

Jeanne Norris leaves city for Country Coffee House

Yankee Doodle has come to the Back Mountain—not Yankee Doodle riding a pony but the Yankee Doodle Coffee House in Beaumont.

The newly-opened coffee house owned by Jeanne Norris, former Broadway performer, declares her patriotism with its Americana fur-

nishings and red, white and blue color scheme.

Jeanne, who left the bright lights and excitement of New York to come to the little town of Beaumont to open her coffee house, is fulfilling one of her two lifetime ambitions.

"My first," she said, "was to go to New York

City and make good on stage and in the theatre. After many years of hard work I accomplished that so now I am working at my second dream—a coffee house where people with talent can come and perform and, of course, so will I."

Jeanne's parents originally were from West

Pittston. Jeanne, however, was born in Syracuse, N.Y., then later lived in Elmira with her parents. When just a child, the family moved across the United States to the state of Washington.

After graduating from high school, Jeanne attended the University of Washington where she first majored in criminology.

"It was fine," she said, "Until my instructor assigned me as a case-worker to a delinquent girls institution. The girls were about 17 or 18 so I was very close to their age."

"My life at home had been a very sheltered life and I just couldn't cope with the girls in the institution, so I decided to change my major. I continued at the University and graduated with a degree in drama which was my first love anyway."

Jeanne had played in dramatic roles all through school and always wanted to go to New York so when she completed college her parents financed her trip East.

She first went to Columbia University where she received her Masters Degree in 16th century English Literature.

Jeanne lived in a teachers college and later attended that college to pick up three credits. She lived in Whittier Hall among teachers from all over the world.

"It was then that I decided against teaching," said Jeanne. "So I went right into show business. I went to Fort Meade in my first show. I played Aunt Kate in Personal Appearance. We

toured the Eastern Seaboard in that production."

Jeanne then went to the American Theatre Wing for musical comedy. It took 10 years of singing every chance she got, in churches, clubs, bars, anywhere a singer was needed before she got her big chance.

When Jeanne first started to sing she had a light soprano lyric voice which, according to her, didn't match her appearance so, during the 10 years she worked to change her voice to match her appearance and personality. For Jeanne it was an asset for she was able to perform using either voice.

She finally got her Equity card and played Ethel Toffelmeier in "Music Man." She had to do a lot of dancing in that production and had to take dancing lessons.

When she made Broadway, Peter Gennaro did the choreography. The production was "Bajour", gypsy name for swindle, a gypsy musical with an excellent cast.

Jeanne also played in TV soap operas, did commercials and played in musicals.

At one time, deciding she was too heavy Jeanne dieted and became very slim but she was unable to get any parts. She gained back the weight and found work.

Earl Wilson, columnist, made her the subject of one of his columns.

Jeanne said she actually enjoyed being heavy because no one picked on her. "I never lost any arguments," she said.

Jeanne also modeled and got some excellent assignments.

"I made Play Boy," she

said, "Not the centerfold but the back page. I have been tempted to write to Hugh Hefner to suggest a "Funny Bunny" for a change."

"I spent 10 years working hard to get into show business and 10 years in it," said Jeanne.

"I toured with a company through the Midwest in such productions as "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "Carousel", and "Most Happy Fellow."

In the movies, Jeanne said she was always cast as an Italian woman even though she is Irish. She played in the "Brotherhood" with Kirk Douglas, "Lovers and Other Strangers", "The Summer" with Burt Lancaster.

Jeanne's father suffered a heart attack and she dropped everything to return to her home in Washington. When her father recovered, Jeanne brought her parents with her to New York in 1970.

They remained with her in New York until she decided to buy a home in Rahway, N.J., where she knew her parents would be happier.

Her parents came to West Pittston to stay with a relative while Jeanne got settled in the new house. While they were there, her father died, then 13 months later in 1972, her mother died.

Jeanne's aunt died in 1973 and immediately following a close girl friend. By that time, Jeanne's health prevented her from returning to show business so she stayed in the family home in West Pittston until she decided to achieve her second dream—open a Coffee House.

"It's show business in a sense," said Jeanne. "I'm interested in people and I like people. I love to sing and what better place than in a coffee house among friends."

"I also want to make it available for others to use their talent. There is a lot of talent in this area and I want to have a talent night every week so people can come and perform."

"If they want to sing, recite, dance, play the piano, guitar—they can. Eventually these people might get the break they are looking for. I also want to give retired professional people an opportunity to perform."

Jeanne has a room on the side which she plans to use for such entertainment.

She has collected Americana memorabilia for years and her love for America and her avid patriotism is evidenced in the American flags in her coffee house, the American eagle on the wall, the statue of Uncle Sam in a corner, Early American pictures, the photograph of Teddy Roosevelt and the Revolutionary scenes.

Red, white and blue prevails even in the uniform she wears as well as those of her employees.

Red tablecloths, presidential place mats, red carpeting, red and blue painted furnishings all indicate her love for America.

Jeanne comes from a long line of patriotic descendants. Her great uncle ran for governor of Pennsylvania on the Prohibitionist ticket in 1922.

When she was growing up, her parents stressed "Love America". Her

grandmother's family dates back to the Revolutionary times. Her Grandmother Kintz's maiden name was Repp.

Her grandfather had a grocery store in Scranton years ago.

Jeanne is the Regent of Dial Rock Chapter of DAR, W. Pittston, starting her second term in that position.

"I want my place to be a fun place," she said. "A fun place with plenty of good home-cooked food."

"I ate in restaurants most of my life—I decided when I opened my place I would serve a good cup of coffee—and she does, a man's mug of deliciously brewed coffee."

Jeanne's sandwiches are really "sandwiches" each one a meal in itself. She serves plenty of fresh, good food in a pleasant atmosphere. Jeanne wants her coffee house to be a place where young as well as older people can come—a place with no alcohol—just plenty of good food and clean fun. She bakes her own cakes.

Jeanne believes in going back to the basics in America. She uses fresh vegetables, steamed vegetables, fresh fruit juices and also serves protein drinks for those who want them.

Jeanne is an All American. "I have had a tremendous life," she said. "I have always been able to do what I wanted to do. I have never made a lot of money but I have had a lot of fun."

The Yankee Doodle Coffee House is open Tuesday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"If you try us, you'll like us," said Jeanne. "We'll guarantee that."



Jeanne Norris

Taylor namee named chairperson for cosmetology week

Mary Taylor of Trucksville has been named chairperson by the 82 members and salon owners of the Greater Luzerne County Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association in its observance of National Cosmetology

week, Oct. 5-11.

National Cosmetology week is a reminder that the cosmetology salon is the place for total beauty care. The cosmetologist does more than create rich, glamorous hair; her or his vast knowledge on

contemporary beauty care has made them society's experts on the subject.

National Cosmetology Week will be observed in the local community, as well as across the country, during the week of Oct. 5-11, by the 68,000

members of the National Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association.

Proceeds from many National Cosmetology Week activities are given to local charities for the benefit of the entire community.

Wright's to observe 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Wright, Sr. of Chase, will observe their Golden wedding anniversary on Oct. 1.

They were married at Idetown by the late Rev. James Burleigh, pastor of

the Idetown Methodist Church.

Mrs. Wright is the former Mildred Meeker, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William J. Meeker of Meeker. Wright is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank

Wright of Idetown. They have two sons, Dale and Willard Jr. They are the grandparents of Donald, Allen, Kenneth, and Bradley of Chase; Laura, Willard III, Mark and Wade of Dallas.

They will celebrate the occasion on Sept. 20, with open house at the Jackson Township Fire Hall from 6 to 10 p.m., hosted by their children.

No invitations have been issued.

Roast beef dinner tickets available

Tickets for the Annual Roast Beef Dinner to be held at the Shavertown United Methodist Church on Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the church social rooms are now available, and may be obtained from members of the United Methodist Women or through the church office.

In addition to roast beef, the menu will include mashed potatoes, gravy, Belgian carrots, homemade applesauce, homemade relish, homemade rolls, and homemade pies for dessert, as well as beverage.

Takeouts will be

available from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m.

Mrs. Michael Olenick and Mrs. Donald Linker are chairmen of the family style dinner. Mrs. Stephen Johnson is ticket chairman.

No tickets will be sold at the door.

Meekness takes injuries like pills, not chewing, but swallowing them down.

Sir Thomas Browne

Two year old wins first place in contest

Rebecca Lynn Brown, age two, daughter of James and Jo Ann Brown of Center Street, Shavertown was entered in a baby contest held at Tunkhannock Arts Craft Fair. She came in first and was awarded a Blue

First Place Ribbon. She was judged in the class of one to two years old.

This summer she also came in fourth place in a baby contest held at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, Kingston. She was awarded a stuffed animal. There were no

age groups.

Rebecca Lynn is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Brown and great granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shrey, all of Shavertown.

Coslett offers book for Sr.citizens

Rep. Frank Coslett is offering a booklet listing benefits and rights for senior citizens.

"The booklet, prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, lists the benefits, rights and programs available to the elderly so that they may continue to lead independent lives," Coslett

said.

"Topics which are covered include employment opportunities, social security, food stamps, taxes, legal services, consumer protection, health insurance, health services, alternative living arrangements, mental health-mental retardation

programs, housing, transportation, leisure, recreation and community services.

He urges all older Pennsylvanians or persons who care for an older individual, to contact him for one of the booklets, by writing to him at 1265 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, Pa. 18704.

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