

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS



P.J. Clarke's offers fresh foods, ambiance

Sonya Friedman has high hopes for her new restaurant, P. J. Clarke's, which opened several weeks ago in Birmingham's Continental Market.

Ms. Friedman, better known as a local psychologist and talk show personality, is a relative newcomer to the restaurant business.

She was briefly involved in a restaurant partnership in Southfield, and although that didn't work out, Ms. Friedman believes it has prepared her for the challenge of P. J. Clarke's. She sums up her goal: "This going to be the best restaurant in Birmingham."

A NATIVE New Yorker, Ms. Friedman lives in West Bloomfield and works as a psychologist in Bloomfield Hills. She has been spending as much time as possible in P. J. Clarke's, getting the venture off the ground. She had been planning to open a restaurant for some time "and was looking for a small house when this opportunity came about."

P. J. Clarke's is located in what used to be the Paradigm, a natural foods restaurant that closed recently. The new restaurant includes the Gazebo, which was the Paradigm's ice cream parlor and sandwich shop, now to be retained the Patio.

Soups, salads and desserts will be served in the Patio, located in a half-way alcove at the Continental Market.

UP TO THE PRESENT P. J. Clarke's was open for lunch and dinner, with the same menu used for both meals. A new dinner menu now has extras priced from \$3.75 for "P.J. Clarke's favorite" half-pound ground steak stuffed with blue cheese and choice of grilled bermuda onions, sautéed mushrooms in sherry or swiss cheese on an onion or kaiser roll, to \$8.95 for the New Yorker, a strip steak with bordelaise sauce or cheddar and mushrooms.

At lunch, the prices range from a half-pound ground steak at \$2.75, to quiche lorraine with bacon and leeks, at \$3.95, and Birmingham Burnside, a honey-baked ham sandwich served open face on rye with horseradish sauce and melted cheese, also \$3.95.

Chef's specials are available, such as crab claws at \$5.95. The crab claws are served with melted butter and wild rice.

A pastry baker prepares desserts especially for the restaurant, and choices are changed several times a week.

GATEAUX DOMINIQUE, a rich layered cake is offered, as well as chocolate cheesecake, a pleasant alternative for regular cheesecake fanciers.

Right now, P. J. Clarke's looks like the Paradigm, with mostly tussle-free decor. But bright green wall planters filled with ferns have been added. The side wall will be knocked out to create windows and the back wall has been mirrored for visual effect.

Bentwood chairs will replace the Paradigm's high-backed chairs in the dining room and a few oak tables will be added.

Jim Dahlke, the Paradigm chef, has stayed on, creating new dishes, although a vegetable sauté and a vegetable quiche remain on the menu.

Manager Bill Van Horn is an experienced restaurateur, who six months ago sold his share of the Olive Wren Cafe in West Bloomfield to a partner there.

Van Horn said that omelettes are a "fabulous seller" at P. J. Clarke's, along with the French onion soup.

MS. FRIEDMAN admits to picking the name of her favorite New York

restaurant, P. J. Clarke's, for her Birmingham restaurant.

"At the end of the evening or after the theater, everybody always went to P. J. Clarke's," she said. Ms. Friedman wants to establish the same mood here, "the ambience of friendship and warmth—a comfortable place to go."

The emphasis on P. J. Clarke's in Birmingham is on good food, fresh and moderately priced, according to Ms. Friedman. She said customers are encouraged to request their favorite dishes be offered as specials. "We will put the dish on the menu, and then call the customer," she said.

P. J. Clarke's is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday. A Sunday buffet is expected to be started in a month.

"I'm trying to learn everything about the restaurant business, including how they grind the meat," Ms. Friedman explained.

Van Horn said the biggest problem the restaurant has is keeping up with customers' orders between noon and 2 p.m., which he calls "high pressure time." Because all the food is prepared fresh, customers can play the waiting game. "The saute takes 20 minutes," he said.



When in Rome

"A Touch of Spring" sophisticated Roman comedy by Samuel Taylor, has been extended once again at Will-O-Way Repertory Theatre in Bloomfield Township. The show runs through Friday, Aug. 11. Hal Doyle of Southfield plays the uncertain State Department assistant secretary and Eileen Weiss of Bloomfield Hills causes consternation as the overly efficient wife. Curtain is at 8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Reservations may be made by phone at 644-4418.

First Morning plays Hurley's

First Morning, a fresh young group, will open a month-long engagement Monday at Hurley's in the Northfield Hilton, Crooks Road and I-75, Troy. Their engagement runs through Sept. 2.

First Morning is a variety group that plays all types of music. Their repertoire ranges from popular dance tunes to country and disco rock.

Becky Pemberton is their up-front vocalist, who also doubles on piano, congas and percussion. Bill Allen, the group's leader, plays bass guitar.

With Ron Boxey on the keyboards and other instruments and Larry Lament on drums, this versatile group is also adept at four-part harmonies.

Young ideas develop with disco craze

BY MARY MCCARTHY

Whether or not "Saturday Night Fever" is responsible, the disco craze is continuing its metropolitan Detroit hustle.

Many new places and innovative ideas have sprung up to comply with the demand, one of the most recent being the Paddies Disco inside the exhibition racquetball courts at the Lemontree apartments clubhouse.

The dance floor is inside the glass-walled racquetball court and features tiered seating outside the court for 260.

The club is at the 194 service drive and New Denton Road, just beyond the Lemontree apartments complex.

Pepper's, at Cass Lake and Elizabeth Lake roads, has a capacity for 900 feet (450 people) and features Monday night dance lessons and Tuesday night

competition. Bands and recorded music alternate evenings throughout the week.

Ted Fuller, a partner in Pepper's, is opening a new disco palace called Oscar's Disco Theater Aug. 30. It will feature name bands and big sounds at the Northwestern Highway, south of Twelve Mile location.

Crackers in Walled Lake Road has a restaurant upstairs. Nifty Norman's, and is somewhat smaller than others mentioned. Dance lessons are given on Wednesday night, with disco music played Wednesday-Saturday.

Thumpers Disco, which has been open 18 months, is at Crooks Road and M-39 in Avon Township. There's dancing Monday-Saturday. For sustenance, the Brass Lamp restaurant is next door.

Other activities for disco fans

include a disco dance contest at Walled Lake Western High School, for couples in four age divisions. The contest will be held from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 4. Tickets are available by calling 624-6202, or at the door.

Concerts aimed to youngsters

Two concerts will be held in the pavilion at Meadowbrook Music Festival on Friday, July 28 and Friday, Aug. 18.

The first, "Ballet in Beauty" is designed to introduce young people to the art of dance. The second, "Fingers in Fun at the Keyboard" will feature duo pianists, Anthony and Joseph Paratore, who will play music for children including Saint Saens' "Carnival of Animals."

The concerts begin at 11 a.m. and last one hour. Everyone is encouraged to bring a box lunch akle the grounds to picnic afterwards. Concert tickets will be at the reduced rate of \$1 for children, Senior

Citizens and escorts only.

These concerts are presented in cooperation with Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission, Oakland County Cultural Council and Oakland County Library.

Antique show set

A three-day antique show will be held Friday-Sunday in St. Clair. This fourth annual sale and show is at River-view Plaza along the river.

About 50 dealers will have displays. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

How to send news items

News releases, photographs or other information can be mailed to Ethel Simmons, entertainment editor, at 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012, or delivered to the Birmingham, South-

field or Rochester office of the Observer & Eccentric.

The phone number of the Birmingham office is 644-1100.

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