

Guests Continue To Use Lincoln Highway 1940's Landmark

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Bedford Co. Correspondent
MANN'S CHOICE (Bedford Co.) — During the 1940s, Route 30, the Lincoln Highway, gave birth to tourist cabins. They offered security, hot showers, and radios. One of these establishments was the insulbrick covered cabins of the Lincoln Motor Court built in 1944.

Prior to the days of tourist cabins, travelers were forced to either do day trips, stay in expensive hotels located only in cities, or camp. The cabin was the perfect in-between solution and was the forerunner of today's Holiday Inn's and Howard Johnson's motels.

Thanks to Bob and Debbie Altizer, owners of the Lincoln Highway cabins, you can still have the experience of staying in one of these early 1940's accommodations.

Debbie and Bob have owned the cabins for 20 years.

"We wanted to own our own business," says Debbie. Living in Washington D.C., the young couple was anxious to get out of the city. So, taking a map, they drew a circle in a three-hour radius. One of these locations was Bedford County.

"We looked at motels and campgrounds and somehow these cabins had the magic draw," Debbie remembers. "And," she laughs, "I thought making beds would be easy."

Remodeling was the first priority upon taking ownership. "But, we were careful to keep them as original as possible," Debbie says. "Even in my youth, I realized the value of authenticity."

The knotty pine walls are original, as are the lampshades and doorknobs. "We have also kept

as much of the furniture as possible," she adds.

Carpeting drapes, beds, and the heating systems all had to be replaced. "And then replaced again!"

The rooms are utilitarian. The bathroom still has the pink commodes and washbowls, and plastic tile typical of the era.

Gas heaters keep the cottages snugly warm in the winter and the cool mountain breezes of Bedford County keep them cool in the summer.

"We have window fans," Debbie said, "and no one ever complains about being too warm."

While the Altizers are steadily busy throughout the year, Fall Foliage is the highlight.

"We start getting reservations about six months ahead," Debbie says. "And, we are always booked solid."

All of October is busy with leaf peckers enjoying the quaintness of the cabins. Deer hunters also seek the comfort of the Lincoln Highway Motor Court as do trout fishermen in the spring.

"We get a lot of families who like to do reunions renting several cabins," Debbie says.

Our most frequent guests are Lincoln Highway enthusiasts. The first organizational meeting of the association met at the cabins for dessert. There were 40 people in the group who enormously enjoyed the tour.

"We have all kinds of guests who come to celebrate their wedding anniversary, many of them had stayed here on their original honeymoon," Debbie said.

For occasions such as this, the Altizers offer a sweetheart room for \$52 a night. The other rooms are \$42 nightly.

The Lincoln Highway group plans to place a cutout of a couple dressed in 1940's garb outside the cabins for picture taking.

This is a natural for the Altizers. Both Bob and Debbie do wedding and portrait photography and have an outdoor setting at the cabins. Wedding couples sometimes use the cabins for their wedding parties.

Among the many guests who have checked in and out have been the helpers with the last Johnstown flood and an assortment of travel writers.

Lincoln Motor Court has been written up in USA Today, American Heritage, Travel Magazine, Budget Travel, local newspapers and the Altoona Mirror.

"The USA Today" article brought us visitors from everywhere," Debbie remembers. "We even had someone call from Hawaii."

During their 20 years at the cabins, the Altizers have raised two children.

And despite the good years they have had, they are now thinking of selling.

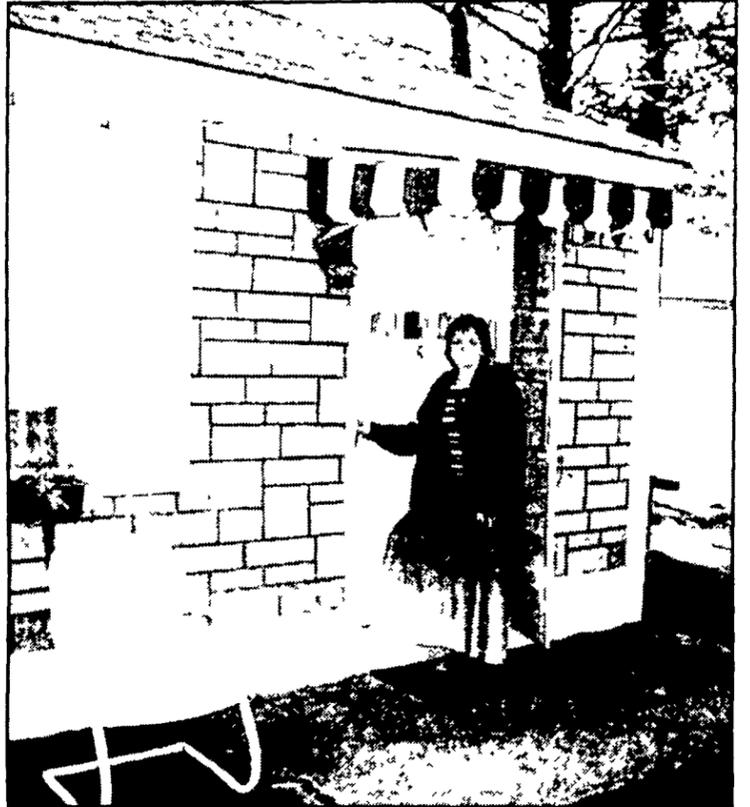
"I found cabins require a lot more work than making beds, and we think it would be nice to have more free time," Debbie said. "We also want more time to pursue our photography."

The cabins are located at 5104 Lincoln Highway, Manns Choice, Pa. 15554.

But, if you go looking for them, stay on Route 30 and you will find them neatly tucked on a hilltop between Bedford and Schellsburg.

The telephone number is (814) 733-2891.

Staying at the cabins will definitely provide a virtual reality step into the past.



Debbie Altizer checks on one of the insulbrick covered cottages, which retains its original 1940's appearance. The lawn furniture is also typical of that era. Staying at the cabins provide a virtual reality step into the past, especially for Lincoln Highway enthusiasts who remember that the cabins were forerunners of motels and affordable overnight lodging for travelers.

America's Best Features Chester County's Bounty

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — The Bounty of Chester County: Heritage Edition, the celebrated community cookbook from the Chester County Agricultural Development Council (CCADC), will be featured in America's Best Recipes — A 2003 Hometown Collection, OXMOOR HOUSE, INC.

America's Best Recipes showcases the very best recipes from outstanding community cookbooks from towns and cities across the country. America's Best Recipes salutes the dedicated volunteers whose successful cookbook sales raise funds to help meet the various needs of

their communities.

Recipes featured in America's Best Recipes are chosen by food experts representing cross-sections of the country. The recipes reflect the best of regional cuisines and current food trends as well as simply good home cooking. Each recipe is tested and rated by the Oxmoor House Test Kitchens staff, and only those recipes with the highest ratings are selected for publication. Among the over 380 recipes se-

lected as "America's Best" is the sampling from The Bounty of Chester County: Heritage Edition. The cookbook is one of 133 from across the nation to be so honored.

The Bounty of Chester County: Heritage Edition is available in local bookstores, gift shops, and at the office for the CCADC in the Chester County Government Services Center on Westtown Road. Call (610) 344-6285 for more information.

National Honey Committee Appointments

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The appointments of 14 members to the National Honey Nominations Committee were announced this week by the USDA. The committee nominates individuals for appointment to the National Honey Board.

Newly appointed committee members are: Virginia Stephens Webb of Clarksville, Ga.; Becky Tipton of Meriden, Kan.; Mary E. Klein of St. Charles, Mich.; James Daniel Rodenberg of Wolf Point, Mont.; Christine Thacker Alley of Lebanon, Ohio; Harvey

Price of Wetumka, Okla.; Willie (W.C.) McCall of Seneca, S.C.; Barry Richards of Cross Plains, Tenn.; and Ann Harman of Flint Hill, Va.

Reappointed committee members are: Wayne Vandre of Anchorage, Alaska; John S. Tulloch of Odessa, Del.; Don Moore of St. James, Mo.; George K. Hansen of Colton, Ore.; and Alan (A.J.) Howery of Darlington, Wis.

All members' terms start immediately and end on June 30, 2006.



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