the summer so production was higher then and they needed more temporary employees.

One of my frequent jobs was filling ice cream containers, sealing them and taking them to the freezer. We made ice cream bars, fudgsicles, drumsticks, etc. You might be surprised to learn that the building was not air conditioned and that this was rather hot work. The only cold room was the butter room, but it wasn’t particularly pleasant that because everything was slick.

A man brought his machine from Kansas City to make the drumsticks.  We packed them as they came off the assembly. We also packed popsicles, fudgsicles, ice cream bars.  One time the large machine that dropped the bars down had a malfunction and we were throwing away the bars as fast as we could.  At one point I turned around, with ice cream bars everywhere, and old Ransom Bennett, Sr. was standing there with a smile on his face.  He knew we were in trouble, but \_\_\_\_\_ Houston, could bring us out of it.

Bob Dunn was my immediate supervisor and Norman Bowling was in charge of the mix and keeping the equipment running correctly. I remember that one time five gallons of salt got dumped into the mix instead of five gallons of sugar.

Occasionally, there would be a problem with ice cream melting slightly on a delivery truck. If that happened and it was returned, that ice cream would always be remixed into the fudgsicles if it didn’t have cherries or some other fruit or nut incorporated.