

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Jack Bedell does tabletop cookery

Restaurateur Jack Bedell doesn't get a chance to do any cooking at his fine restaurant Bedell's in Bloomfield Hills, but he likes to cook as a hobby.

Recently, for the second year in a row, members of a Birmingham Branch AAUW gourmet group were invited to a luncheon demonstration by Bedell on tabletop cookery.

The Birmingham Lions Club gave up the book-lined private dining room at Bedell's where it meets, so the group of 20 women could watch Bedell cook and serve Mexican, Japanese and Italian dishes.

The AAUW women gathered around the demonstration table where Bedell, assisted by his wife Ann, first made a Mexican appetizer, Queso Dillas, combining flour tortillas, Monterey Jack cheese and guacamole.

THREE COURSES of a Japanese dinner followed in turn on the Teflon cooktop. These consisted of fresh shrimp and beanprunts, boneless breast of chicken and zucchini, and Sirloin steak with onion and fresh mushrooms.

The courses were served with two dipping sauces: Plum sauce with mustard sauce for the shrimp, soy sauce with oyster sauce for the steak and a choice of either sauce for the chicken.

A glass of chablis accompanied the Teppanyake (tabletop) dinner.

"Table cookery is becoming popular in this country," Bedell said, "due to the popularity of Japanese restaurants." He emphasized that he was offering a sampling of dishes—"You wouldn't do them all together"—and wound up the menu by connecting Noodles Alfredo.

Bedell explained at-the-table cooking is great for entertaining. You set up all the raw ingredients attractively on trays, then cook, season and serve with a flourish.

"It's a conversational kind of thing with your guests," he continued, as talk and cooking mingled.

Ginny Hilde of the Birmingham Branch AAUW arranged for the demonstration to Gourmet Food Group III.

Jolly Jack Bedell, who has a long food service background, opened his restaurant 14 years ago. Wife Ann does all the office work. Son Jack Jr., Jr., a Michigan State University

graduate, hotel administration, is the chef. It's all nicely in the family.

HARRIS MACHUS of Birmingham, whose eight restaurants range from an informal cafeteria to elegant dining, also is planning to reveal some of his secrets.

In a Coffee & Conversation program at the Community House, Machus and his culinary arts team will share "The Magic of Machus" at 1:30 p.m. March 29.

Participating are Martin Kregar—vice-president of operations, who is a chef, too; Leopold Schaefer from Switzerland, a certified executive chef, and Pearl Thoun, manager of the Pastry Shop, for which Machus is well known.

Coffee & Conversation includes coffee or tea and sweets from the tea table, along with a question-and-answer session, after the program.

A MACHUS MENU not only conjures up visions of the appetizing choices to come but is immensely readable for its added attractions.

At Machus Red Fox in Bloomfield Township, the menu's first page is emblazoned with a fox's head inside a hunter's horn and followed by "Our Story" of the Machus dining history for 30 years.

It seems Grandpa Machus was a pastry chef at the famous Henrie's in Chicago. He struck out on his own and in 1911 established the Machus Pastry Shops, the first in Lansing and later in Birmingham in 1933.

The test of "Our Story" brings Machus up to date, from the first restaurant, with a Continental French atmosphere, Machus West Maple, to the newest, the Hungry Fox, in Saginaw.

The menu bears a seal "Great Menu Award" 1975, from the National Restaurant Association. The Machus Red Fox Salad Service is described in detail in the menu, which gives the "recipe as requested by Gourmet Magazine."

MENU OFFERINGS are top of the line, ranging from choice steaks and prime ribs to Dover sole and lobster tails. Accompaniments are just a few but include favorites. Machus baked potato service, French fried onion rings, button mushrooms in a skillet. Some appetizers, entrees, wines and desserts are highlighted from the "Gourmet Corner."

The menu is not one of those overpowering ones that goes on and on but is actually laid out simply and informatively, for ease in menu planning.

A full page of after-dinner drink suggestions is especially pleasing, and a separate wine list is available on request.

Puppet troupe will perform

The Village Puppet Players will present "Hansel and Gretel" opening Friday at Meadowbrook Village Mall's Showboat Children's Theatre in Avon Township.

Performances of "Hansel and Gretel," with the duo battling the infamous witch, are scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m.; Friday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 11 a.m., 1, 3 and 5 p.m. and Sunday at 12:30, 2:30 and 4 p.m.



Jack Bedell and wife Ann prepare chicken and zucchini.

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