

Chesterton Reporter



Each year Chesterton's quaint old-fashioned community attracts tens of thousands of tourists, and this year will be no exception. The bandstand in the park, art fair, numerous antique shops, galleries, and dozens of little stores are the cause of its immense popularity. This is a report on goings-on at some of its stores:

One of the nice nature notes that soften the bruises of a harsh winter is that at *Chesterton Feed and Garden*, Laverne Burchfield and her staff sold more than *ten tons* of sunflower seeds alone last year, much of it going to feed our winter bird population. Ten tons! And that's just sunflower seeds! This Spring will find that popular garden center humming with activity as we all over-react to the welcome mantle of green.

✧ Over at the *Port Drive Inn*, they have prepared for Spring too, with their annual painting of the spic-and-span kitchen and 14-year old tradition of superb root beer, homemade soups, an extensive menu that includes the only fried clams in town, and dining in your car or inside the restaurant. The owners, Beth and Terri Gassoway, take an inordinate pride in their grounds, the uniforms of outdoor staff and kitchen workers, and in little touches like steamed buns that make hamburgers and hot dogs taste so good. Take a nostalgia trip back to the fifties at what, in this new fast food age, is almost lost to our culture—the real, "old-fashioned", high quality, drive-in.

The brand-new *Indian Oak Mall* with fourteen shops, a McDonald's and a soon-to-be-constructed Big Wheel Restaurant, will be open for business by Summer, but many of the shops will be operating by May. The big attractive sign at the junction of 49 and Indian Boundary Road will undoubtedly be used by many people as a direction sign for Chesterton.

Cobbler's Bench & Bootery, downtown Chesterton, is probably the nicest boot and shoe store we know. Specializing in top brand boots for work and play, they repair leather objects, make