

The Kutztown Area Patriot

Neighbors

January 6, 2005

Meet Your Neighbor: Doug Letterman



Patriot photo by Mandy Zerr

For the past seven years, Doug Letterman has been the owner, operator and cook at Letterman's Diner.

By Mandy Zerr
Patriot Writer

Doug Letterman says his resume would show him to be a "jack of all trades, master of none."

But it's a lie. True, he's had different kinds of jobs over the years, but there is a common thread that permeates his work history: food. And if you've ever had his cooking, you know he's the master of the huge breakfast.

For the past seven years, Letterman, 38, has been serving up portions of food almost impossible to finish at Letterman's Diner, 242 West Main St., Kutztown.

His three-egg omelettes overflow with extra goodies, the home fries barely fit on the plate and his "short stack" is two pancakes the size of hubcaps.

His lunch menu offers the same big portions.

"It's something I would eat," Letterman said of his belly-busting meals. "When I go to a restaurant, I want to be full for the amount of money I pay."

"And I'm trying to get everybody fat," he joked.

The big portions is part of what brings people back, the Fleetwood resident said. The other part is the conversation at

the diner's counter.

"Conversation is a big-time draw," he said. "You wanna talk politics, this is the place to be. We're not afraid to talk about anything - sex, politics, religion. Anything."

In fact, he likes talking so much that one of his waitresses, Adrienne Zemanek, calls him a "gossip queen."

The food and conversation bring a mixed trade of people to the small diner. Doctors, lawyers, judges, college students, locals, out-of-towners and his faithful regulars all stop in. It's not unusual to see police officers sitting at the counter next to hung-over college students in the early morning hours.

"I get to meet different people and be friends with different people," Letterman said. "Every day is a different day."

Some days are more different than others, depending on who drops by.

One morning a few years ago, a 3,000-year-old man stopped in.

"He thought he was from Atlantis," Letterman recalled.

As the owner, operator and sole cook for the diner, Letterman works anywhere from 80 to 100 hours a week. He shows up about two hours

before he opens, meaning he's usually there at 4 a.m., preparing food for the day.

The restaurant is open until 2 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Tuesday to Fridays he opens at 6 a.m., Saturdays at 5 a.m. and Sundays at 5:30 a.m. On Mondays, he's closed.

"But I'm here anyway," he said. "I'm always here."

His crowd of customers usually keeps him busy on the days he's open.

"I like to be busy," he said. "Otherwise I get bored and then I eat too much."

When he's not cooking, he's cleaning, thinking up new items for the menu or doing some basic maintenance. (But according to Zemanek, when Letterman's not at the grill, he's "tormenting the staff, tormenting his wife and antagonizing his kids.") He also tries to fit in some remodeling for the restaurant, but it's a slow process.

"I'm always doing other stuff," he said.

With all the hours he puts in, work is seemingly never-ending. But he likes it, despite all the threats he makes to quit.

"I'll be here as long as God keeps me here," he said.

Contact Mandy Zerr at mbzerr@berksmontnews.com.

Linette and Suro are wed

Amanda Lang Linette and Eric Suro, both of Maple Valley, Wash., were united in marriage Aug. 7.

The bride is the daughter of Thomas Linette and Chris Cunningham of Kempton.

She is a 1998 graduate of Kutztown Area High School and

a 2002 graduate of the University of Delaware. She is employed as a kindergarten teacher by Tahoma School District in Maple Valley.

The groom is the son of Roger and Donna Suro of Newark, Del.

He is a 1998 graduate of

Newark High School and a 2002 University of Delaware graduate. He is employed in marketing and sales by Black & Decker/Dewalt, Seattle, Wash.

The ceremony took place at the University of Delaware in Newark.

Janelle Loeb, a high school friend of the bride, served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Erin Settler, a high school friend of the bride, Kim Burko, sister of the groom, and Kate Hurst, Christina Ribble, Megan Murphy and Megan Dellegrotti, all college roommates of the bride. Morgan Claypoole, bride's family neighbor, was flower girl.

Scott McGillen, the groom's college roommate, was best man. Ushers were Josh Linette, brother of the bride, Kevin Albert and Jeff Hillenmayer, college friend of the groom, Joel Darby, friend of the bride and groom, and Joe Uccifero and Steve Greeley, college roommates of the groom. Chase Proffitt, the groom's nephew, was ring bearer.

A reception was held at Newark Country Club, followed by a wedding trip to Jamaica.

The newlyweds live in Maple Valley, Wash.



Mrs. Amanda L. and Mr. Eric Suro.

Adam and Smith engaged

Cathy L. Adam and Shane Smith, both of Noble, Okla., recently announced their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Marlo and Tessie Adam of Kutztown.

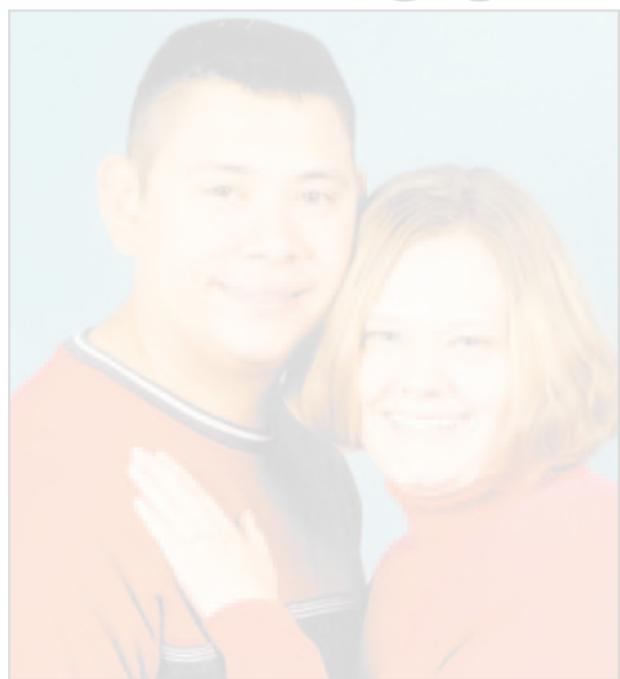
She is a 2000 graduate of Kutztown Area High School and a 2003 graduate of Reading Hospital Nursing School. She is employed as a registered nurse by Integris Southwest Medical Center, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Her fiancé is the son of Frank and Sue Smith of Noble.

He is a 2000 graduate of Noble High School and attended Oklahoma State University. He is employed as a manager by McMaguire Farm Store, Noble.

The couple is planning for a wedding in Noble on Oct. 1.

Check out our website at www.berksmontnews.com to download engagement and wedding announcement forms.



Shane Smith and Cathy L. Adam

Congratulations to
OWEN CHRISTMAN
for receiving a Bachelor of Science
degree in Kinesiology from
Penn State University on
December 18, 2004,
Best Wishes and Good Luck
for continued success.

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