

Maxi's owner more than a restaurateur

By JAY BLINDERMAN
Reporter

After reading the biography on the inside cover of a Maxi's restaurant menu, one wonders what type of person emerges from such a unique background.

The restaurant that bears George Coker's nickname reflects his personality. It is a pleasant departure from the normalcy of everyday life.

The building that houses Maxi's is old, but handsome. The interior walls of the restaurant are a rough, textured brick and held together with mortar that was never quite smoothed out.

But while the building represents the old conservatism of Bryan, Coker represents the progressive ideas of the future.

Coker sees downtown Bryan as a future mecca of "interesting" places.

"If there are enough nice places down here, people will frequent this area," Coker said. "After all, Sixth Street in Austin started with the Pecan Street Cafe — I have laid the foundation here with Maxi's."

Coker says his restaurant attracts customers because it is special. And it offers something that people can't get anywhere else.

Coker is referring to the type of food he serves — crepes. Coker learned how to make crepes while working at the Magic Pan in Illinois.

Maxi's serves hospitality along with its meals, creating an atmosphere with a different touch.

Financial success has eluded Coker's restaurant since its opening more than a year ago. But Coker says he finds success and self-fulfillment in another area — teaching.

Coker teaches health, math, science and social science to fifth-grade



George Coker, owner of Maxi's Restaurant personally prepares a culinary delight.

Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

ers at Lamar elementary school in Bryan. Before that, he was a first-grade teacher in Dallas, where he received numerous teaching awards.

While in Dallas, Coker created a fruit store within his classroom. His students were allowed to sell fruit to

fellow students and teachers.

With the help of a bank in Dallas, Coker set up an account for each participating student.

The program taught the students responsibility and marketing skills, and in addition, supplied a nutri-

tious source of snack food for the people at the school, Coker said.

The bankers that helped with the program said they had adult customers who could not manage their accounts as well as Coker's first-grade

Coker also had a mini-zoo in his Dallas classroom. Observation is a great learning tool, Coker said. "If a student did something exceptional, they were allowed to pet the gerbils. They loved to do that," he said.

Coker had animals in his Bryan classroom but was told he had to remove them. Selling fruit was not allowed by the Bryan administrators either, Coker said.

"I'm progressive for Bryan," Coker said, claiming he still has the gerbils in his Lamar classroom, not knowing if the school officials realize it.

"I am one of the teachers they (school officials) don't like," Coker said. "They don't even like the idea of my owning a restaurant."

Dr. Carolyn Ross, Maxi's sister, said people don't always see the whole picture when they interact with Maxi. She added that he's committed to the quality of others' lives, especially children's.

Maxi sees his students as people instead of as kids. He's always in full support and has a gift when it comes to dealing with children, Ross said.

"I have a commitment to teaching," Coker said. "It's important to realize that commitment has no element of sacrifice or power, only a promise to do your best. If you teach for reasons other than money, you can really teach."

"I have this great vision of teaching all of my life... for the kids."

Bush has suffrage in Texas

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Vice President George Bush is a bona fide Texan and eligible to vote in the state, even though he listed a Maine address on his income tax return, Harris County election officials decided Monday.

Carl Smith, county assessor and tax collector and the official in charge of voter registration, allowed Bush's vote in November's election.

Smith cited a Texas constitutional provision that says a person can continue to claim state residency if he is serving the federal government elsewhere.

Bush's voting eligibility came under fire last fall when he, Clint Hackney, D-Houston, challenged the vice president's right to vote in Texas.

Hackney's attorney, Edwin Hubbard, said Bush had violated the law because he sold his \$792,000 Houston home in 1981 and then purchased one in Kennebunkport, Maine. Bush used his Maine address on his income tax return to gain rollover proceeds from the sale, he said.

But the IRS ruled that Bush's principal residence was Washington, D.C., and not Maine, therefore had to pay capital gains tax on the sale of his Houston home, said attorney Harold DeMoss, who represents Bush.

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.55 cts.	1,495	795
.45 cts.	995	535
.45 cts.	995	535
.44 cts.	950	520
.40 cts.	595	315
.40 cts.	875	465
.38 cts.	495	295
.38 cts.	475	295
.34 cts.	595	325
.25 cts.	470	235
.24 cts.	435	225
.21 cts.	395	195
.20 cts.	295	145
.20 cts.	275	130
.17 cts.	195	105
.15 cts.	185	95
.11 cts.	135	68
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.05 cts.	55	29

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.67 cts. Good for 1 U.S. Treasury Bond	2,300	1,250
.55 cts.	1,750	895
.45 cts.	695	345
.50 cts.	695	375
.40 cts.	995	485
.40 cts.	635	325
.39 cts.	895	465
.38 cts.	875	460
.37 cts.	835	450
.37 cts.	835	450
.35 cts.	800	425
.35 cts.	800	425
.35 cts.	800	425
.34 cts.	775	410
.33 cts.	650	395
.30 cts.	635	365
.30 cts.	635	365
.27 cts.	625	335

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.46 cts.	1,300	680
.39 cts.	635	290
.33 cts.	700	325
.33 cts.	595	250
.31 cts.	525	235
.28 cts.	435	210
.23 cts.	375	175
.11 cts.	165	85

OVAL

.45 cts.	950	425
.44 cts.	735	335
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.42 cts.	695	315
.41 cts.	650	310
.38 cts.	495	285
.38 cts.	495	285
.35 cts.	465	265
.35 cts.	465	265
.32 cts.	395	240

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