

ZEST MAGAZINE

Northern Exposure- Hannah Draeger Ross

“Wood-splitting headache”

I recently received a phone call informing me that I had won an “electric-Powered wood splitter!!!”

Of course there were some obvious “hitches in the caboodle” that accompanied the collection of my wondrous prize.

I simply needed to “find out how to take advantage of my home equity with a reverse mortgage.”

As I currently reside in a quaint little apartment two blocks from the Atlantic Ocean, I no longer pay a mortgage!

In fact, I no longer have need for a wood-splitter as I left my former fireplace back in Greensboro, North Carolina. I just figured I could probably re-sell the thing in my next “Believe it or Not” yard sale extravaganza.

The young man who held the keys to my wood-splitter went into great detail to tell me how fast I could be splitting wood the easy way and...Taa Daa... my need for a reverse mortgage.

Every time I tried to speak the words "But...But" (and explain my new living arrangements) the mortgage guy interrupted me with another reason to "use the equity I earned that was simply collecting dust in some bank vault!"

I tried to get in a word edgewise and finally decided to hang-up the phone. Believe it or not, he actually called back and told me we were "cut-off."

I could no longer bear it, and finally informed him that I had hung-up the phone. I also told him that I did not want A. The wood-splitter or B. Another sales call. He banged the phone so hard my ear split instead of the wood. My question to our wonderful mature readers is this....when did the world lose its manners? E-mail me your worst example of a sales call and I will print it in the next column. Yes, you will win a prize.

Restaurants that our readers have told me about:

I VISITED *BELLA NAPOLI*...FINALLY!!!!

What a surprise and a half the visit turned out to be. Hidden in a strip of retail stores at 3901 Dick Pond Road (Hwy 544) one mile west of Hwy 17 Bypass. It lies in the Big Block Junction Shopping Center.

Folks, the owner hails from Pennsylvania. Another transplant!

The man knows how to deliver the sauce and the pasta (and the bread is marvelous too) the prices are very affordable.

I had the old-fashioned favorite of meatballs and spaghetti. Yumma. Call (843) 215-8777. Next time I order the *Sorrenntino*...a lightly floured and sautéed chicken topped with eggplant, proscuitto and mozzarella in a mushroom marinara sauce. The patron next to me was crazy over it!

Loved the Louie Prima background music but live jazz on Friday night is not too shabby either.

Next reader restaurant suggestion:

***Collectors Café* is located at 7740 N. Kings Hwy. Myrtle Beach. Reservations are preferred. (843) 449-9370**

Surround yourself with great original art and enjoy an entrée fit for a King. A local favorite is the grilled Chilean Sea Bass over artichoke mashed potatoes. Priced for a wonderful special evening with your Sweetie-Pie. You can stop by just to enjoy a coffee and share a delicious Crème Brulee.

Great place to take a visiting relative.....

***Captain Bennett's Calabash Seafood Restaurant*.2900 North Kings Highway. Myrtle Beach. (843) 448-2977**

All you can possibly eat!!!! The greatest deal in a seafood buffet on the beach!

Soup Bar, Raw Bar, Salad Bar, Dessert Bar. Bars all over the place. Old-fashioned beach charm. Clean, fresh food. I rest my case. The Seafood Platter from the kitchen is huge, priced at \$18.95.

Last but not least. A coastal favorite...*Sam's Corner* feeds your hunger 24 hours a day. Draft beer and great franks, what could be better to end a day on the golf course. Spend ten bucks and live a little.

Readers Mailbag:

Frances Mack from North Myrtle Beach:

“End a bet. Fred MacMurray and Barbara Stanwyck were mortal enemies filming “Double Indemnity.” Yes or no?”

They were anything but, according to web archives, they were great “Film Noir” buddies who could really get into a few drinks and a pack of cigarettes together, not into “Hanky Panky. ” They really enjoyed each other during the filming of this great classic.

P.S. It shows, see the movie on the American Movie Classic Channel a million times a year.

Meg Phillips from Totowa, New Jersey (Visiting our fair Strand?)

“My mom admired the famous actress Myrna Loy. She especially loved the “Thin Man” series. Is she still alive? Who was the man she co-starred with in the series?”

Ms. Loy was a great actress; she passed away a while back. The co-star was a cool dude named William Powell.

Marie Cimmenello writes from an un-know location:

“I do not understand why people spend hundreds of dollars on birthday and holiday presents for kids. When I was a child one present was all we could expect.”

I agree. I have attached a photo of my son Sammy holding his prized B-B rifle (an illegal gift by today’s standards...perfectly acceptable then.)

A FOOTNOTE TO OUR READERS:

Many of you enjoyed the article on the single life at the beach for folks over fifty. If you want to share a night out with other transplants that read ZEST, let us hear from you. We will happily provide a monthly eatery to meet and greet other readers.

