

What's your creation or strange meal experience?

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Photo date and location unknown

For this week's *We Were There* prompt: since we just celebrated True Day of All Things:

- 1) Did you ever have a special experience with the Creation (nature?). Describe.
- 2) What was the most unusual/memorable meal you ate?

1) When I first joined at Booneville, I remember praying one day “Heavenly Father, how am I going to do this? I can barely hold on myself, you want me to help restore the world? ”

Moments later I saw a lizard walk across the dirt path I was on. The path was just a U shape of powdery dust worn into the meadow, with sides rising steeply from the center. The side of the path the lizard was coming up to looked impossibly steep.

“He won't make it. He's going to topple over,” I thought. Just as he approached the sides, the lizard lowered his body, bending his legs until his belly was almost scraping the ground. In this low-to-the-ground mode, he crept right up the steep slope and kept on going. He reduced his center of gravity.

“Keep low to the ground.” Got it. That image has stayed with me ever since. When it gets steep, get closer to the ground.

2) Once, at the maintenance warehouse in Oakland, all we could find for lunch was some Project Volunteer donations: canned applesauce, sardines and maraschino cherries. So we had that for lunch. “Keeps you from getting spiritually open,” one brother claimed.

Also, on MFT in Kentucky, sometimes the only place to get food in a small town was a little market. With my army-surplus P-38 (flat folding can opener) I ate cold, canned chili a few times. Or had a can of orange juice concentrate, milk and a couple slices of bread for lunch on a hot day.

The DC region used to have meetings on the Barrier Islands in North Carolina, and we'd go fishing. Caught a stingray. I was gutting it, tossing the innards into the sea and thinking “This is such a refreshing change from lecturing DP.” Our Japanese sisters baked the entire thing in the oven, bulging eyes and all. It tasted sweet, quite good – and I don't like fish. It was also the ugliest thing I have ever eaten.

Decades later, I was swimming at a beach I have gone to for 20 years without incident, when I stepped on a stingray and got jabbed. Had a couple of hours of excruciating pain while the venom broke down. Revenge?

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