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(Neb.)-Drifter Cookshack Announces Return Of The Coffee Burger



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 04/10/2014 09:08 AM

(Harrison)- Sioux County, located in northwest Nebraska, is home to a number of well-known people, attractions and unique items. One of the most unique food items to come out of this part of the world in the last 40 years was a hamburger, the Coffee Burger, first introduced by Delores Wasserburger at Sioux Sundries located in Harrison, the Sioux County seat.

As the story goes, it was during what most remember to be the early 1970's, local rancher Bill Coffee brought his ranch hands into the restaurant part of Sioux Sundries one day and said to Delores, "let's really fill 'em up today." From that beginning, Delores developed the Coffee Burger into a sandwich consisting of two 1-pound ground beef patties, smothered with six slices of American cheese, lettuce, tomato, onions and pickles, all tucked into a regular size hamburger bun.

As word of the Coffee Burger spread and was featured on CBS Sunday Morning, American Profile Magazine, the Omaha World-Herald, local news organizations and by word of mouth, folks from all over the country and world made annual pilgrimages to Harrison just to say they ate or helped eat a Coffee Burger. In many ways, Delores and her dedication to quality and the people she served were a shining star in Nebraska Tourism, before there was Nebraska Tourism. Delores was well thought of and loved by many.

Upon her passing on October 1, 2004, Sioux Sundries was closed, never to reopen and the Coffee Burger was now a part of northwest Nebraska history. In the late winter, early spring of 2014, the Kesselrings, owners of the High Plains Homestead, Home of the Drifter Cookshack and Bunkhouse, initiated conversation with Delores' surviving family and requested their permission to pull the Coffee Burger from the history pages and give it a spot of remembrance and respect on the Cookshack daily lunch menu.

Mike Kesselring said it is a big part of their mission at the High Plains Homestead/Drifter Cookshack, which is also a northwest Nebraska, Sioux County restaurant, to preserve the heritage of this unique part of the country and it is with much joy that he said they placed the Coffee Burger on their menu and remember a lady who did it right.

High Plains Homestead/Drifter Cookshack is located north of Harrison, and can be reached by accessing rural roads in Dawes and Sioux Counties. For more details, go to their web page at www.highplainshomestead.com.

(Story courtesy Mike Kesselring)