

Cookbook Continues Tradition Of Good Food, Good Times

BY SUSAN USHER

Feeding people and taking pleasure in it is a fine Southern tradition, and in

Calabash, home of many of the area's best seafood restaurants, spreading a feast is not only a way of life, but a living as well. So it

seems appropriate that an organization based in Calabash should publish a cookbook as a fundraising project and name it *Mrs. Calabash's Kitchen*.

Calabash's Kitchen.

That's exactly what Calabash Elks Lodge No. 2679 Ladies Auxiliary did over nine months last year. The 100-page cookbook with spiral binding and laminated cover debuted this past winter.

Its appeal begins with the cover—which features engaging artwork by 6-year-old Jonathan Hawley, a member of Tiger Cub Pack No. 227—but doesn't end there.

Within the covers you'll find plenty that pleases—from project chairman Karen Acton's behind-the-scenes account of the restaurant proprietor purported to be the real "Mrs. Calabash," to the recipes themselves.

Along with some familiar oldies but goodies such as "Copper Pennies" and "Dirt Cake," there are plenty of recipes that won't repeat those already on your cookbook shelf.

Like to name-drop? Try "Tom Selleck's Chicken With Wine & Vegetables" from the "Celebrities' Recipes" section.

As delightful as reading recipes and cooking may be, a lot of the fun from this cookbook will come from reading between the recipes. "The Rise and Fall of Chocolate

Chip Cookies," "Stargazing Rey's Way," "Helpful Hints For Parents" and a poem, "To The Women Who Have Walked With Me" are just a sampling of the food for thought included.

If it's too cloudy outside to stargaze with the star charts included in the cookbook, don't worry, the compilers have thought of rainy day (and night) activities as well. These include recipes for a coal garden, home-made clay, play dough and a sawdust modeling mixture, and a baking dough that can be cut into shapes, baked then preserved with a coating of polyurethane.

Rounding out the package are an index and table of contents, and section dividers that feature the pen and ink art of Holden Beach artist Vic Gillispie.

The ladies' auxiliary is composed of the wives, widows, mothers, daughters and sisters of Elks. Its objective is to help the lodge in any way possible. Proceeds from cookbook sales will support the Calabash Elks Lodge's commitment to making its community a better place in which to live.

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