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Night life and good eating

Folks find fun a needed commodity

By TERESA BANAS

The week's end is near. You've sweated and toiled and now you're ready to relax and have a good time. If a night out is what you're looking for, Western Wayne County has a variety of dining establishments ready to serve you.

The management of the Hillside Inn in Plymouth aims for a restaurant-within-a-restaurant atmosphere by offering several dining rooms.

The restaurant was a farmhouse back in 1934 and since then several additions have been made. It's been a constant blending of new and old for a rambling country effect.

TWO YEARS AGO they added The Bottom of the Hill, a separate restaurant that specializes in soups and salads. The atmosphere reflects the depression years of 1929-34. The addition offers basic foods as opposed to Hillside which has a large menu from crab meat salad to steaks.

Manager Betty Stremich says restaurant dining has increased because the nature of the family has changed. Wives are more likely than ever to work outside the home, and family dinner out has become more appealing.

Ken Porosky is the manager of the Cordoba Restaurant in Livonia. He says the business in the Livonia-Plymouth area is booming.

He says tastes are now moving away from fried foods. The Cordoba menu is expanding to include caseroles, souffles, and dishes sprinkled with herbs and spices to bring out natural food flavors.

JOHN SASSOCK, the owner of Westland's Poison Apple Lounge, is expanding his business to include a specialty restaurant with a Swiss theme. He says he finds the ethnic approach profitable and a draw for people from all over the area.

He tried a fondue item at his lounge and says he "couldn't serve people fast enough."

He says the opening of the Jeffries Freeway has helped the out-county restaurant business.

Manager Roger Tate, at Here's Beef Buffet in Farmington, says that the restaurant's cafeteria style and baked food offerings make it popular with senior citizens from as far as Pontiac and Ann Arbor.

Chris Jezewski, who owns The Lion and the Sword in Garden City, says his patrons seem more content with life and more relaxed these days. Their fare is the standard steak and prime rib dinner.

Jezewski agrees with other restaurant owners that wine has become a more popular item.

Many restaurants are adding entertainment to their service, whether it's a solo folk singer or small combo.

parking lot they instantly see it as a chance to mingle and meet others.

He says a spot's image is either created by the owner to draw in a particular crowd or the owner supplies entertainment to appeal to an established clientele.

Patlow says most night spots are designed for a particular age bracket. The 18-23 crowd gathers at places like Uncle Sam's in Redford, a disco club. At Vargo's in Livonia, he says there's seldom anyone under 25 there unless they are very mature.

Patlow estimates there are 12-15 places in the area that appeal to separate interests in music. While rock and roll and disco are top money makers, jazz, blues, country, and folk are harder to find.

Music that originated in the '50s is still hot. The Redwood Lounge in Livonia is still putting out '50s music but without the greased up look.

Patlow views bars as a happening. People go there because it's a place to be and a place to meet others.

PATLOW SAYS there has been a large rise in pinball-type games at local establishments. He says it's a profitable form of entertainment for small bar owners and a constant temptation for customers.


Large screen television sets are another feature that is a definite plus for small bar owners. Customers tend to stay longer and spend more money when watching a special event on the screen.

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Among nightspots in Wayne County is Westland's Poison Apple. (Staff photo)



Growing with Canton



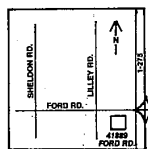
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