



Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Old Mill, new charm

A bountiful buffet that goes on all day Sunday is one of the special feasts at the Old Mill in Waterford.

Site of a \$1 million renovation last year, the Old Mill offers good food, leisurely meals and a peaceful, charming setting.

Two Bloomfield Hills men, restaurateur John Laffrey, who owns Steaks on the Green, and Al Werthman, are partners in the Old Mill. Dick Greenfield, also of Bloomfield Hills,

is the general manager. "This is John's dream," Greenfield said, one recent Sunday afternoon taking a few minutes away from supervising the flow of customers to the buffet table.

Greenfield, who used to work for Chuck Marr, is as enthusiastic as if this were his own \$1 million baby.

HE SAID on Sundays when the Old Mill serves its brunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 600 to 1,000 customers are served. The Milling Room, where the buffet

table is located, seats 140, the Tiffany Room, with Tiffany lamp decor, seats 80, the Garden Room, with latticework and light atmosphere, seats 40, the Mill Run Tavern, the cocktail bar and entertainment room for dancing, seats 80. Seventy-five diners can be seated in the left, and the upstairs Americana Room, open for banquets and Friday and Saturday night, has seating for 120 persons. "We can seat a little over 500 at one seating, and have done so," said Greenfield, of the Old Mill's accommodations.

The Sunday brunch includes these things: I sampled Fruit cup with melon balls, scrambled eggs, toast, sausage, Swedish meatballs, hashed brown, pancakes, ham, lasagna, strawberries with whipped cream, Danish pastry and cheese cube. "Because I'm easily tempted by old breakfast standards early in the day, I passed up a number of other appealing dishes. Smoked salmon, barbecued short ribs, hot blueberry muffins, homemade bread pudding with cherry sauce, sliced Beef Roast and homemade soup.

GREENFIELD said. At 4 o'clock we take off the eggs and breakfast items and replace them, for example with sweet and sour pork, roast turkey with gravy and dressing. Never any standard foods. At night, there's soup instead of the fruit bowl. "You can always tell a chef by his scraps," Greenfield said. The chef, Mark Sullivan, 24, comes from the highly rated Fleagutter in Port Huron. "One irresistible thing about buffet service is the opportunity it gives you to sample things that strike your fancy, even though they don't really go together—chicken, why would I be trying lasagna along with ham and eggs?"

You can nibble on lots of foods, try an enormous amount of dishes without getting overstuffed. What's wrong with having two or three desserts, if you take tiny portions?

GREENFIELD explained that the waiters lets you know when it is your turn to go to the buffet table, to avoid your having to stand in line. He added that with the crowds they've got people having birthday parties, anniversaries and kids from hockey games. A couple of delicious drinks Greenfield recommended are the Mimosa, with Great

Western champagne and orange juice, served in a wine goblet, before you dine, and the after-dinner Hammer, combining vanilla ice cream, light Jamaican rum and Kahlua, so thick you use a spoon. The Old Mill has a colorful past. A restaurant since 1923, it also had a few rooms upstairs used for other purposes. The Old Mill got its name from its location, across from an old mill on the Clanton River.

Today, there's a water wheel and bridge, and you can feed the water fowl when they come by. Greenfield said they're planning to expand the mill's scenic attractions. In the cocktail lounge, tables will be laminated with pictures of the Old Mill from 1923 on.

Besides the brunch buffet, an Old Mill special meal is Backboard Buffet. Diners walk through an ox yoke and old the wagon wheels to reach the spread of hearty dishes in the Milling Room.

The Old Mill is unofficially the home of the Lions, according to Greenfield. Located 8 1/2 miles from Pontiac Stadium, the Mill runs a half dozen buses and two bell-copers to the stadium for football games. In the summer, buses run to Pine Knob, 2 1/2 miles away, for musical entertainment.

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