

Business News

Momma's Country Kitchen To Feature Home Cookin'

By MARGARET A. STUDENC
Staff Reporter

"Whatever happened to places with the old-fashioned soda fountain, home-cooked food, and friendly service," folks will say quite often after an overdose of fast food or expensive restaurants which charge for every little service.

While most of those old places are gone, a victim of changing times, now there is a new place in Madison County which plans to go back to that old style service - Momma's Country Kitchen.

This new restaurant, owned by Latrelle and James K. Robinson, will be opening Sunday and is located on U.S. 25-70 between Marshall and Hot Springs on the site of an old service station.

The restaurant may seem familiar to a few local folks. Much of the wood used for the building is from various barns around the county. The rest of the lumber came from the Robinson's own land.

"My son did all the building with the help of many friends," said Mrs. Robinson.

"He tore down four old barns that people gave us," she said.

Mrs. Robinson said that the building of the place took about two years and during this time many people from out of state would stop by

and ask for samples of the wood used to build the place.

At first glance, the restaurant does not look like the typical place at which to eat.

"I wanted it to be different and interesting," said Mrs. Robinson.

The bottom level, where the entrance is located, features a counter and soda fountain which was formerly located in Roberts Pharmacy on Main Street, Marshall.

"It (the fountain) has got to be about 100 years old," said Mrs. Robinson.

"We plan to have antiques in the glass cabinet at the cash register and on the walls," she said.

There is also a wood stove which, along with the pine tables and natural walls, complete the homey effect.

"Someone asked me if I were going to stain these walls," said Mrs. Robinson with a roll of her eyes, "Everybody thinks differently."

"We'll have a private dining room upstairs," she said as she led this reporter up the narrow flight of steps. "We'll have a rope (alongside the steps) for older folks to climb the stairs."

The upstairs of the restaurant continues on the theme of natural decor, with more of the pine tables, booths from the old pharmacy and natural finished walls.

"Eventually we will have a country store which is connected to the restaurant," said Mrs. Robinson.

Another set of steps leads down into what will be the store.

The Robinsons also plan to have gas tanks for gas service at the front of the store.

"The restaurant will be able to seat 72 people," said Mrs. Robinson, "We do plan to expand."

As for the food, Mrs. Robinson said that Momma's Country Kitchen will feature home-cooked food.

"We'll buy vegetables from local people and we plan next summer to freeze and can our own," she said.

"At night we will have steaks and baked potatoes, and shrimp and fish as well as country-style meals and burgers," she said.

Mrs. Robinson, a former home economics teacher and nutritionist, said, "I love people and food!"

Mrs. Robinson said she wants the restaurant to be a place for everyone.

"We'll have a place for the kids after ball games with burgers, shakes and fries or ice cream," she said.

Momma's Country Kitchen will be open daily from 5 a.m. - 11 p.m.

"We have really been lucky with all the help and materials donated from many people," said Mrs. Robinson.

"We are excited about the opening," she said.



MARGARET STUDENC PHOTO

Latrelle Robinson sits at the center at Momma's Country Kitchen, located on U.S. 25-70 between Marshall and Hot Springs. "I

used to sit at this counter when I was young so the boys could see my legs," she said. "I



BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Face To Face

Steve Feingold comes face to face with Big Brudis, a 200-pound python that visited Madison General Store during its grand opening last week. Helping hold the snake is Edward Brown, a store employee.

2 Brothers Keep Barbering Business All In The Family

By MARGARET A. STUDENC
Staff Reporter

Why would two men who have lived the city life up north want to come down south to Weaverville, N.C.?

To open a barber-beauty shop in the Weaverville Plaza next to Food Lion of course.

Buster "Buck" and Mitch Mitchell have been barbers for 25 years. Both own barber shops - Buck Mitchell's is in Detroit, Mich., and Mitch Mitchell's is in Ontario, Canada.

When asked why they chose to open a business and live in Weaverville, Buck Mitchell replied, "I've been living in the rat race too long. I wanted to get to a small town."

"We have a sister here," said Mitch Mitchell.

The shop, Mitchell's Hair, is located on the far side of the plaza to the right of Food Lion. Inside there are three barber chairs facing a line of seats in which customers may wait their turns for a haircut.

Through another doorway in the back is the beauty shop portion of the business.

"We are looking for two beauticians to work in the shop," said Buck Mitchell.

"We'd love to find someone who is really motivated and willing to help build a business," said Mitch Mitchell.

Both brothers graduated in 1962 from Lamar Barber School in Detroit.

"We also do men's hair styling," said Buck Mitchell.

Monday was the first day of business for Mitchell's Hair, but was not the grand opening. That will be held at a later date.

"We still are waiting for our phone and the signs to be put up before we have a grand opening," Buck Mitchell said.

Mitchell's Hair is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.



MARGARET STUDENC PHOTO

Buster Mitchell gives Mitch Mitchell a trim at Mitchell's Hair located at the Weaverville Plaza.

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