

Airline chefs bring talents to Burlington

By Casey McCormick

Bird City Times

Spices on the Green is open at the Burlington Country Club.

Owner-operator James Thomas is no stranger to the restaurant business. He said he began cooking when he came to America from India as a teen-ager. Working up the ladder, he became a chef for United Airlines.

"The Burlington Country Club used to be a private club, only for the elite in this area," Thomas said, "but that has changed. It is a more personal, family-oriented place."

Thomas said he and his partner Donato Porreca are committed to making each visit to Spices on the Green a memorable one.

"This is a friendly restaurant," Thomas said. "It begins from our staff and goes on to our customers."

Besides finding a comfortable, country club surrounding, the food is varied and high quality.

Thomas and Porreca provide a variety of flavors and styles, including traditional American cuisine, to Italian, Oriental and Mexican. Each day has something different to offer.

Appetizers range from an area favorite, Rocky Mountain oysters, to Thai calamari served with a sweet oriental sauce.

The dinner items are also varied but are affordable.

"In Denver you can not find an entrée of this quality for under \$25 at a country club," Thomas said.

All of the dinner selections are under \$15, he said, except the 16-



Spices on the Green owner-operator James Thomas is no stranger to the restaurant business. He and his partner, Donato Porreca, brought their United Airlines training to the Burlington Country Club.

Photo by Casey McCormick/Bird City Times

ounce rib eye steak, which costs \$15.99. Other dishes include fried chicken, lasagna or spaghetti, trout and several cuts of steak. They also have a half-pound burger that can be topped with about anything.

The perfect wrap-up to a meal is an Italian-style cannoli or a slice of cheesecake with a fruit topping.

Spices on the Green also has wines, 30 types of domestic and foreign beer and a complete selection of spirits. Thomas said the large building is ideal for big parties and special events.

"We can adapt a special dinner or supper for any occasion," he said, adding that country club has four large rooms in addition to the dining area. Catering services are available. This branch of the business is named "Touch of Spices."

Both of the owners came to America not knowing English. Porreca grew up in Milan, Italy, and

came to the U.S. when he was 29. Each was an accomplished cook by the time they met at United Airlines in Colorado.

"We were preparing over 22,000 meals a day for United," Thomas said, "including 5,000 steaks, 5,000 to 6,000 chicken breasts and sea food from all over the world."

But even with a high paying management job with the airline and a comfortable future, the men were not satisfied.

"We left to make a difference in other peoples 'lives,'" Thomas said.

As it says on the side of the Touch of Spices catering van, "We don't just touch food, we touch lives."

Gospel meetings livened town today in history

By Evelyn Ward

Sherman County Historical Society

March 4, 1905: Outdoor Gospel Meetings — Considerable religious enthusiasm was displayed on the streets of Goodland Saturday afternoon by a gospel meeting held by the Rev. R.C. Smith of Edson, assisted by the Rev. Miller, an evangelist who has been doing the Lord's work in the east part of the county.

The portable little organ, which they had with them, was played by Mrs. Smith, and the songs of Zion were pleasant to hear.

Exhortations were given by the Revs. Smith and Miller, and there were fervent testimonials from those "washed in the blood of the Lamb."

The meeting was well received, and Goodland people wouldn't object to another one or two.

March 5, 1905: AN OLD FIRM RETURNS HERE — Chicago Lumber and Coal Company Resume Business in Goodland — Left Here Nine Years Ago — The Chi-

matters of record

Municipal Traffic

The following traffic fines have been paid in Municipal Court:

Jan. 21 — Eric A. Graves, 31, Goodland, \$76 for illegal U-turn.

Teresa J. Dickey, 38, Goodland, \$436 and 5 days jail for driving under suspension.

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