

# Detroit businessman opens Florida seafood restaurant

Chuck Muer, who owns a number of Detroit area restaurants, opens his first Florida restaurant, Charley's Crab, today in Sarasota.

The new restaurant's menu will feature fresh seafood flown in from Boston, Michigan and Canada, as well as fresh-caught local favorites. According to a C.W. Muer Corp. spokesman, informal fine dining is the theme of both decor and service.

THE PUBLIC opening today will be preceded by a joint benefit of the Sarasota Opera Society of the Asolo Opera Guild and the Interlochen Center for the Arts, Interlochen, Mich., of which Muer is a trustee.

"We are delighted to be in Sarasota, and in Florida, and think we have an exciting new dining experience to offer," said Muer. "Sarasota is the kind of community that appreciates good dining and fine seafood, and Charley's Crab will be unlike any other local restaurant."

According to the company, Muer's personal philosophy of service, that each diner should be treated like a guest in his home, will be much in evidence in every step of the operation.

The former Grandeur, purchased by the C. W. Muer Corp. last April, has been remodeled and transformed into a light, airy restaurant.

Charley's Crab will have seating for 225 in four dining rooms, three down-

stairs and one upstairs. In addition, there will be the separate "Crabaret" upstairs featuring dancing and entertainment nightly.

THERE WILL ALSO be a raw bar, where heaps of fresh oysters, clams, shrimps and crabs are displayed on a bed of crushed ice.

The restaurant was designed by Roger Sherman of Sherman Associates of Dearborn, who designed not only Sarasota's new Charley's Crab, but most of Muer's restaurants.

"The design challenge was to create a restaurant in keeping with the Sarasota feeling," said Sherman.

Sherman opened up the walls, enlarged the windows and used plants extensively for an "indoor-outdoor" feeling. Colors are light and bright and tropical. Brass and glass and natural woods like ash abound. Marble bar tops are used upstairs.

There are also illuminated fabric ceilings.

LIGHTING FIXTURES simulating palm-tree fans are another feature and a distinctive tropical touch.

Accessories on the walls will be a blend of old prints of Sarasota, a selection of fish prints and an assortment of contemporary prints. Each room has its own atmosphere, all with a unifying theme in keeping with the restaurant's Florida setting.

The menu will include both regular portions and light portions. Lobster bibles will be part of the scene, because major emphasis is on New England style service.

A special feature will be Charley's Bucket, a "Down East feast" of Maine lobsters, Dungeness crab, steamed mussels, corn-on-the-cob and redskin potatoes.

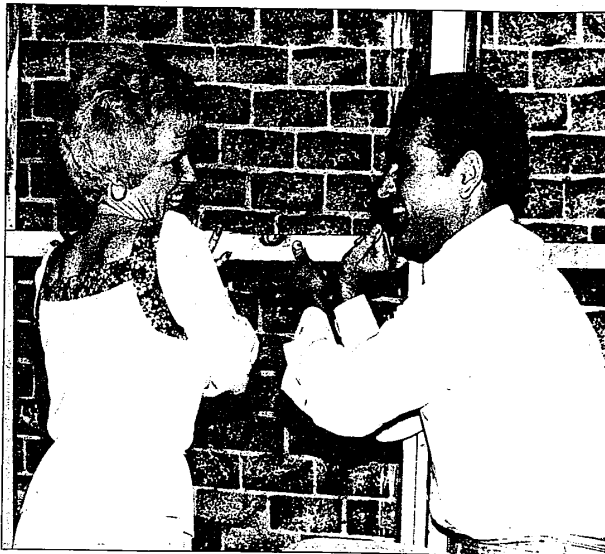
There will be other crab and lobster specialties, including baked stuffed lobster; steamed or broiled Maine lobsters; steamed or chilled Dungeness crabs, as well as other shrimp, shellfish and fish dishes (from rainbow trout to flounder with crabmeat stuffing) and a daily "fisherman's catch."

A HOUSE FEATURE will be paella, the classic Spanish seafood dish which blends seafood and spices. Landlubbers can choose steaks or rack of lamb.

Another Chuck Muer specialty, Charley's Chowder, a rich Mediterranean fish soup, heads the list of "Super Starters"—along with platters of hot hors d'oeuvres and an array of shellfish.

There's also a separate "Wine passport" and a dessert menu.

Muer has named Pat Diggles as general manager of Charley's Crab and Joe Radtke as his assistant. Diggles managed the Grandeur from April, when Muer purchased the restaurant, until July when it was closed for remodeling, and before that managed Northville Charley's, a Detroit-area Muer restaurant.



## Trapped

Sue VanOvermeer of Rochester and Joe Nicolini of Troy struggle to open a window during rehearsal for the comedy, "6 Rms Riv Vu." The play opens Friday, Dec. 1, at Avon Players community theater in Avon Township. The two characters meet as strangers while looking over a six-room apartment in New

York City, then get trapped inside when the doorknob mysteriously disappears. Directed by Mattie Wolf of Berkley, "6 Rms" will run Dec. 1-3, 8-10, 15 and 16. Performances on Fridays and Saturdays are at 8:30 p.m. Curtain time on Sundays is at 7:30 p.m. For ticket information, call 633-7410.

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