

Making Ice Cream In The Country

By Randy Olson

You don't have to go to the city to find great ice cream, just ask anyone who has been to Crystal's Country Cream in Mt. Erie.

Crystal Paul is the second generation owner of the ice cream and sandwich shop, originally founded in 1987 by her parents, Robert and Beverly Bass. Crystal took over the business in 2002, moved it across the street and altered the name from Bass' Country Cream to Crystal's Country Cream. It is easy to find on the main (blacktop) highway between the two curves in the heart of Mt. Erie.

The close proximity to the Mt. Erie Elementary School makes it a favorite stop for many teachers and students. Over the past four years, Crystal has expanded the size of the building as well as the menu. Visitors can choose from a variety of sandwiches, salads, fries, onion rings, pizza, chips and soda to go along with Crystal's signature ice cream treats. "The Boston Shakes and twisters are a regular crowd favorite," says Crystal. "Twisters are made like blizzards and come in a variety of flavors such as snickers."

Other popular creamy treats include turtle sundaes, banana splits, milk shakes and hard and soft serve ice cream.

The hand scooped hard ice cream includes flavors like butter pecan, mint chocolate chip and strawberry. The soft-serve ice cream is available in vanilla, chocolate or twist.

A unique feature at Crystal's Country Cream is a selection of sugar-free ice cream in four to five flavors weekly. "I carry the sugar-free product for diabetics and others concerned with health issues," said Crystal. "They can still enjoy great ice cream without the sugar in their diet."



The busy highway location is a convenient stop for weary travelers and nearby farmers. "I get a lot of semi-trucks and farm tractors pull in for ice cream and sandwiches," said Crystal. "We have plenty of parking to accommodate them." The busy little restaurant also gets a lot of requests for directions since many people get turned around with all the curves in Mt. Erie.

Crystal's son, Zack, is four years old and has been raised at the business with all the comforts of home. He functions like a typical boy his age with plenty of toys, a TV/VCR, and even a bed for naps.

It allows Crystal to be like a stay-at-home mom for Zack, but still earn some income for the family. Crystal's husband, Eddie (Herb) Paul, works for Murphy Farms.

What does she like best about being in business for herself? "I enjoy meeting the people and getting to know them by name," said Crystal. "I also enjoy having my son nearby and it has worked out well for us."

There are four other employees at Crystal's Country Cream. They include Angela Scranton, Abby Bailey, Whitney Hedrick and Amelia Taylor. Crystal's will be hosting a "Cruise In and Fish Fry" on Saturday, Aug. 19. Enjoy entertainment by Kayla J and sample items from one of the picnic tables while you look at nostalgic automobiles. Lawn chairs are welcome.

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative supplies the electricity to Crystal's Country Cream. "The cooperative does a terrific job for us," said Crystal. "We use them at home and in the business. When I call them, I get a live person who can give me answers."

Colored photos of Crystal's Country Cream can also be found in the Business Directory of the Wayne-White Web site at www.WayneWhiteCoop.com. They are open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. They are closed on Monday. Call-in orders are always welcome at 854-2424.

If you've always wanted to try a unique Boston Shake, there is no reason to travel all the way to Boston. Just visit Crystal's Country Cream in Mt. Erie and select your favorite flavor. Summertime is a great time for ice cream!



Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

www.WWCEC.com