



In the late 1960's only the ghosts of DeLand wandered the hallways of the old Walts home at 412 South Woodland Boulevard. Abandoned for years, dilapidated and overgrown, the old house itself warned passersby of it's certain demise.

At that time, a world away, in Fort Lauderdale, Dolores Koop goaded her husband to take her away from the trappings of modern Florida.

Many years earlier Dolores Arnold was born in New Mexico, one of ten children in a depression era family. At the age of fourteen an eccentric, artistic aunt rescued her and brought her to her new home in South Miami. There in Bohemian Coconut Grove this young pioneer woman developed a cultural diversity that would stay with her forever. Evidence of her influence is felt throughout every corner of the "Old House" today!

Her husband found her the dream house she wanted, an abandoned old Victorian home in the town she loved, DeLand, Florida. With the imagination and the crafts she had honed in her youth she set out to resurrect the old place. With her hard work in the years to come the house reclaimed the glory of bygone days. In that house she was not only mother to her own children but to all who would come to her for advice and support in troubled times. And of course, in good times and in bad, a large pot of one of here favorite recipes always simmered, waiting for someone to venture in.

Now, determined to keep the home and the memories of those days alive, the children of Howard and Dolores Koop have opened their home to you. The "Old House" Café becomes a most fitting addition to a town that has been so successful in preserving the tradition of Old America. The Café has the warm, friendly feel of a Key West bed and breakfast, without the bed.

The Café, now serving lunch Monday through Friday offers homemade soups, salads, desserts and daily specials. Dolores' great recipes such as good old fashioned chicken and dumplings, peach bread pudding with bourbon sauce, cracker key-lime pie, and mouth watering pot roast are just a few of the things you'll enjoy at the "Old House".

The lush tropical garden and waterfall built by Howard Koop provide an ideal setting for rehearsal dinners, showers, birthdays, parties and special occasions. The Café may be reserved for such occasions in the evenings and on weekends.

If you find it difficult to leave the "Old House", bring a part of it home with you! The china plates at your table and the table itself are all for sale. Numerous antiques and family artwork on display are also available for your purchase. Everything can be yours except, of course, the picture of Dolores, which hangs in the entryway!