

# Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS



## Down under crowd listens at promotion

A sophisticated evening crowd has been finding its way to the Down-under, the downstairs room at the Meeting Place restaurant in Orchard Lake.

Part of the reason is the sounds of Rory Dewey, who entertains at the piano. Dewey plays for the cocktail hour, 5:30 p.m., and returns at 9 p.m. to continue for the after-dinner and later after-theater customers.

According to Rick Harrison, general manager of liquor operations, the Downunder used to feature folk music and draw a young crowd, but since the Meeting Place remodeled, an older audience has been showing up downstairs, so "easy listening" music was desired.

Dewey, in his twenties, can handle all kinds of song requests at the baby grand. Patrons may request old favorites by Porter or Gershwin, and Dewey has put these songs into his repertoire by catching them on the late movies.

**ORIGINALLY FROM WALLED LAKE.** Dewey now lives in Detroit. "My grandfather was a gypsy violinist from Romania," he said with a pride that indicates pleasure in his heritage. "He had an orchestra in Detroit."

Dewey, who was on the road with Connie Graham and a four-piece band for three months, has been back in Detroit since January. For a 1 1/2 years, he has played around metropolitan Detroit with the Perry Hughes Quintet.

"I'm into jazz," Dewey said. He's happy to be performing in an area so close to his first home. The talented pianist's girlfriend, Laurie, is a

waitress at the Meeting Place. He also knew manager Fred Ferguson, but it was Laurie who told Dewey that Ferguson was looking for a new entertainer.

Along with the music, patrons of the Downunder can now dine or snack, from a menu of fresh foods. I sampled the raw vegetable platter, at \$3.35, more than big enough for two. This features crisp, eye-appealing vegetables—mushrooms, carrots, celery, cucumbers, cauliflower, or whatever "vegies" are available, served with a zesty dip. Cheese dip and six, at \$1.75, is another moderately priced snack that comes in ample portion.

The menu also includes several sandwiches ranging from turkey to cold tenderloin. A shrimp cocktail or tenderloin julienne salad are other choices on the selective menu.

**YOU CAN ORDER** soup, tossed salad or pastries, wine by the bottle, Spanish or Irish coffee, in addition to the cocktails most lounges serve.

The atmosphere is subdued, with decor by Aleksis Lahil and the new piano bar, chairs that have cane backs and seats, round tables for two or four. The Downunder is open seven nights a week, serving until 1 a.m. and staying open even later on weekends.

**THE MARCH WINDS** were brisk, but the water on Lake St. Clair was bright blue, and the drive to Chuck Murr's River Crab was a breath of spring.

Sunday brunch is one of the attractions that brings people out in their cars for a ride on I-94 to the St. Clair exit, through St. Clair and north on River Road to the restaurant.

Last Sunday was the first brunch of the new season. Buffet style, you pick blueberry muffins and other rolls from an arrangement of baskets grouped sideways. Bagels, lox and cream cheese look as good as they taste, the lox cut into swirled strips, the cream cheese made up to resemble a frosted cake.

The table of hot dishes takes you from pancakes to what is probably the biggest quiche you've ever seen, in a gigantic pan. In between are creamed spinach haddock, corned beef hash and apple dumplings, to name just a few dishes.

As you brunch, you can look out on Lake St. Clair, for a smooth vista soon to be filled with river traffic.

Besides Sunday brunch, the River Crab is open Tuesday-Fridays for lunch (beginning March 28), for dinner, and for lunch and dinner Monday, too, as of May 22.

The River Crab adjoins the River Crab Motor Inn, and you can drive or boat in for enjoyment by the water.

**IT'S ONLY A FEW HOURS** by car, train or plane to some of metropolitan Detroiters' favorite towns—Toronto and Chicago. You can spend a lot of money, or a little, stopping for food and drink.

Just a few places you can enjoy a brew in Toronto include Good Queen Bess, an English pub on the lower level of the fabulous Sheraton Centre in Toronto. The Sheraton Centre has an indoor garden with waterfall, icy

beauty in the recent cold weather, and pleasant.

At the Queen Bess, if you order beer on tap it comes in an English pint mug, which is the biggest drink around.

The Toronto Press Club is near Temperance Street (which seems unlikely). You can't get in unless you're a member or guest, but just across the street is a delightful pub open to the public called Sherlock's on Sheppard (Street).

Sherlock's looks small from the outside, but inside it's spacious, book-lined just the way Sherlock Holmes would have liked it, and has comfortable armchairs. Drink and dining is available.

**CHICAGO PLACES** include one of my choices, Sherlock's Home (the fictional detective does inspire restaurateurs). There you can have drinks and light food such as Inspector Lestrade's Favorite, which combines mouth-watering roast beef and peta bread.

At R.J. Grunt's, the menu is a wild array of just about anything you can think of, at reasonable prices. The salad bar even has caviar. Steak on a steamer is an entree that is good and filling.

You really get your money's worth at Moody's, where a salad bar and sloppy joe hamburger order are almost more than you can eat. Moody's has a casual, campus air, and in the summer, if it comes, you can sit outdoors.

Thursday, March 23, 1978

(T-3D, S-4C, F-5C, R-7B) (C) 1978

Where to go and what to do on Sunday? Here's an unusual dining opportunity...



- ONLY SUNDAY BRUNCH IN DOWNTOWN DETROIT
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## Easter Sunday Buffet

The beginning of a new tradition... a delicious Easter Feast to be enjoyed by the entire family, set among the blossoms of Spring. Selections include everything from the simplest of salads to a fabulous steamship round to Black Forest Torie. \$8.95 adults and \$6.50 children. May we make reservations for your family?

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## Easter Sunday Buffet

Serving from 11 a.m.

a variety of hot foods including Roast Beef, Chicken, Ham, Swedish Meat Balls, Relish Tray, Tossed Salads, Potatoes, Vegetables and Desserts

\$7.25 per person children \$3.50

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## Hang your Easter Bonnet at 12 noon

Come to our great parade of superb Easter entrees from our regular menu. Delicious selections in a great atmosphere, starting at 12 noon Easter Sunday. Hang it up for Easter, the hunt is over.

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## Easter Sunday We're Serving A Brunch to Remember.

A festival of food, that's what it will be! An Easter Sunday brunch you'll always remember. Even the Easter Bunny will be there with some special surprises of his own! There'll be food, fun and even a clown.

It all begins Easter morning in the Plymouth Hilton Ballroom from 10 A.M. til 2 P.M. So come, enjoy and celebrate with your friends at the Plymouth Hilton's Brunch to Remember.

For your evening dining the Jolly Miller Restaurant will also serve from 2 P.M. til 9 P.M. on Easter Sunday.

Sunday Brunch—\$4.95 Adults—\$3.95 Children under 12

Plymouth Hilton Inn  
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(313) 459-4500  
For Reservations and Banquet Planning

## GET YOUR BUNNIES OVER TO THE DRY DOCK

Our delicious Easter entrees will be served starting at 12 noon this Easter Sunday. Take your favorite bunny out to a superb dining event with all the trimmings. And it all begins at 12 noon.

**OPEN at 12 NOON**

26855 Greenfield Road, Southfield, 557-0570