



# Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

## Chinese celebrate Year of the Goat

An opportunity to partake of Chinese culture, as well as Chinese food, arrives auspiciously on Monday, Jan. 29, when Chinese New Year—the Year of the Goat—will be celebrated at the Oceania Inn in Avon Township.

Restaurant Paul Leung again is hosting events which shoppers may enjoy while they browse at Meadowbrook Village Mall that day, between 4-8 p.m. Included will be the lion dance with firecrackers, live Chinese instrumental music, and continuous movies and slides. The lion dance is colorful and fun to see, especially for the first time. I watched it there last year.

Leung also is readying a special menu for a nine-course dinner to be served for Chinese New Year at his restaurant in the mall.

The dinner, by reservation only, lets you try different cooking as served in Mainland China today. The menu includes chicken, beef, fish and shrimp dishes, even champagne.

FOR THOSE WHO like to dine Italian, there's now Pacifico's Pasta Village at 74 W. Maple and Livernois in Troy.

Young manager Jimmy Myers of Royal Oak, who is also one of the chefs, said the restaurant features pasta and veal dishes and family recipes. The other chef is Loli Sansonetti, whose husband Joseph Jr. heads the restaurant corporation. It's a family operation, with four of their five children working along with the parents.

Mama's Chicken is lightly breaded, fried and baked, served with a side of spaghetti. Another family recipe is Wedding Soup, a basic chicken broth, chopped endive, tiny meatballs, chunks of cheese and croissants; most customers are ordering it instead of minestrone. "All the pasta is homemade and eight different sauces accompany the vari-

ous spaghetti dishes. You can watch pasta being prepared, when you look through the window of a small room just inside the main entrance.

The restaurant has a liquor license. Prices range from \$3.50-\$4.90 for pasta dishes to \$5.50 for veal and a top of \$8.95 for strip steak.

Pacifico's Pasta Village is open 11 a.m.-11 p.m. for dinner and 2 a.m. for the bar. It is one of the member restaurants in the Vincent Price Dining Association, which I wrote about in a recent column. Readers who would like more information about association membership may call 569-8232.

IT'S BEEN YEARS since I wrote about little Tammy Singerman of Birmingham, who used to imitations of Lily Tomlin's favorite characters. Now 18-year-old Tammy, daughter of Marlene and Herbert Singerman, has been selected as a contestant in the 1979 Miss Michigan Universe pageant at the Hillcrest Country Club.

The Michigan finalist will be chosen Monday, which is the first time the finals will be telecast live throughout the state, on a 90-minute TV special at 9 p.m.

One hundred contestants will vie in the Michigan competition. Tammy, a Seaboard High School graduate, now attends Eastern Michigan University. Her sponsor for the contest is the Sheraton Motor Inn Pontiac-Bloomfield.

THAT SAME Sheraton Motor Inn is where Les Rodgers and his show group, called the Coins Fall Review, opens Friday.

Lead singer Rodgers appears with Griff Verhey, arranger and pianist; Steve Edgar, vocals, guitar and mandolin; Al Sinek, drums; and Dave Reese, vocals and bass.

Rodgers, who is originally from Pontiac and now lives in Drayton Plains, has returned to the Detroit area after being on the road for four years. Previously, he played throughout metropolitan Detroit.

Rodgers' group will play for dinner shows twice nightly on Fridays and Saturdays. The versatile entertainer organized his show group about eight years ago and says the revue offers complete variety, even Korean music.

"I change the show completely once a month," Rodgers said. "What makes it stand apart is the freedom of the show. It's not stuffy or rehearsed. It's spontaneous."

He added, "I've got very well-schooled musicians." His arranger and pianist was director for the 8th Army Band when in military service.

The Coins Fall Review also is the name of a No. 1 A class hardball team in Pontiac, which the group sponsors.

The group is performing at a benefit evening for the hall club Monday, Jan. 29, in the Main Event ballroom at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Several other groups including Mike Fuller, The Damn Band, Gary Terry, and Tom Pickens will perform at the four-hour event, which begins at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door.

THE COMEDY CASTLE, formerly known as the Room of Comedy and Magic, has moved to The Meeting Place in Orchard Lake, from its originally scheduled debut at the Midtown Cafe in Birmingham.

According to Bill Thomas, who is one of the regulars among comics performing at the Comedy Castle, the tryout room has been packing in crowds with even SRQ. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Thursday, the other performance

night, is still slow, he said. Several more Detroit-area comics have been showcasing their talent at the Comedy Castle, including Diane Bennett, Tony Hayes and Wayne Brinson.

Showtime at the new room (in the Down Under at The Meeting Place) has been moved from 9 p.m. to 9:30 or 10. Some comics have come from Chicago and as far away as Los Angeles to make a Comedy Castle appearance.

CAYMICHAEL PATTEN who directed the original version of "Hold Me" by Jules Feiffer at the American Place Theatre in New York, has been signed by the Birmingham Theatre to direct the show when it arrives here March 5-10.

Michael Stoneall, Birmingham The-

atre manager, said season tickets for the second season have been going very well. This despite the fact that the television or movie personality who will head the cast of each show has not been named yet.

Upwards of 2,000 subscriptions have been sold so far, Stoneall said recently. Last year only 1,200 season tickets were sold.

"We're very healthily getting 5,000-7,000 subscriptions," he predicted. The theater could sell up to 10,000 subscriptions, with the maximum response.

"The TV series now know when they're going to be ending for the year," Stoneall said. He explained the stars under consideration sandwich stage appearances between movie commitments.



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