

What to do on a lazy Sunday? **Burger Warz!**

That's right, McDonalds vs. In-n-Out vs. Tommy's.

All 3 are "California institutions" (sort of) and each has its' own story...

McDonalds: The oldest *remaining* McDonalds is actually #4, in Downey, CA.



Here's the history (pretty interesting)...

## SPEEDEE HISTORY

This is the oldest operating McDonald's hamburger stand in the world. When opened, hamburgers were 15 cents, and french fries were 12 cents. The towering neon chef, "Speedee," was McDonald's first mascot and symbolic of fast, efficient service.

Opened on August 18, 1953 by Roger Williams and Burdette "Bud" Landon, Downey's was the third stand franchised by Richard and Maurice McDonald who founded the chain in 1948.



Ray Kroc, then a Multimixer milkshake machine salesman and later founder of McDonald's Corporation, visited this building in 1954 to prepare for construction of his first McDonald's franchise in Des Plaines, Illinois, which opened in 1955. Ray Kroc bought out the McDonald Brothers for \$2.7 million. However, this location was the only "McDonald's" which was never affiliated with the McDonald's Corporation; this restaurant did not become a part of the McDonald's system until 1990.

"Speedee" was replaced by a new logo in 1961. Ronald McDonald was created in 1963, with Willard Scott as the very first Ronald McDonald.

In 1994, the "Speedee" store was closed due to damages caused by the Northridge earthquake. The store reopened on December 15, 1996 with the addition of the museum and gift shop. Lakewood resident and McDonald's owner/operator Ron Piazza assumed ownership of the "Speedee" store from the McDonald's Corporation on July 1, 1998.



So, the first "real McDonalds" (i.e. "Golden Arches") opened in 1955. This Downey facility includes a museum and memorabilia shop although this is "around back" and hidden from view.

Here's a museum shot. The 6-shake-maker is what started the whole burger-craze, as the original McDonald brothers stand had 6-makers (36 shakes) running simultaneously!



The original sign... *Huge!*



Also note the sign pollution... In L.A. zoning laws prevent “adding new signs” so trucks are painted and parked (everywhere!).



But the **In-n-Out** burger business (1948) pre-dates even the original McDonalds brothers L.A. shack by 2 years. I found the last-original In-n-Out, in Baldwin Park... Uh-Oh... Closed and a new one built across the street (In-n-Out is not franchised, and remains a huge commercial success).

History: The idea of a drive-thru hamburger stand where customers could order through a two-way speaker box was quite unique. In that era, it was common to see carhops serving those who wanted to order food from their car. The In-n-Out idea caught on and California's first drive-thru hamburger stand was born.



**And now... For the piece-of-resistance in the CA Burger Warz... I bring you Tommy's**

The original stand at Beverly and Rampart (L.A.) today serves as the company logo and -dare I say- tourist stop.

On May 15, 1946, Tommy Koulox introduced Los Angeles to a hamburger floating in chili, with a huge tomato slice, pickles, and onion (sound familiar?). Here it is!



This is a double cheeseburger (\$2.65) *awesome!* Here's what you get for \$5...



Oh yeah “the place” is still the same-old-shack from 1946...



“In back” is an add-on “kitchen” (I use the term loosely)...



The clientele is “everybody, from everywhere”...



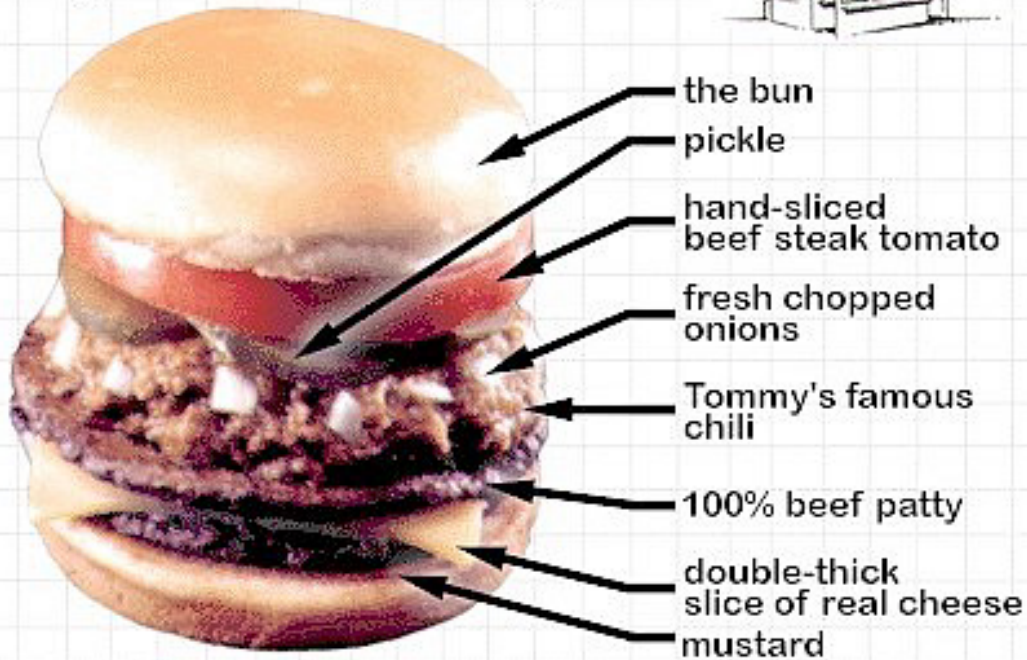
Tommy's has a great T-shirt...



...available @ <https://secure.apolloi.com/tommys/shirt.php>

Want more? Anatomy of a burger!

## Anatomy of an Original Tommy's Burger



The truth is, a TommyBurger is best eaten with a spoon, and odds-are better than 50-50 that if you try and eat it like a “real burger” you’ll slobber over everything...



*Tommy's wins!*



*Had enough? Yes? OK see 'ya next time... Oh? Someone wants more?*

In the late 1940's, Russell C. Wendell created the ***Big DoNut*** drive-in idea while selling donut making machines in Los Angeles. Burgers were not the only drive-in mass-production fast-food idea. The first **Big DoNut Drive-In** was started in 1950, and ultimately there were dozens in L.A. of which only 3 survive today. Randy's is located at Manchester and the I-405.



Did I buy a donut? No. I ran out of cash, and they don't take plastic 😞

Enjoy the day! *PP*