



Chef Tell recently displayed his TV manner in personal appearances around Detroit.

TV's Chef Tell tells on himself

By SUSAN LEINOFF

He cooks, sure. But for the mostly female audience packed in Kitchen Glamor's demonstration kitchen, the major attraction was simply seeing him — Chef Tell, the master chef of "PM Magazine."

Seen at 7 p.m. weekdays on WJBK-TV, Chef Tell is the owner of a Philadelphia restaurant and cooking school and author of the new book "Chef Tell Tells All."

The Avon Township visit was part of a cross-country publishing promotional tour that swept him to 17 cities in 15 days. Wherever he lands, his fans emerge with the same questions.

AS ONLOOKERS drooled over Chef Tell's knockwurst and sauerkraut-laden accent, he revealed that he's 38 years old, stands 6-foot-2 (8-foot 3 mid-clogs) and is separated from his wife.

From the initial barrage of questions, the audience also learned Chef Tell was born in Stuttgart, "where all good Germans come from."

He credits his mother with influencing his career. He used to trail her

around the kitchen, either because he was hungry or just liked to cook.

Love of food spurred him to leave home at 13 and begin a chef apprenticeship. Chef Tell spent the next several years cooking in hotels throughout Europe.

He met an American woman, later to become his wife, on the road . . . over a flat tire. The blue-eyed, bushy haired chef followed her to Philadelphia seven years ago.

He's lived there ever since, opening a restaurant in the city's Chestnut Hill section with a \$35,000 loan from the Small Business Administration. All his "PM Magazine" segments are taped in the restaurant kitchen.

HE'S ALSO started a cooking school and written his cookbook.

"I just want to make cooking easy," said Chef Tell, whose real name is Friedmann Paul Erhardt. Tell is a name that evolved from starring as William Tell for years in school plays.

"I want to take the insecurity out of cooking," he said. "I don't believe in long recipes.

"A recipe is not a prescription. You have to adjust."

Using vegetable stew, for example, Chef Tell said if seven vegetables are called for and you only have five, use the five on hand.

"So what? Who's going to know?" he assured the audience.

The charming chef was full of such practical suggestions, including:

- Put all ingredients on the shelf before beginning a recipe to save time.

- Keep a wet towel underneath a chopping board to prevent the board from slipping.

- Always use a stainless steel blade knife to chop.

- Breathe through your mouth when working with onions to keep from crying.

- Always taste food before serving.

HOWEVER, IT doesn't make any difference what pots you use, the Philadelphia chef said. "I don't believe in copper," he said.

The 50-some copper pots that line his restaurant are strictly for show, to make the place look like a professional chef is on the premises, he joked.



Williams-Dubois

Carl and Shirley Williams of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Deborah Lee of Mansfield, Ohio, to Thomas R. Dubois, son of Raymond and Elaine Dubois of Mentor, Ohio.

The bride to be is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She earned her masters degree from University of Michigan. She is employed as an assistant librarian at Marvin Memorial Library in Shelby, Ohio.

Her fiancé is a manager for internal publications at Ohio Brass Co. in Mansfield, Ohio.

A May wedding is planned.



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