

New restaurant opens at Sylvan Glen

Birmingham restaurateur Bruce Cameron's latest venture in the eating business is The Double Eagle Restaurant on Rochester Road in Troy.

"Double Eagle" is getting terms as a three under par, an extremely good score, and is an appropriate name since the new restaurant looks up on Troy's Sylvan Glen Golf Course. Cameron describes the atmosphere as "just like a private country club only without the expensive fee."

The building, located from the City of Troy, is a historical building more than 100 years old. Cameron has spent some \$300,000 renovating the interior of the building with the help of artist and designer Alkali Labi.

Labi designed two other contemporary restaurants for Cameron: The Meadow Place in Orchard Lake and The Midtown Cafe in downtown Birmingham. Cameron is also well-known for his more traditionally designed Maple House, a chain of family restaurants in the northern suburban area.

THE DOUBLE EAGLE has two main dining areas: a smaller dining room and a larger bar and grill called The Owl Under Club. "Owl Under" is another golfer's term meaning "buried" or a good shot. This more casual eating area has a patio and serves snack-type foods.

The main dining area has huge windows which look out over 75 acres of golf course. Outside, diners may see golfers putting on a small green which is decorated by lushly colored flower beds. Older shade trees are scattered over the course and close to the horizon.

A bar at the front of the restaurant is light and airy with more large windows. Natural light, even in bar areas, is one of Labi's trademarks.

"I do simple, clean open spaces," Labi said. "Everybody has traditional restaurants now. I decided there was no reason why we shouldn't start having contemporary ones."

But Labi has a taste for certain traditional things such as craftsmanship. He has designed and painted the wall graphics and has designed and etched the window patterns at both The Midtown Cafe and The Double Eagle.



Norbert Leitloff is chef at The Double Eagle Restaurant in Troy.

salads which are boiled and eaten skin and all.

Another interesting northern dish, Red Flannel hash, is something the Civil War soldiers named and ate, according to Chef Leitloff. This dish is a combination of beef, corned beef hash topped with a poached egg and is ringed by whipped potatoes.

THE EAST 15 is represented on the menu by the New England Shore Dinner, which features—from the gravel beaches of Maine—lobster, crab, Ipswich Steamers

and mussels, along with corn on the cob and redskin potatoes. The salad from this region is the ever-popular Waldorf Salad which originated in the New York hotel of the same name.

In addition to steak, the western region features Beef Enchiladas, a dish which slipped into this country from Mexico via California. A specialty of the house is in this section, Spanish Salad from the Western Valley.

The southern portion offers Texas Chile: Hot Brown, a turkey sandwich served with

cheese sauce and bacon, New Orleans Jambalaya, Virginia Baked Almond Chicken, and a Key Lime Pie made from limes found in the Florida Keys.

Corn, a reflection of American Indian heritage and a basic food that has been in continual usage since Pilgrim days, is represented by cornbread sticks and is served with every meal.

"I really like to make eating an interesting experience," Cameron said. "I want to make the food itself a conversation item when people eat in my restaurants."

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