

Restaurants, nightclub brighten Plaza scene

By ETHEL SIMMONS
Entertainment Editor

Night Life

Conventioners are probably one step ahead of most metropolitan Detroiters.

Visitors to Detroit have been dining and nightclubbing at the new Detroit Plaza, while many suburbanites have yet to explore nightlife at the spectacular one-year-old hotel in Renaissance Center.

The Detroit Plaza's most acclaimed attraction is the Summit, a tri-level restaurant/cocktail lounge. The Summit's revolving cocktail lounge tops the tower of the 73-floor hotel said to be the tallest in the world.

Many persons who ride the exterior glass-enclosed elevator to the Summit for the first time find themselves pulling back from the window view. But individuals, more intrepid or who are familiar with the ride, boldly gaze at the descending skyline.

A NEW FEATURE of the tri-level complex, which has one level for dining and two for cocktails, is allowing you to reserve your own cocktail pod on the stationary, middle level. If you're going on the town with a crowd, you can arrange for all to be seated together.

On the rooftop, you can enjoy a magnificent revolving view of Detroit and Windsor at the same time you sip cocktails.

Dining at the Summit gives you an opportunity to continue seeing metropolitan landmarks as the restaurant's seating area revolves. On a clear day, visibility may extend as far as the roof

the women are given red roses at dinner.

A ceiling and walls of mirrored tiles enlarge the room. Some banquettes are set off by airy, vertical wood strips that add privacy.

THE MENU AT La Fontaine includes specialties that range in price from Le Caneton Seville (half roasted duckling, served with a delicate green olive sauce, garnished with artichoke bottoms and wild rice) at \$11.50 to Le Faisan Bacchus (stuffed breast of Michigan pheasant, wrapped in tender vineleaves and lardons on buttered croissants served with sauce Bacchus and a timbale of rice) at \$16.50.

If you like you can start your meal with appetizers that go all the way to Beluga caviar, served with condiments, Russian vodka and melba toast, at \$20.50.

If you're dining light, you might order the culinary specialty, served from a silver cart. For \$13 you get a chef's salad and peach melba or French pastry and beverage.

The Mikado restaurant, with Japanese dishes, is doing exceptionally well, said Deborah Hawkins, Detroit

Plaza Hotel public relations director. "People who go to Japan say the food here is authentic," she said.

Because there is not a large Japanese community in Detroit, not all the Mikado's staff is Japanese, but there is all-oriental service, Ms. Hawkins said.

THE MIKADO has a dramatic entrance, with a ceiling that resembles those in castles of the late 18th century Manzanilla period.

A hibachi sits on each table in the western dining room. Everything on the menu, except grilled steak and chicken, is available in this main room.

The steak and chicken can be ordered at the steak table, a dining room where each table seats up to seven people and the meal is grilled in front of you by teppan girls who do all the cooking.

A choice of all the menu dishes is offered in the tatami rooms. First you take off your shoes with a fancy shoe-horn before you enter these translucent, shoji-screened rooms. You sit on mats, but the floor is recessed, so your feet are touching the floor.

Price range is \$6.95 to \$13.95 for

entrees at the Mikado.

RESERVATIONS ARE suggested for all dining facilities and most particularly for La Fontaine and the Mikado's steak tables.

Centering the semi-circular arrangement of La Fontaine and the Celebration is the Galleria Bar, the only honest-to-goodness bar in the Detroit Plaza.

However, there are several other lounge areas which are as good for people watching as they are for drinking. The Inner Circle revolving lounge across the way is open from 4 p.m. It faces the reflecting pool at the base of the eight-story atrium.

Other tables are spotted in the fountain area. On higher levels, circular cocktail pods suspended above the lake provide comfortable places to get together.

A cocktail waitress comes around in a little trolley bar, clanging a bell, to serve drinks.

THE LA FONTAINE restaurant is on the lower Promenade Level of the Detroit Plaza, directly across from the Celebration, the hotel's intimate nightclub.

The Celebration nightclub is notable especially for its policy of continuous entertainment. Two groups—lively though not big-name acts—perform back to back each night.

Current attractions are the Fall Guys, who opened a three-week engagement Monday. They alternate with Tom Elias and Fancy Music.

The lounge opens at 5 p.m. (Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.) and half-price drinks are served during the Celebration hours, 5-8 p.m. weekdays. There is no cover charge evenings, but the drink prices reflect the cost of entertainment. The Celebration stays open till 2 a.m. (closed Sunday).

People who want to turn their evening on the town into a brief vacation, or weekend for two, can take advantage of the Detroit Plaza's package plan.

Any weekend night Friday-Sunday, the hotel has rooms at \$25 per person double occupancy. These nightly rates include parking and breakfast for two in any of the hotel's restaurants. The pool and sauna are free to any special weekend or regular hotel guest. (The regular double rate is \$49 per person.)

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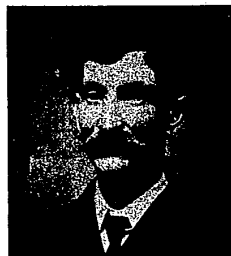


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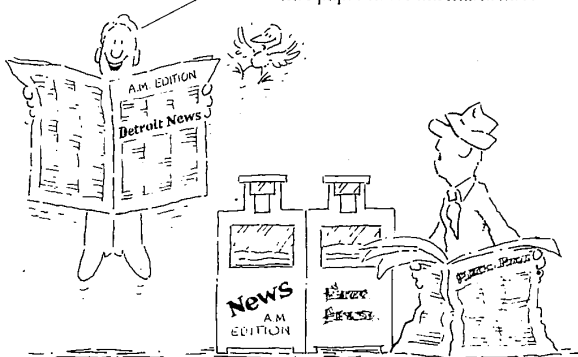
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