

Memories of Meals Gone By

By Marilyn Reeves

Back in the 60's, when I was married to my first husband Tom, our favorite place to go for a special evening out was the Alpine Village Inn. But you had to be careful, eating there. Before they brought you your entrée of sauerbraten or wiener schnitzel, served with noodles and a side of tangy red cabbage, you could easily fill up on the appetizers: platters of cold veggies, hot rolls with butter, and delicious home-made soup. We always left with brimming doggie bags and moaning about how we managed to eat so much. It was such a good place – I never understood why it closed down.

My second husband Gil was the Regional Sales Manager for Sullair Air Compressor Company and had an expense account, so during the years we were together, back in the mid-seventies, I was treated to even finer dining. One time I was invited to tag along when he took a major client and his wife to the Chateau Pyrenees, south of Denver off I-25. Gil had frogs' legs, his client ordered escargot, the wife was served caviar, and I had the Beef Wellington. But for all its chandelier-enhanced elegance, not to mention the exorbitant price of the food, I had no particular hankering to return. A bit *too* gourmet for my taste, perhaps. It's a moot point, however, as I believe it closed down as well.

Then in the mid-eighties I met a fellow named Jim, and during our long relationship we usually ate out at least once every weekend. We were content with simpler fare – going to places like Furr's Cafeteria or the American Legion. But our favorite place was a Mexican Restaurant at 52nd and Wadsworth called Alamos Verde. They served chili rellenos in a light, fluffy soufflé and their smothered burritos were to die for! I wonder if Alamos Verde is still there.

Speaking of Mexican, my sister Rosie and I used to frequent Dora's, in the shopping center off Havana and Parker Road. It wasn't fancy, but it was very good and reasonably priced. But they closed down a couple of years ago, so we've been scrambling for a new, go-to Mexican restaurant within a short driving distance of our neighborhood. The best one we've found so far is Hacienda Colorado – easy to remember, as it's on the corner of Mexico and Colorado Boulevard.

For many years, my two sisters and I have gone out for a special meal to celebrate each other's birthdays. Our favorite places to go used to be the Red Lobster or the Black Angus, which had the very best prime rib ever! Sadly, it too has closed down. So nowadays, our new favorite place is the Texas Roadhouse, for their mouth-watering, smoky flavored steaks and tender spareribs. And the Red Lobster is still doing business, last time I checked.

I just hope they'll both stick around for a while. I get discouraged trying to find a new, favorite place to eat out.