

Jacques replacing Atrium

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Bingham Farms may have lost the Atrium, but it has gained Jacques. Owner Jim Thompson said, "It will be sensational—very, very classy, like a Parisian fine restaurant."

Thompson predicts, "People will drive 100 miles to see this place."

Jacques is planning an October opening on the property where the Atrium was located. The Atrium and Bobbie's Pub folded last year when the Dorchester Corporation, which leased the space, went bankrupt.

Restaurateur Thompson, who also owns the Bistrot in Southfield and Bicycle Jim's in Ann Arbor, said Jacques will again be an existing garden court, or atrium, in the Bingham Farms Plaza.

"WE ARE GOING to gut the place, literally," he said. "We will spend well over one half million dollars. It will be exquisite. People out there (in the Birmingham area) are discerning."

Roger Sherman of Sherman/Ryan Associates in Dearborn will do the interior design. "He did the Bijou and Bicycle Jim's," and he does all the Chuck Mue's," according to Thompson.

The Atrium, which opened amid much fanfare in 1974, did a booming business at first, but patronage steadily declined. Thompson said of its management, "They were amateurs."

The decor also "was more like a ladies' tearoom." Jacques will be classical, with black and white floor tiles, oriental rugs, antiques and dramatic accessories.

For diners beggled by the prices at the highly rated, French-flavored Bijou, Thompson promised that Jacques will not be quite as expensive. "More toward the moderate side—\$8-\$12 range."

BUT JACQUES is expected to offer fine cuisine. "The menu will be a really good mix," Thompson said. And there will be a top chef.

2 groups play

The Zoras and The Midnight Radio Show conclude their three-week engagement July 9, alternating back to back to provide non-stop entertainment, at The Celebration in the Detroit Plaza Hotel.

"Joe Beam, who was the number one graduate of the Culinary Institute (in New York) three years ago is coming from the Bijou where he was 'sous chef' (number two chef)," he said.

Beam plans to do some of the "cuisine minceur," the new rage in French cooking without all the high calories.

At Jacques, the deck will be open in the atrium for outdoor, summer dining. The atrium will be decorated seasonally, with paper fish in the spring, flowers in summer, a harvest theme in the fall and twinkling lights in winter.

Strolling musicians will be featured. The road leading to Jacques' at 31000

Telegraph, north of Twelve Mile, will have three entrances. "A lot of people come from the north. It will be a lot easier to get into," Thompson acknowledged.

THOMPSON, A RESIDENT of Grosse Pointe, was asked how he is operating two restaurants hereabouts and zone in his own residential community. "People go out more often and spend more freely," he said of this area, "than on the east side."

Jacques' will offer a French type of dining, with some tableside service. Fish will be flown in daily from Foley's in Boston and lots of veal dishes will be offered, with the restaurant doing its own butchering of white, milk-fed veal.

There will be a large selection of salads from crabmeat to shrimp to

"strange oriental salads."

For both the Bijou and Jacques', Thompson plans to ship meat direct from companies in Colorado. He will hire a baker for the two restaurants and buy wines in Europe, in volume, at 30-40 percent discounts.

Bingham Farms Plaza landlord Lester Burton said, "We had a great many applicants for the restaurant. In our judgment, (Thompson) is considered the most responsible and most capable of the restaurants."

About 16 applicants hoped to lease the space and seek the one existing liquor license in Bingham Farms. Licenses are issued by the State Liquor Commission, and Bingham Farms because of its population of 860 residents is entitled to one license.

Bingham Farms zoning also requires the license to the Bingham Farms Plaza, a large office complex.

New lounge to be lively

Marvin Gardens will fill the spot formerly housing Bobbie's Pub, which closed along with the Atrium.

Jim Thompson, owner of the new restaurant, said it will be "for the young at heart, very New York-ish, with mirrors in the ceiling and red twinkling lights."

"There'll be waitresses in crazy outfits. We may have one on roller skates."

Marvin Gardens, taken from the name of one of the properties in the game of Monopoly, will have games as its theme. There will be piano entertainment.

Designer Joy Noteboom of Sherman/Ryan Associates in Dearborn, which is doing the interior, said, "It will be a fun thing but in a sophisticated manner. There will be a lot of custom booth seating, with carved backs that will probably take the motif of cards."

The lower level, for cocktails, will include a lot of settees and booths. The upper level will be booths and strictly for dining. Booths will have tables painted with designs of different games.

The bar area will include Kewpie dolls and a carnival motif.

Restaurateur Thompson said the menu at Marvin Gardens will feature a deep dish pizza; Italian manicotti, a light pasta rolled around egg, cream cheese and chives mix; and roast beef and hot ham sandwiches served from carts, in the European tradition.



Folk team

Mike and Barbara Smith are continuing a two-week stay through Sunday at the Raven Gallery in Southfield. Show times are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.



Musical worth shouting about

"New York! New York! It's a wonderful town," the old song lyrics (from "Anchors Aweigh") shout. And "New York, New York" (PG) is a wonderful movie, one to shout about.

If you are a big-band-era buff and you groove on the plidies but goodies, you'll be especially pleased. You can tap your feet and hum along with the ballroomful of old favorites that swing through this film. It abounds with sparkling vocals and instrumentals in the Benny Goodman and Dorsey brothers' styles of bandstand basics such as "Opus One," "Avalon," "Taking a Chance on Love" and "You Are My Lucky Star."

This is a movie for romantics and swing-era enthusiasts. It's the love story of Francine Evans (Liza Minnelli), a vocalist, just out of the WACS, and Jimmy Doyle, a saxophone player just out of the Army. They meet and mate in the 1940s, starting at war's end.

The movie begins in grand style with a spectacular opening sequence. The time is VJ Day and Times Square is jumping. Crowds of extras, sweet-playing bands, an enthusiastic radio announcer and the personalities of Minnelli and De Niro combine to hype the audience for 20 minutes with one of the most vibrant and sustained opening sequences ever seen in a film.

DE NIRO as the saxophone player Jimmy Doyle again gives an awe-inspiring demonstration of method acting. Every gesture, facial expression, voice inflection and body movement build and define the abrasive, self-centered, impulsive character of Jimmy Doyle.

Doyle bluntly tells Francine that he cares for three things: Music, money and sex, in that order. He's obnoxious and rude to everyone and especially to Francine. He's a musical genius but a social Neanderthal.

Naturally, she's crazy about him. Minnelli is a great entertainer. However, her wide-eyed, open-mouthed interpretation of her role looks awfully simplistic compared with De Niro's.

In many ways, "New York, New York" is itself a tribute to and later-day replay of the '40s movie musical. Where it differs drastically is in the superior quality of the principal's performance (De Niro's).

Perhaps, it's no surprise then that the movie's weakness is a fault common to most of its musical predecessors—conventions that advance the storyline at the expense of credibility. That's not exactly a sin for lightweight musical fare, but it's more noticeable here because of De Niro's perceptive acting.

WHEN DOYLE gets out of the army, he pounds the pavement auditioning for jobs. Francine miraculously has jobs waiting for her. Her career flourishes. His bumps along until he's stalemated.

Doyle is playing be-bop and newer musical sounds. He has to wait for public taste to catch up with his music. Eventually, it does. Then another miracle happens. The ill-dressed, loud-mouthed Jimmy Doyle, who can't say "hello" without starting an argument, suddenly becomes the smooth, successful operator of his own push nightclub.

Maybe that's why the movie musicals were so popular. The deserving young singer, dancer, musician, eventually made it—against all odds.

Well, "New York, New York," in spite of its minor flaws, makes it, too. In earlier parlance, this movie's a "solid sender."

Glimpses

NEW RELEASES

ANNIE HALL (PG). The best Woody Allen film yet. Truth and comedy go hand in hand in this amusing, contemporary love story. Diane Keaton is also at her best as Annie.

A BRIDGE TOO FAR (PG). Crisp World War II drama chronicling major but ill-fated Allied campaign in Holland. Bounty of stars make brief but effective appearances.

THE DEEP (PG). Suspenseful aqua-drama with exciting underwater action and photography. Jacqueline Bisset, Nick Nolte and Robert Shaw dive in for treasure and thrills.

EXORCIST II—THE HERETIC (R). There's not much that can save this imbecile movie although Richard Burton and Louise Fletcher try. How do they keep from laughing?

FOR THE LOVE OF BENJI (G). The lovable mutt Benji is footloose but not free-flying during an accidental excursion through the Greek islands.

THE OTHER SIDE OF MIDNIGHT (R). Tawdry film of vanity and vengeance. Marie-France Pisier wastes her talent in this clunker. More sex and less story and they could have gone for the "Emmanuelle" trade.

ROLLERCOASTER (PG). Suspense thriller about extortionist (Timothy Bottoms) who plants bombs at amusement parks and a safety inspector (George Segal) who doesn't think that's funny.

SORCERER (PG). Roy Scheider stars in this remake of the hair-raising film "Wages of Fear." Drive to desperation in their attempts to earn enough money to get away from a filthy South American village, four men contract to drive a cargo of explosives across 200 miles of wild terrain.

STAR WARS (PG). Heroic comic sci-fi adventure about a rebellion of solar systems in a distant galaxy. Good time movie with laughs and special effects. Two robots steal the show.

THREE WOMEN (PG). Director Robert Altman's strange, provocative study of the merging relationships of three women and their alienation in a masculine world.

BACK AGAIN

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (PG). Mel Brooks' comic classic with Gene Wilder as Dr. F., Marty Feldman as a hunchback with a moveable hunch and Peter Boyle as the monster. Terrifically funny, start to finish.

MOVIE RATING GUIDE

G General audiences admitted.
PG Parental guidance suggested. All ages admitted.
R Restricted. Adult must accompany person under 18.
X No one under 18 admitted.

French fest on weekend

The French Festival of Detroit's French Market will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and Noon-7 p.m. Sunday.

The market will be held on the lawns on either side of the driveway, weather permitting, or in the ballroom in case of rain. There will be continuous entertainment at the admission-free event.

The program includes can-can dancers, Compagnie Francaise de la Marines (who will drill), crepes, quiche lorraine, epicerie, patisserie, cheese, fruits and vegetables, French bread, flowers, wine, champagnes, beer and ice cream, flea market, bazaar, balloon man, art, pottery and weaving.

Indians from the North American Indian Association will perform one half-hour show daily, without charge.

The French Festival of Detroit Inc. includes among its members the following participating organizations:

Alliance Francaise de Detroit, Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe, French Women's Benevolent Club, La Club La Salle Inc., Warren, Pansotte St. Joachim de Detroit, Societe St. Jean Baptiste de Detroit. The alliance's goal over the next few years is to acquire a building at Fort Wayne and, in cooperation with the Detroit Historical Society, decorate and furnish it in the period of the early French settlers in the City of Detroit.

Children's show due

The season of Children's Theatre productions for this summer has been announced by the Cherry County Playhouse in Traverse City. Among the featured attractions are puppets, dragons, frogs and witches.

The first production will be a musical version of "The Frog Prince," about a princess who frustrates an evil witch by saving the prince from her curse. The show is scheduled for Friday.

On July 15 and 22, two of the best known characters in children's literature are brought to life on the CCP stage as the Junior Players present their version of "Hansel and Gretel."

On July 29, the Stevens Puppets will return to Cherry County to present "Cinderella." There will be two performances of this classic tale enacted with beautifully costumed marionettes.

"The Rude Mechanicals" will be presented Aug. 5 and 12. This youthful production features funny Shakespearean characters who try to entertain the prince and his bride.

The final play is entitled "Tale of the Red Dragon." The Junior Players will tell the story of a courageous young girl who saves her town when she tames the dragon, on Aug. 19 and 26. The Children's Theatre productions are every Friday at 10:30 a.p.

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