

# Out at the Ranch

with Bill Ellis



## THE SANDWICH

Of late, I have noted some very loose use of a word that is close to my heart. Some food purveyors have recently commenced labeling some of their products as "sandwiches." For a true sandwich purist, such as your faithful reporter, this loose use of the word sandwich, is almost heresy. Why, the good Lord Sandwich, would surely spin in his grave, were he to know that a certain submarine was being referred to as a sandwich. Blasphemy! And to think that certain hamburgers were being called sandwiches. Blast!

Now, I don't want you to think that I don't care for subs or burgers - I love them! But to refer to them in the same breath as the noble sandwich! People, Pullease!

For the purist, a sandwich is comprised of two slices of bread with something in between. That's all! A more concise definition you will never find. I will appreciate that the sandwich has had some stiff attacks before, with people trying to water down the substance and form. I have witnessed the shame of it all and I have even been forced to partake in the consumption of some of these watered down sandwiches, in the name of good manners. What can you do when they pass a platter of those dainty, little, insipid, quarter cut things to you? Ever tried Bermuda onion on white? By the way, don't ever order one of those so-called ham sandwiches when traveling on a train. The wax paper wrap would be much more flavorful. Definitely, starvation food! Ever tried salami and hot

mustard on dark rye?

I have been a sandwich lover as long as I can remember. I carried them to school and I carried them to work. There were two co-workers who lunched together each day. One worker would open his lunch bag and say "Cuss word, peanut butter sandwiches again!" The next day, he repeated the same performance. On the third day, his co-worker enquired as to why he didn't ask his wife to make him a sandwich other than peanut butter, if he disliked them so much. To which he replied that he made the cussword things himself? Ever tried smoked ham and swiss on light rye?

I used to be part of a group that went fishing for brook trout each spring. The high light of the day was the noshing on Waterloo County smoked ham on rye sandwiches, accompanied by an ice cold beverage, containing hops. All accomplished in the spring sunshine, by a huge maple tree. The fish always felt safe when we showed up. Ever tried pastrami on pumpnickel?

There must be many of you out there who are true sandwich lovers and I urge you to take up the struggle to preserve the integrity of our beloved delicacy. Ever tried tuna on cracked wheat?

I could go on talking about sandwiches for a long time, but I note that lunch time approaches. The thought of some old cheddar with iceberg lettuce on cracked wheat beckons. I'm out of here!

Once again, I deplore you to keep up the battle to keep our true sandwich sanctified. I'm certain that Lord Sandwich is proud of you!

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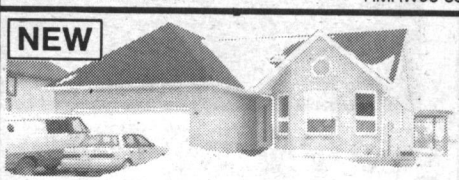
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