



Carl Clark, Maurice Ash, and Ed Clark stand before the door of Carlisle's newest family restaurant, Tracks. For nearly a month workmen have been busy changing the look of the old Food and Fun restaurant. They have added a wider patio for outdoor dining. Daily specials combined with new food items. However, elements of the Food and Fun menu remain. "We want a restaurant everyone can enjoy," Clark said.

Food and Fun makes Tracks

By Jack Shephard
The Carlisle Mercury Staff Reporter
CARLISLE — When Bill Clark's brother-in-law, Maurice Ash, first brought up the subject of changing Clark's Food and Fun restaurant, Clark was just a touch nervous. But just a touch. After all the restaurant had established itself and provided a secure living for over four years. The rule is, usually, not to mess around with tradition. But Clark decided to take the risk and the result is "Tracks," Nicholas County's newest restaurant. "When Maurice first mentioned the idea, it was worried how it would affect my regular customers. We've been fast food a long time and I thought my prices would get too high. But I think we've been able to keep them pretty reasonable," Clark said. Very little of the old restaurant remains recognizable, save for the front counter which has been painted a rich magenta and silver-grey. But the changes that are in place all conform to a single theme and it has everything to do with the railroad that runs behind the store. They have made full use of the novelty. Not only did it give the Clark family the idea for the new restaurant's name, but a window in back gives patrons a view of the TTI railroad cars when they pass. But the most distinctive

Ring comes home from war

By Jack Shephard
The Carlisle Mercury Staff Reporter
DREXELVILLE — Darrin Ring was stationed in Germany when the Berlin Wall came down in 1990. He was stationed there with a Patriot missile unit, a defensive system whose only proving ground had been in controlled field tests in the United States. It had never been fired and the only holiday Ring had that the system would work was the word of his commanding officers. Then came Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He was stationed in the desert in the northern section of Saudi Arabia manning the communications system in a mobile Patriot missile system. His unit's duty was to provide cover for the seventh corps waiting near the Iraqi border for the "go" signal to invade. Despite the massive buildup of the multi-national force, Ring said the sense of isolation was almost complete. As far as anyone in the unit could see, they were alone in the sand with little to do but wait for the system to activate itself. Fighter jets and bombers flew far too high to see or hear, Ring said. Their only source of information came from radio reports from the Cable News Radio Network broadcast by the American Forces Network. However it was through these reports that Ring learned how effective the Patriot system proved to be. "I was used to fast food and I was really green at this kind of service and when it got crowded, we got a bit confused. But I've been able to see we were supposed to do. We'd been told all along how effective they should be, but you've never quite sure until they see action if all the talk isn't just talk. Right now, I think we're doing what we had been capable of doing the job," Ring said. But while civilians at home were watching some of the events of the war, Ring remained relatively quiet. "From the time I reached my post out in the desert until we finally got the order to move into Iraq, it was the same ninety people every day, maintaining equipment, enduring the temperature and running guard duty shifts through the night. "We were stationed several miles behind the forward line. The missiles have a considerable range and pinpoint accuracy that we could

skirmish in some pockets of the invasion but mostly we heard of the Iraqi soldiers waving the propaganda pamphlets asking they surrender. It was incredible. These people didn't want to fight. They were scared directed more at Saddam Hussein than at us. We were welcomed and found they seemed to dislike Hussein more than an invading force in their land," Ring said. Almost as soon as it had been the ground war finished, Ring spent 151 days in the desert then was ordered back to Germany. Rejoined with his old unit, they traded stories about their participation in the war.

He returned home to Drexelville last week. "All I want to do right now is sleep. But it is good to be home."

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Darrin Ring

P.V.A. Field Work Still in Progress

Ed Hatton and Tim Rose are working out in the county measuring property (as required by House Bill 940-the Education Bill). They appreciate the help and consideration that has been shown to them. If a homeowner or tenant was not at home when visited, a mailback card was left in the door. Please fill these out and mail, or bring the card to the P.V.A. office. This will help prevent follow-up calls and speed up their job. If you have any questions about the project, please call the P.V.A. office at 289-3735.

GENERAL NEWS

Fountain made memories

By Jack Shephard
The Carlisle Mercury Staff Reporter
CARLISLE — People of Nicholas County I ask you, for the moment, to think of an old-fashioned soda fountain. It is hardly much in and of itself. Just a large, ornate counter, two large, black hand-dipped spigots mounted on the top. Below them, a line of metal containers filled with crushed pineapple, bright red maraschino cherries, straw-berries in heavy syrup and five fruit peaches. All the toppings and necessities to create the 100 percent true blue, American Ice Cream Sundae and Banana Split. But did you notice you thought about something more than a simple ice cream dish, there was a particular piece involved, a piece that does not exist much anymore? More than what a soda fountain provided the sweet counter, one particular item, the Blessing model, now back in operation at Eddie's Family Restaurant, prompted two respected businessmen, G.C. Myers and Doug Garrett, to take a short daydream break from the stress of a working day to remember an earlier time in Carlisle. Believe it or not, it was when Carlisle business was here. Ask anyone who has grown here. Ask them what they did when Doc Bradshaw owned the Carlisle Drug Store. Ask them about the lot of people in front of the Theater ticket booth that snaked its way up the sidewalk along Locust Street, around the Depot Bank, and ending in front of the honorable Joe Frank Conley's office door. There were three soda fountains in operation then. Besides the Carlisle Drug Store was Taraman's Drug Store on the corner and William's Restaurant. On weekday afternoons at the Nicholas County and Carlisle High School, they heard their students from another spring class day. They heard the lunch booth at the Carlisle Drug Store would be packed with teenagers and the jukebox in the corner played the music. Meanwhile the soda fountain performed its duty, providing Cherry and Chocolate Cakes to be topped and iced, spiked, courted, and flopped through the magazines. It goes so noisy at times Doc Bradshaw would have to call them down, then ask who was buying the magazines. "If that soda fountain could speak, it could tell something about nearly everyone who has lived here," Garrett said with a knowing expression toward Myers. Myers nods as he runs an experienced hand, over the machine. "This was the second fountain we had in the store. It recalls Saturday nights in downtown, that special time of the week when the county gathered together. People said upon the courthouse wall to watch the cars run back and forth on Main Street. Back then creating the drug wasn't a nuisance, but a pleasure. Families in the county gathered for their one night out to stretch their legs and forget the toll in the fields. "If you wanted a parking space on Saturday night, you drove your car into town at about two in the afternoon and left it there," G.C. Myers said. It was true. The people would come from all over. They filled the streets and sidewalks of Carlisle, waiting on the courthouse benches across



Doug Garrett, G.C. Myers, and Eddie Brierly stand proudly behind a piece of Carlisle history, the old Carlisle Drug Store Soda Fountain which now serves customers of Eddie's Family Restaurant.

From one another and visit. Meanwhile, in the Carlisle Drug Store, the kids danced in the back. So many generations pass and fade with the music of the time. The changing seasons in the passing. The soft reunion of Frank Sinatra and Glenn Miller in the 1940's gave way to the good time rock and roll of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, Bill Haley, The Big Bopper, and that scendacious Memphis blockbuster, Elvis Presley. And through it all, the soda fountain remained constant. A changeless and somewhat unnoticed part of that segment of Carlisle history. While G.C. Myers cannot quite remember the day the first began serving Nicholas County customers, he knows the exact day it was removed. It would be inappropriate to call October 12, 1975 a black day, but it was indeed a sad one when the Carlisle Drug Store fountain was removed. The Federal Minimum wage per hour law made the fountain a financial burden. For reasons Doug Garrett could only attribute to real life, his father, Earl Garrett, bought the fountain and had it stored in the back of Garrett's

Remember? "Buying the fountain was about the most popular job you could have," Myers said. "I couldn't even begin to list the kids who worked behind that counter to remember an earlier time to do."

So with much fanfare and a great deal of nostalgia, a piece of old Carlisle has returned. Remember?

Rain fall causes flow problem

By Jack Shephard
The Carlisle Mercury Staff Reporter
CARLISLE — Heavy rain fall in past weeks caused major water flow problems in the sewer system, abandoned nearly a year ago because of a federal mandate, the oxidation ditch has proven to be money well spent, Kelley said. In that time, such a measure was deemed acceptable by the government, but it is not acceptable now, Kelley said. All water coming into the plant must be processed and accredited personnel must run it, Kelley said. Both Bobby and Gene Kelley are fully accredited. For those citizens in Carlisle who wish to see how their tax dollars were spent, chairman Tommy Vaughan, Betty Burton, and Sharon Paulson, are planning an open house where the functions and operation of the plant will be explained and demonstrated. The open house is expected to be held in August, Kelley said.



Bath County Water District workers use a crane to drill a unit into a ditch line in front of the entrance to Cassidy Creek Road in Myers Station.

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