

Hmmmm!....Cheeseburger!

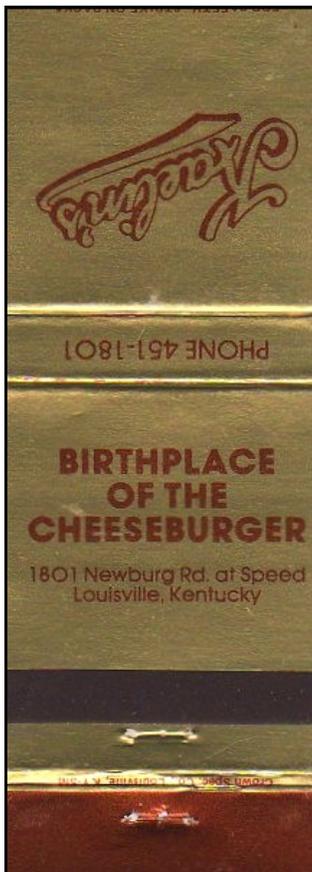
Adding cheese to hamburgers became popular in the late-1920s to mid-1930s, and there are several competing claims as to who created the first cheeseburger. Lionel Sternberger is reputed to have introduced the cheeseburger in 1926 at the age of 16 when he was working as a fry cook at his father's Pasadena, California sandwich shop, "The Rite Spot", and "experimentally dropped a slab of American cheese on a sizzling hamburger."

An early example of the cheeseburger appearing on a menu is a 1928 menu for the Los Angeles restaurant O'Dell's which listed a cheeseburger smothered with chili for 25 cents.

Other restaurants say they invented the cheeseburger. For example, Kaelin's Restaurant [pictured here] in Louisville, Kentucky, said it invented the cheeseburger in 1934. One year later, a trademark for the name "cheeseburger" was awarded to Louis Ballast of the Humpty Dumpty Drive-In in Denver, Colorado. According to Steak 'n Shake archives, the restaurant's founder, Gus Belt, applied for a trademark on the word in the 1930s.

Currently, the most expensive cheeseburger in America belongs to New York City food truck 666 Burger. It's a \$666 burger that is wrapped in gold leaf and topped with lobster, caviar, truffles, foie gras, and aged gruyere cheese melted with steam from champagne poured on the hot griddle.

The largest cheeseburger ever made in the world weighed 2,014 pounds, "60 pounds of bacon, 50 pounds of lettuce, 50 pounds of sliced onions, 40 pounds of pickles, and 40 pounds of cheese." The record was broken by Minnesota's Black Bear Casino, breaking the previous Cheeseburger record 881 pounds.



Traditionally, the cheeseburger breaches the kosher laws observed by Judaism as it combines ground beef and cheese. Mixtures of milk and meat are prohibited according to Jewish religious law, following a verse in the Book of Exodus in which Jews are forbidden from "boiling a (kid) goat in its mother's milk". This prohibition appears again in Deuteronomy. This dietary law sparked controversy in Jerusalem when McDonald's began opening franchises there that sold cheeseburgers. Since that time, McDonald's has opened both kosher and non-kosher restaurants in Israel. In an attempt to provide a "kosher cheeseburger", a kosher restaurant in New York City created a controversial cheeseburger variation which replaces cheese with soy cheese. [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheeseburger>]

Americans consume app. 50 billion burgers a year. The Hamburger Business is 73 Billion dollar business. There are over 50,000 burger joints located across the country, the highest number being in California. McDonald's buys over 1 billion pounds of hamburger meat per Year. [<http://www.burgerweb.com/burger-statistics/>]

