

THE LION ROARS

NEWS FROM THE VAN HORN HOUSE AT LIONS RIDGE

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VAN HORN HOUSE AT LIONS RIDGE:

The house was originally built around 1980 by a family that had a house in Aspen - and a lot of kids who all had a lot of friends, all of whom wanted to come to Aspen to visit. That family built the house as a guest house for all of those young people. The house passed from those folks to a family, who owned it as a private home for a few years. Then Ken and Jan Biggerstaff came into the picture, and originally turned it into a bed and breakfast. They operated it for about 2 years and decided after that time that it wasn't exactly what they had expected it to be. Ken and Jan then sold the house to Jack and Janie Van Horn, who ran it successfully for another 2 years or so, until Janie had a massive stroke, which made it impossible for them to maintain the B&B. Enter us: Susan and John Laatsch. We moved here from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1993 and have been enjoying the B&B experience ever since.

OUR BOY:

If you haven't visited us since October of 2005, then you haven't met Henry Arthur. Henry is a black cat who was a stray who was determined to become our official greeter. He has become a real buddy for us, and for our guests. He has gorgeous gold eyes and absolutely loves people - especially strangers. If you give him the slightest bit of encouragement, he will quickly become your newest and best friend. He is named for our grandfathers (Henry was mine, Arthur was John's). He joined his sisters, Sophie and Alexis, who were a bit wary at first but they have since become good friends. Come meet him!

THE "NEW KID IN TOWN:"

Carbondale has once again scored a winner on our town's "Restaurant Row" (Main Street) with the addition last fall of ELLA. Ella serves lunch Tuesday through Friday, brunch/lunch on Saturday and Sunday, and dinner every night except Monday. The choices are varied - we suggest the crab cakes with a mild jalapeño remoulade and honey-mustard pretzels (sounds strange but it really works); a huge grilled cheese sandwich with both cheddar and smoked gouda (as well as bacon and tomato); a great half pound burger; a terrific lobster roll; fabulous diver scallops with lobster sauce; a tender rack of pork that John swears by; and lots and lots of other choices, including salads, pastas, and a mid-day abbreviated menu that is served Tuesday through Saturday from 3:00

until 5:30. A sophisticated atmosphere, a bit busy and noisy, and a new local favorite. Give it a try when you visit the Van Horn House.

MANDY'S CORNER OF CAT TRIVIA:

Mandy was our beautiful brown tabby who gave us 13 years of wonderful companionship before Sophie and Alexis came to live with us in 1996. This little column is dedicated to her memory. We hope you enjoy.

Some notable cat quotes:

“Cats have nightmares about . . . life number ten; being bathed in soapy water, then covered in flea powder; work; being laughed at for getting stuck up a tree; turning into a dog.” *Stuart and Linda MacFarlane*

“If cats could talk, they wouldn't.” *Nan Porter*

“Cats are intended to teach us that not everything in nature has a function.” *Garrison Keillor*

“Never belittle the comfort offered by a cat – she has no words, but by small touchings and buttings and leanings, she shows her love for you – and tries to distract you from your sorrow.” *Pam Brown*