Loaded Mushroom Soup

(Serves 4-6)

¹/₂ pound bacon, chopped¹/₂ pound mushrooms, sliced1 onion, diced

4 cups chicken broth 2 potatoes, cut into julienne strips 1 large carrot, cut into julienne strips 1 bay leaf 1/4tsp. cayenne pepper

1/2 cup whipping cream, optional 1TBS cornstarch, optional

Fry bacon over medium heat. Add onions and mushrooms and cook till onions are limp. Add the next five ingredients. If using whipping cream and cornstarch, blend those together and add at same time. Bring to a boil. Simmer till carrots and potatoes are cooked, about 2 minutes.

(Note: soup was not made with the whipping cream and cornstarch for this recipe contest.)