



Executive Chef Rene Mouttel samples a sauce in the Michigan Inn's Benchmark restaurant.



## Getting Around By ETHEL SIMMONS

One of the most prestigious restaurants in these northern suburbs is the Benchmark in Southfield's Michigan Inn. The food's so good there, says Lois M. Lampert, sales manager, that some residents often fill the tables and sometimes guests at the hotel complain because they can't get in to dine.

At dinner, there are long-extended roses for the women. Waiters and waitresses serve you dressed in rustic colonial costumes for the bi-centennial.

Everything on the Benchmark's six-page menu is a specialty. Among the specialties are Range and Roast, Brochets of Beef Flambé which I dined on, Pepper Steak Maharaja, Mignon of Veal aux Morilles, Chicken Saute Cyprien, Roast Duckling Tropical, Filet Mignon and New York Steak.

Seafood includes Broiled Salmon Fillet, Trout Soufflé, Admiral, Frog Legs Nicolas, Le Crouton and Broiled Fillet of Lake Superior Whitefish.

OTHER ENTRÉES are on the complete dinner and for two or more. Portions of all courses are generous, to say the least, and if you've been served even the Benchmark Salad, you may wonder how you'll have room for the rest of the meal. I willingly ate all the salad combining greens with celery, carrot, mushroom and bacon bits with the Benchmark's gourmet dressing.

Then I had to struggle mightily with the equally delicious entrée of beef tenderloin, onion, bell pepper and mushroom caps served flambé topped with sauce Bordelaise.

When the dessert cart rolled around, French pastries and tortes tempted me, as did the Mousses au Chocolat also displayed I succumbed to the mousses.

Rene Mouttel, Swiss-born executive chef, is in charge of a kitchen staff of 65 persons. He cooked for Princess Margaret during her 1958 visit to Canada when he was with the Canadian Pacific chain.

Mouttel joined Western International Hotels five years ago at the St. Francis in San Francisco. He opened the chain's Houston Oaks Hotel in Texas before coming to the Michigan Inn, which opened in October 1974.

WESTERN INTERNATIONAL Hotels has 53 hotels in 13 countries throughout the world. Peachtree Plaza in Peachtree Center is one of theirs, as is the new Detroit Plaza in Renaissance Center—both designed by the same architect.

The 75-story Detroit Plaza, slated to open in February 1977, will be the tallest hotel in the world. In addition to the elegant Benchmark of-

## Benchmark menu: It's all special

fering lunch and dinner, the 413-room Michigan Inn has an informal Coffee Garden for light snacks and meals and Sunday brunch.

Dewey's, entertainment room at night, also serves lunch weekdays.

THE FIRST TIME I ever saw a restaurant blessed was at a recent opening party on a Sunday afternoon at Chateau Troy, 1885 John R. just north of Fifth Mile.

The owner, George Ribushchik, said it wasn't a usual practice in his church but that he invited the priest, a friend of his from the Eastern Orthodox Church St. Clement's in Dearborn Heights.

All four corners of the restaurant were blessed in the ceremony.

Ribushchik, who was born and educated in Yugoslavia, came to the United States at the age of 23. He has an extensive background in the restaurant business including 18 years at the Holiday Inn of Southfield.

Chateau Troy's menu includes prime rib, French dishes, shashlik, chicken teriyaki and Beef Wellington plus gourmet salad bar. The restaurant is open every day including a new Sunday buffet.

## Pam Martin, Faces appear

Pam Martin and Familiar Faces are the featured musical group at Top O' The Porch supper club in Detroit's Hotel Pontchartrain through May 29.

The four-piece group plays contemporary music for dining and dancing, Tuesdays through Saturdays, in the rooftop club with the panoramic view of Detroit and Canada.

Lead vocalist Pam Martin is a former runner-up for the title of Miss Kentucky. She has just returned from serving as coordinator for this year's pageant.

Other Familiar Faces are Dave Adams on bass, Mark Van Heekert on keyboards and Dale Bender on drums.

Completely redesigned and redecorated last fall, the new Top O' The Porch is on the 25th floor of Hotel Pontchartrain across from Cobo Hall, in Detroit's Civic Center.

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