

## Eating Out

26 February 2018 by Harry Zirkelbach  
Stars and Sun Date 35073

On a recent Monday, Pete Clark chose as topic, '**Out to lunch**'. I had prepared something different, read that. I should have stuck to the topic, but since I didn't, I will consider his topic here.

With apology to all, none mentioned eating at the feedbags of these United States, those providers of prepared meals to more people than all other restaurants. Right, those incorporated under these names .... McDonald, Burger King, Dairy King, Taco Bell, KFC, Subway, Arbys (I'm listing those with 3000 or more outlets. All managed by youngsters, well trained from Corporate Offices). And for most customers no tipping, so every week a free meal on average.

The other omission. . That free meal.  
No strings. Written invitation.  
A rarity in this age of commercialism.

For five years, Barbara and I have received a printed, formal letter inviting us to join a downtown Denver Restaurant for an elegant meal. All because someone submitted our name, as a couple married more than 50 years. Then time, place, details, their name.

The invited, more than thirty couples, are honored for years of marriage. Initially this meal was offered the weeks before Christmas, recently the date was transferred to Valentine's Day.

This remains mystery, what friend submitted our name. Later we suggested another couple, they were not invited.

Tables seating four copies fill the room. On each of the eight locations there is a printed menu beginning with a congratulatory statement then the meal, Soup, Salad, Entree Selection, Dessert. Not mentioned. On arrival a wait staff person offered something to drink from the bar.

As hinted this generosity has continued for years, without fanfare, except from the Manager Nate Diller, his Chef, Dave, and Coordinator Shannon Groff to their guests.

Mr Diller thanks each for coming, knows the total years of marriage exceeds 3,000, then introduces the couple there with the greatest number of years to celebrate. Leaves, allowing couples to get acquitted with small talk, as on most days each couple is a stranger to the others.

There are surely many others furnishing meals and other benefits to groups without charge, anonymously, to the benefit of society generally, not wishing to be recognized publicly for any reason.

So this Thank You to all who improve the life of those they do not know, but honor for any selected reason, quietly, allowing them to know why they are appreciated., without the benefit to the public microphone, TV and radio. politics, all publicity.

May all such here and throughout the world,  
be blessed for their kindnesses.