

FOOD FOR A RAINY DAY



Stay inside with steamed clams

BY DAVID CAMPICHE

It's illuminating to imagine the Columbia River in 1790, two years before the arrival of Capt. Robert Gray and the Columbia Rediviva. Yes, before, when the only footprints on this land were those of the Chinook people.

It's inspiring to imagine the cooking fires in and outside the cedar plank lodges of these First Peoples. What, you may ask, was being prepared over those campfires? The answer is an amazing cornucopia of fresh, spine-tin-gling edibles that were gathered from land and sea. Meanwhile, Gray's sailors ate a diet consisting mostly of salt-pork, hardtack and grog. Most everybody on the ship contracted scurvy.

Photos by David Campiche

LEFT: Clams, noodles and nectar. **RIGHT:** Little neck clams. **BELOW:** Members of Chinook Indian Nation on the Columbia River.

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