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Interview with Diane Fulton

Anna Becker

Diane Fulton

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Researcher's name: Anna Becker

Event: Interview with Diane Fulton

Place: The Alcove Restaurant & Lounge

116 S. Main Street, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

Co-workers present: none

AB: Anna Becker

DF: Diane Fulton

(This interview was not recorded, instead she provided me with written responses.)

AB: Have you noticed any changes in the restaurant since you've been here? Positive changes? How this affected patrons?

DF: Added entertainment, dinner theater, live music, themed dinners gives the community the option of staying local for entertainment. We now accommodate a wider range of prices and menu items. It allows customers to find what they're looking for regardless of budget/taste.

As the downtown has died, businessmen and lawyers are no longer coming in for lunch at the same rate because they don't exist downtown anymore. The Alcove has introduced these new events (dinner theater and live music) to bring in people where previous regulars (businessmen and lawyers) had been.

AB: Have you noticed a group of regulars that frequents at the restaurant?

DF: There used to be a large group of regulars who had been coming to the Alcove for as long as I have been here but that number is dwindling because they are passing away with old age. Businessmen and women come in for lunch. The Library (lounge/bar) business is made up of mostly regulars. Certain customers come on certain days. Tuesday night in the lounge for shrimp night is popular.

AB: What civic groups meet here?

DF: Kiwanis (Mondays at noon), Rotary (Tuesdays at noon), Exchange (Fridays at noon), Chamber, Retired Teachers, Soroptimist Club (women's group).

AB: How do you see the Alcove as contributing to the vitality of community life in Mt. Vernon?

DF: The Alcove remains a destination for so many people, which helps draw people to our community. It's an anchor for the downtown district. We are community involved; Food for Hungry Fundraisers, Hospice Fund raiser, door prize donations, room rental discounts for non-profit organizations, etc.

AB: This year marked the 100th anniversary of the Alcove's opening. What do you see as the future of the restaurant as part of community life in Mt. Vernon?

DF: We are very proud of our history and feel a tremendous responsibility to our long-standing reputation. We will continue to provide our community with a place to celebrate, meet friends, and conduct business meetings – focusing on excellent service and quality foods.