

Dairy Queen to rebuild New restaurant in time for Christmas?

(The following story ran in the July 12, 2001 edition of the Dispatch).

Generations of Hoisington and area residents have gathered and eaten at the Hoisington Dairy Queen for more than 50 years.

The April 21 tornado put a stop to that. The longtime gathering point was destroyed in the tornado. Fortunately nobody was seriously injured. Since the tornado, the Dairy Queen and Town and Country Supermarket have been among the most missed businesses.

But area residents may not have to wait much longer. In the near future, a new, state-of-the-art Dairy Queen will be constructed near the site on which the former DQ restaurant sat.

The new restaurant will be located east of its former location, in the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 4 and Pine streets.

The restaurant will be as nice as any in the state. It will seat more than 70 customers, as well as have a patio to seat an additional 30 outside. It will have double drive-thru lanes. It will share a parking lot with Town & Country Supermarket at the site of its former location, and will face to the west with the drive thru windows at the north. It will have easy access from streets and plenty of parking.

The plans of Town and Country Supermarket as well as the Cardinal Lanes bowling alley have not been announced yet.

The new Dairy Queen will have the latest design inside – both for employees and customers.

The exterior of the building will be all brick. Ike Walter of Walter Enterprises is having a special brick made at Kansas Brick and Tile. The exterior will also feature an illuminated sign bank that wraps around the roof line identifying that the locations serves “Hot Eats” as well as “Cool Treat” products. Original, three-dimensional graphics will be used to depict the famous “Cone with the Curl on Top” signage.

The restaurant will also have a basement for storage and utilities.

Plans are being finalized with the architect. Soon site preparation will start. Walter would like to start construction as quickly as possible. Realistically, the new Dairy Queen could be finished by the end of the year.

“We hope to have Dairy Queen Cakes by Christmas,” Walter said.

It will be the eighth new Dairy Queen Walter has built around the



state.

More details for the new restaurant will be announced as progress is made. “I’ve been fortunate to have been associated with the Dairy Queen business since the mid-1950’s and we owe a debt of gratitude to all of our customers – especially to the residents of Hoisington,” said Walter.

“We are extremely thankful that no one was seriously hurt when the tornado destroyed our establishment last April and we’re proud to announce that we’re coming back to this wonderful community,” said Leon and Becky Steiner, who will operate the restaurant. “We wish to express our thanks to all of the citizens of Hoisington and surrounding area who have encouraged us to rebuild our Dairy Queen store and have mentioned so many times the ‘Good Old Times’ at the Hoisington Dairy Queen.”

According to Leon and Becky, the new Hoisington Dairy Queen will offer customers an extensive choice – from rich, tempting treats, to healthful low-fat foods. The menu will include more than 100 items, including the world-famous Dairy Queen Blizzard Flavor Treats and freshly prepared hot food items, such as hamburgers, French fries, onion rings and Chicken Strip Baskets. The restaurant will also feature DQ frozen cakes – a delicious combination of fudge and chocolate crunch between frozen layers of chocolate and vanilla Dairy Queen soft-serve. “A family will be able to visit the Dairy Queen and find something to suit everyone’s taste buds and nutritional needs,” said Leon, Becky and Ike.

The new Hoisington location will have approximately 18 full and part time staff members.

Founded in 1940, the Dairy Queen system is the leading operator of treat stores in America and the inventor of reduced fat soft-serve ice cream. The Dairy Queen brand has prospered over the years with its high quality, freshly made soft-serve treats and largest full menu food items for its customers.

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and used it to turn off the gas. I hurried back to the house and went into the basement where Charlotte was at. She and I worked our way up through the debris on the steps. As we moved through the debris into the area that had been the garage Charlotte pointed to the northeast and we saw the monster tornado in the sky heading away from us. The storm turned out to be F4-263 mph tornado.

We both had taken flashlights with us into the basement and another flashlight was kept in the basement so we had some light. I was in sheer disbelief and shock by what I had seen. The house and contents that we had minutes ago were now all gone! We had nothing left of the house nor what was in it.

The house from the floor level up was either in a pile of debris on the property or missing all-to-gather. The only clothes we had left were the clothes we were wearing. Both the car and the truck were gone, later to be found totally destroyed about a half a block away. It is very difficult to explain exactly how I felt when I have just seen everything we have worked years for now totally gone and destroyed.

Another unusual thing that occurred was I had a Marlin Model 1895, 45x70 rifle in a case in the closet of our bedroom which was on the southwest corner of the house. There was nothing left of this room above the carpet except this rifle was lying in the middle of the floor. When I discovered it lying there I carried it to the basement where it would at least have some protection from the elements. The next day I opened the case and found the rifle appeared to be undamaged. Months later when I had an opportunity to check the rifle and shoot it, I found that the scope mounted on the rifle was not even knocked out of alignment.

We started looking around at all the destruction and saw the Petzholdt’s house, next door to ours to the west, was also just a pile of rubble. We saw Debbie and Lindsay sitting in a pile of bricks and Debbie was bleeding from a wound on her head. We worked our way over to her to see what we could do for her and about that time Harold Lee Stout, another neighbor living on the southwest corner of 6th and Clay, was driving up in this 4-wheel drive pickup. He had seen Debbie was injured, telephoned for an ambulance and came to transport her a couple of blocks east where the ambulance was to meet him.

He helped Debbie and Lindsay into his truck and they left going east working his way through and over debris. We were told later that Terry Petzholt was in their detached garage at the north side of their lot and had ridden the storm out in the garage under their car and escaped without any injuries.

Char and I also owned two houses (464 and 457 West 6th Street) across the street from where we lived. We went across the street to the location where both houses had been. 465 was blown off its foundation and was a pile of rubble, 467 was also destroyed but still had a couple of walls standing. 467 was Charlotte’s mother’s house, which we had purchased. This house had many antiques in it. Items that her mother had collected, dating back to the time her parents came to the United States from the Volga River area of Europe.

By now it was approaching eleven o’clock and we had checked all the houses in the block we lived in to see if anyone was still in them. People came by to see if everyone was accounted for. I had already checked the houses

on the block between Clay and Vine streets and there was no one inside but they double checked each one before they moved on west. The people checking the houses told us everyone was gathering at the city building.

Charlotte and I went into our basement and put the two corgis on leashes and started walking toward the city building. We had walked a few blocks toward the city building when a Red Cross worker, Leslie Barrett, stopped her vehicle and ask us if we were going to the city building and would like a ride. We gladly accepted.

The city building was filled with people, some receiving medical aid, some like us just roaming around in a confused state. We had the dogs and thought we needed to find a veterinarian who would board them until we could care for them again. We did not know what we were going to do either.

I saw Police Chief Kenton Doze and asked to use his cell phone to call the local vet. He graciously let me use his phone. I telephoned the local vet and got his answering service. I advised them that I needed to board two dogs for an unknown period of time. The answering service told me they could handle that and gave me an address in Salina where I could take the dogs. They said the local vet was out of town and would not be back until Monday.

I tried to explain to her that we had no transportation to get the dogs any place. She said that was all she could do. We were at our wits end when Don Halbower, a Red Cross volunteer, came up to us and asked if there was anything he could help us with. I explained we were trying to find a vet who would board our dogs as we had no place to take them. He said he had a friend in Great Bend that owned Ark Valley Veterinarian Clinic and he would call him. Dr. Turner said he would board them if we could get them over to his clinic.

Tyler Kaiser was at the city building with his beagle Peanuts that needed to be boarded, also. Mr. Halbower volunteered his daughter, Leslie Barrett, to drive us to Great Bend. The three dog owners and the three dogs were loaded into Mrs. Barrett’s SUV and headed to Great Bend. Dr. Turner met us at the clinic about 1 a.m. and the three dogs were placed in kennels.

While we were doing the necessary paperwork, Dr. Turner asked us what we were going to do when we left? Tyler said he was to meet his parent at a motel. I looked over at Charlotte and said I don’t know what we are going to do. I guess we will just go back to the Hoisington City Building and wait till morning so we can go see if there is anything left of our house and property.

Dr. Turner placed a telephone call and I heard him tell the person on the line that he was bringing home some people from the tornado. He said to us you don’t have anywhere to go till morning so you can come home with me and then tomorrow morning you can decide what you are going to do then. We graciously accepted his invitation and he took us to his home.

When we arrived we met his wife, Judy. What terrific Christian people Terry and Judy Turner are! There are very few people in this world that would open up their home to person totally unknown to them and provide them with the hospitality that the Turners offered us. This has become a lasting

friendship. Each year since, we celebrate the meeting with a meal at Bunker Hill Café’. We stayed at the Turner’s residence for four days. What gracious people they are!

About nine o’clock on Sunday morning I telephoned Jerry Marmie of Marmie Motors. I had had many dealing with Jerry while being Undersheriff buying patrol cars. I explained that we had lost both cars in the tornado and I was hoping to rent a vehicle for the time being. He told me if I could meet him at the dealership he would find us something to rent. Dr. Turner drove me to Marmie’s. Jerry rented us a late model Dodge min-van and told us not to worry about the charge as he would wait for our insurance company to pay. Later we did purchase another new Chrysler mini-van and a slightly used pickup from him.

When we arrived back in Hoisington we found out that the city was not letting anyone except property owners into the area unless they had a pass and we were to go to the city building to get the pass. We could see, what seemed like, hundreds of people milling about in the destroyed area, but since we didn’t have a pass we had to go to the City building. When we arrived at the city building we were told that the passes would not be issued until after noon. So we just gathered with other victims and sat around waiting.

It was about two o’clock in the afternoon before they decided it would be impractical to issue passes to property owners in the area the tornado destroyed. The officials of the city told us at that time we could go into the area to our property. When we got into the area we found that the area was overrun with people. Some were going through properties that didn’t belong to them. We found several people going through the debris at 467 and when we chased them away we found a pile of items that had been removed from the house and stacked in the alley behind the house.

In the garage, had been a John Deere riding lawnmower which was now damaged and had been moved to the west end of the alley at Clay Street. It appeared someone had moved it there and was going to come and get it later, the same with the items piled in the alley. There were trucks and tractors with loaders all over the area of damage. Barton County Sheriff Buck Causey sent a work crew of trustees to Hoisington to help. This crew helped us several days go through our debris and salvage some items and load them into several storage facilities. There were hundreds of people that came to Hoisington to offer their assistance and they spent thousands of hours donating time and good deeds.

Several days after the tornado I was at the post office talking to Mrs. Robert Warrick, she told me they were moving to Emporia and said they were going to sell their home northeast of Hoisington. I told Charlotte what she had said and we agreed it would be nice to live in the country. We went to see the house and later purchased it.

It would be impossible to thank everyone who helped us through this trying time. We were given assistance by more people than we can count and most asked nothing in return. It is times like this when a person finds out just how gracious and giving most people are! We thank God every day for everything he and the people in our lives have given us.

Cardinal Plaza Lanes to re-open by Jan. 1

(The following story ran in the Aug. 30, 2001 edition of the Dispatch).

Don’t make plans to bowl outside Hoisington after the first of the year. Gary Boxberger says Cardinal Plaza Lanes will be ready to go after January 1.

Dirt work is scheduled to start within a week, with concrete work starting in about two weeks. The building should be completed by Thanksgiving and the interior should be finished in time for a January 1 re-opening.

There will be some changes. Cardinal Plaza Lanes will be

in a separate building from Town & Country Supermarket. Boxberger’s building will be metal, but Boxberger said the façade of Town & Country will also go in front of the bowling alley so it will all tie together.

The grocery store hasn’t announced its plans yet.

The bowling alley will be located just north of the alley in the first 62 feet, just south of its former location. It will be located around where the Cardinal Pharmacy was located.

Boxberger had just installed new, state-of-

the-art equipment last year and fortunately, that equipment and most of the lanes were not severely damaged by the tornado. Part of the lanes will need to be replaced, but the rest will be ready to go after being cleaned.

It was always his intention to rebuild, Boxberger said. “We were one of the first to say we wanted to come back,” he said. It has taken some work, but rebuilding should start soon.

“Randy and Dolores (Deutsch) have really been good to us,” Boxberger said, as the area is rebuilt.

PROGRESS

CARDINAL LANES

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