By Nancy Whitaker

WHAT'S IN MY SOUP?

Eating is supposed to be one of the nice, pleasant things in life. We all like to partake of food that tastes and looks good. There is nothing better than sitting down to a home cooked meal and enjoying it with your family or loved one.

Dining out is also a special experience as a lot of events are celebrated in a restaurant with a good meal.

Naturally, when you prepare food or eat out, you want your food to look, smell and taste good. But, strange things can happen if you eat at home or dine out.

This past week, a lady opened a can of green beans for dinner. She said that she put butter in them and cooked the beans in the microwave. Her son dished some on his plate alongside of meat loaf and mashed potatoes and saw something which looked strange.

He asked his mother, "What is this in my green beans?"

The mother looked and could not believe what she saw. It was a tiny toad that had apparently been picked and processed right along side of those green beans.

She had purchased the green beans from a major food chain and let them know what she had found.

She did say that she received \$50 from the food packing plant which was located in Wisconsin. She also stated that she would not be serving any more green beans.

A few years ago a lady bought a jar of tikka masala sauce from her local store. She was expecting it to contain a bit of a kick. But what she wasn't expecting to find was the dead mouse which had somehow ended up in the jar.

She was making dinner for herself and her boyfriend and when she poured the sauce into the pan, she noticed it was a little lumpy. As she began stirring the sauce through, she noticed what looked like whiskers and a tail. She immediately knew it was a dead rodent.

The couple took the sauce along with the dead mouse and received an apology from the store manager who said they would check into it.

We are aware that some people will say they found something in their fast food just to try and sue the establishment. I recall when a lady was eating chili at a fast food restaurant and claimed she found part of a finger in it.

This turned out to be bogus, but I still find myself looking for fingers in my soup. You just never know.

Years ago when my first two daughters were little, we stopped at a restaurant and expected to get some good food. My one little girl ordered french fries and when she was eating them noticed something black in them. She fished out the black item which had antennas and legs. She said, "Mommy look at this. It looks like an ant."

Sure enough, it was. It had been french fried, but was still intact. I know that people do eat ants, but this was one piece of meat we had not ordered. We told the restaurant and they did get us a new order of fries. However, we did not go back to eat there again.

We are lucky that we don't run into this kind of grossness every day, however, the horror stories of what has been found in food are numerous.

I know that on the TV show "Fear Factor" they eat everything from baby chicken eggs to cow intestines, but to hear about some of the strange things found in our food never ceases to amaze me.

Some of the unusual things that have cropped up in food are: fingernails, Band-Aids, spiders, cobwebs and maggots. You are probably thinking this is really some nasty items to find in food, and yes it does happen.

I have been pretty lucky about discovering anything foreign in my food, but we still need to be ready for the unexpected.

Have you ever found anything gross in your food? If you have, what did you do and what was it? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.