

Geometry (174 words)

There's lots of things Grandpa and I studied back in school that didn't seem all that useful at the time. Take geometry. It all seemed like just a lot of hoo-haw to us.

But we were using a little geometry around the kitchen not too long ago. Grandpa was snacking on some Sunset Dip, a Mexican-style dip made with Pace Chunky Salsa. Of course, he reached for a bag of our Restaurant Style Tortilla Chips.

But after a few chips, Grandpa had a geometric brainstorm. Since the chips are too wide to fit in your mouth (I think he added, "... even YOUR mouth"), most folks snap them in half. Well, that makes a mess and leaves you with lots of chip crumbs.

So Grandpa figured out a much better shape. He came up with a white corn tortilla **strip** that he calls Tiritas. They're a whole new angle on snacks, and a great chip to use when you're working your way through a bowl of Sunset Dip, salsa or whatever kind of dip.

Story Two: Restaurant Style Tortilla Chips

The Beef (161 words)

Grandpa and I had a bit of a beef the other day. He was watching some TV show about fancy customized pickup trucks. The next thing you know, Grandpa's talking about buying a new "... flairside dually short-bed with nerf bars and a tailgate skin ...," whatever that is.

The expression on my face must have brought him back to his senses. It might also have been the way I was waving the wooden spoon in his face. Anyway, he pretty quickly realized that the truck he has is just fine. We did agree that he could use some new floor mats, though.

And just to show him there were no hard feelings, I stirred up a batch of Beefy Taco Dip, made with Pace Chunky Salsa. We sat down at the kitchen table, opened a bag of our White Tortilla Chips and ate the whole bowl of dip while we looked through a catalog picking out his new floor mats.

Pancho (226 words)

Grandma and I are always poking around the country looking for new kinds of snacks. Way before all the other snack companies started making tortilla chips, I made a trip to the southwest to see what kind of snacks the folks there were eating.

I made it as far as south Texas and bumped into nobody else than Pancho Villa. He was kind of a Robin Hood type ...taking from the rich and giving to the poor. Unfortunately, he had a nasty habit of shooting some of the rich after he made them poorer, so he spent a lot time on the run from bounty hunters.

Even with all that running all over the prairie, he looked like he ate pretty good. If you've ever seen a photo, you know Pancho was a bit round. I figured that this was a guy who knew good food, so I asked him what kind of snacks he and his compadres munched on.

He told me that those folks eat salsa on everything, like we eat ketchup today. And sometimes he said they'd beef it up by tossing in some ground beef to make a meaty taco dip that they couldn't get enough of. He had somebody mix up a bowl, and we spent a nice evening around the campfire, snacking away and listening to the coyotes howl.

Pancho #2 (194 words)

People are always asking me where we get ideas for new snacks. Fact is, lots of times we just kind of trip over them by accident.

Like when I was a bit younger and took a trip to Texas. I bumped into nobody else but Pancho Villa, a Robin Hood-type who took from the rich, gave to the poor ... and kept just a bit for himself.

We were sitting around the campfire one night telling stories when they trotted out a hat-full of the biggest chips I ever saw. I'm used to potato chips but these were big, crunchy corn chips. They were good alone but even better when we dipped them into a bowl of this darn good concoction of salsa and beef.

When I got back to Brewster, Grandma and I recreated those tasty chips, and that's how our White Tortilla Chips were born. We also found a recipe for Beefy Taco Dip, made with Pace Chunky Salsa, that might be a tad better than what Pancho's boys whipped up. Our chips are so authentic, I sometimes wear my sombrero while I eat them ... but only when Grandma's not around.