

By NANCY WHITAKER

WOULD YOU EAT THAT?

Eating out in a restaurant or a fast food place is a lot of fun and a pleasure that gets Mom out of the kitchen, and allows someone else do the cooking.

I am a food lover in all ways. I love to read cookbooks, try new recipes and even take pictures of food. I think of myself as a Food Network junkie, a lover of restaurants and a foodaholic. (Now is that even a word?)

Of course you can watch all kinds of shows on TV showing us all the various types of culinary diversity. If you stop and think about it, every part of our lives and existence revolves around food.

I will say I have had some great cooking and dining experiences and some experiences I would like to just forget.

If you travel to the bigger cities and eat in some larger restaurants, you will find many more foods which feature many different cultures and countries.

I have always heard about some of the strange foods and restaurants here in the United States, but I have never visited any of what I would term "weird" ones.

One of the strangest restaurants I have read and heard about about is called Dick's Last Resort. The key to this restaurant's success is being rude to customers. The waitresses, hostesses,

cooks and all the employees act like jerks as they make rude comments to their customers.

Customers are encouraged to yell back rudely themselves. This restaurant is located in nine different cities including Chicago. If you go there to eat, make sure you pick up a paper hat with a written insult on it and a fried catfish "sammich."

Another place of interest I would like to see for myself is Lucky Chengs in New York. At Lucky Chengs, they have "drag queens" taking your order and doing the serving. In addition to a three course American or Asian cuisine dinner, the drag queens put on a cabaret show. That has to be great.

The show is complete with dancing and a bawdy comedienne. Following the show there is more dancing and karaoke.

If you thought you'd seen it all, just travel to College Station, Texas. There is a bar, grill and a laundromat called Harvey Washbangers. One of their specialties is called a Banger Burger. Other menu items are wings and chili. Take your dirty clothes with you and watch their progress in the washer on a lighted board. Meantime, you can eat, drink and be merry.

In Miami, Fla. is a restaurant called B.E.D., which means "Beverages, Eating and Dining." The place is like a bedroom complete with beds and pillows. Instead of just having breakfast in bed, you can have other meals as you lie down and rest.

Executive chef Vitor Casassola's menu includes cold appetizers like camembert tempura and tomatillo guacamole and entrees like surf & turf and Chilean seabass. To get you more in the spirit, there is a dessert, which is like an edible "pillow" called Cloud 9 Soufflé.

There is a restaurant called Forbes, which is a floating island in Sea Lion Harbor with views of Alcatraz and nearby sunbathing sea lions. The restaurant serves an American fine dining menu, in underwater dining rooms and bar. The price of entrées range from \$26-\$39.

A Penny For Your Thoughts

Wednesday, August 29, 2012 1:06 PM

A fun place to eat closer to home is Takaoka in Fort Wayne. This is a Japanese restaurant with chefs who are experienced with knives and juggling. When you are seated, there is a large table with grills in the middle. The chefs make a show of flipping salt and pepper shakers, cutting raw eggs in half while in mid-air and cooking your meal with flair and style.

Any time you have the opportunity to go out and eat, it sounds like a lot of fun to experience a whole new way of dining.

Do you like eating out? Where is the most unique or strangest restaurant you have ever eaten? Have you ever visited any of these restaurants mentioned here? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.