

Small-town deli has big audience

Utrecht, Holland, Munich, Germany, Austin, Texas, New York City, Chicago, Sydney, Australia, all so far away from a small town like Clarkdale, or maybe not.

According to a press release, when Miller's Market opened in February 2008, owners Maria, Laura and Rachel were fairly sure the locals would stop on their way to work and chat over coffee and a breakfast burrito.

They were equally certain that the kids from Clarkdale-Jerome school would come streaming in on half days and after school for sodas and fresh brownies.

But what surprised all of them was the stream of visitors from outside the Verde Valley.

Within the first month of opening, chatting with a few folks here and there who were passing through, they realized the people were literally coming in from all around the United States, and even around the world.

The Smelter, The Boxcar and The Tapco sandwiches quickly became favorites of the out-of-

town visitors.

Then, the staff started asking, "Where are you from?" and started placing pins on two maps that hang on the market wall to represent where.

The map filled quickly with brightly colored flags, stated the press release.

There was Nick from Kansas City, Mo., Felicia from Cincinnati, Ohio and Laura and Miriam from Lubbock, Texas, who spent almost their entire 10-day vacation living the simple life of Clarkdale.

Then there was Harold and Fay from Hayden, Ala., who claimed the Club House "the best sandwich we've ever had."

Former Verde Valley resident Carlos and his daughter, Lilly, came in from Hana, Hawaii, to see old friends and enjoy the new hot spot in town.

Ken and Ann, from Dover, England, were the first international visitors to stop in, quickly followed by Juan and Rebecca from Barcelona, Spain, who came in so often they felt like family by the time they returned home.

Then came Paulo from Rome, Italy, who was touring the entire Southwest. Coming from the farthest were John and Lynette, all the way from Sydney, Australia.

So recognizable has Miller's Market become to locals and visitors alike, when Clarkdale resident Stephanie Stackhouse recently rescued a lost homing pigeon, the pigeon's owner said, "I'll meet you at Miller's Market." Stackhouse asked, "You know where Miller's is?"

Being that he was from Corpus Christi, Texas, she was a bit surprised to find he knew even where Clarkdale was when he responded, "Oh yes, we know Miller's. We eat there whenever we're in town."

Stop in and meet the gang. It could be John and Becky from Main Street, Clarkdale, having their morning coffee, or it could be Kadda and Sevi from Sanhiem, Germany, cooling down with an ice cream cone, but one thing is for sure, it's always great food and lively company. For more information, visit www.millers-market.com.