



staff photo by Irene Mees

Carlos King, 3, a Bryan resident, enjoys hot, homeade biscuits at Mom's restaurant

Mom's is back in business

by Robert McGlohon
Battalion Staff
After a two-week layoff due to a change in ownership, Mom's is serving again.

Mom is Vera Carleton, a Bryan resident who has served homestyle food in her house for 50 years. But due to poor health, Mom sold her house and business in September to Donald and Betty Mahan.

But customers need not worry. Steve Hall, a regular at Mom's for the past three years, says the food is still the same. Hall, a senior geology major from Dallas, also is one of the four student boarders who lives at Mom's (they're looking for a fifth).

Hall says the only change is that the restaurant now serves tea in mason jars.

One of the reasons the food is still the same is that Mom's still has the same cook. Nell Garcia has been the head cook at Mom's for the past seven years and she stayed on after the change in

ownership. In September, Garcia told the Mahans that Mom's health was failing and that she wished to sell her business. So they bought it.

Mr. Mahan, who has known Mom for more than 15 years, said he wasn't motivated by money when he bought Mom's business.

"I'm not here to get rich or famous or nothing," Mahan said. "I'd just like to carry her tradition on. There's a lot of history and fame behind the lady."

"Mom has been in the same business for 50 years and at this location for 25," he said. "Maybe one out of five of the old Aggies would say no if you asked them if they'd ever eaten at Mom's."

Viewed from the outside, Mom's looks like an ordinary white frame house in a residential section of downtown Bryan. And it also doesn't look much like a restaurant on the inside.

The dining room is like that of a normal home. It has only about six tables, each sitting six.

Customers are served family-style and can eat all they want. On Wednesday, the meal consisted of meatloaf, country-fried steak, vegetables, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade biscuits, iced

tea and dessert — all for only \$3.

"If a man wants filet mignon or cavier, he wouldn't come here," Mahan said. "It's not that type of business. We've got good homestyle food."

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Charges dropped in cocaine seizure

United Press International
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Federal charges have been dropped against three men arrested last June in connection with the seizure of 214 pounds of cocaine worth \$55 million on the streets.

U.S. Customs officials in Houston at the time said it was the Southwest's largest cocaine seizure and called it a major victory in the war against international drug smuggling.

But U.S. Attorney William Lutz said the announcement from Houston was premature.

"We, at this point, have dismissed (the charges) because

the evidence we had on it required further investigation," Lutz said Tuesday. "Basically, at that point, we didn't have a case."

He said the government's problems were complicated by a strict speedy trial statute which requires that the case be tried no more than 70 days after charges are filed.

The three men — Jose Domingo Rico, 41, his son, Mauricio, 19, and Jose Luis Castillo-Vitales, 29 — were arrested June 21, about two weeks after the cocaine was found near the eastern New Mexico community of Santa Rosa. Police said it

apparently had been dumped from an airplane.

Castillo-Vitales, a Mexican national, listed his address as La Belle, Fla. Authorities said the Ricos originally were from Colombia, but listed a Jamaica, N.Y., address at the time of their arrests.

U.S. District Judge Juan Burciaga of Albuquerque signed an order Sept. 3 dismissing the indictment against Castillo-Vitales because of a lack of evidence.

He signed another order Sept. 24 dismissing the charges against the Ricos and said it was not in the interest of justice to pursue the matter.

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