

Community House offers spring workshops

Springtime means fun time at the Birmingham Community House, and the fun is always a learning experience for those who participate in the array of workshops offered there.

The workshops are planned for those who have a limited amount of time to spend at extracurricular activities. They meet in one-six-week sessions,

with both daytime and evening workshops from which to choose.

Included in the spring curriculum is Food Processor Magic, with demonstrations and instruction in the safety, care and use of various food processors.

Microwave cooking is also available as well as use of eight different kinds of ovens. Students can measure their

progress by sampling the completed dishes.

TO TEACH potential culinary uses, fragrances, medicinal value and the design and planting of herb gardens, the Community House offers a workshop

titled "Herbs and Spices for Use and Delight."

For those more interested in self improvement from a physical standpoint, three separate workshops are offered: "Care and Styling for your Crowning Glory," with professional advice on

hair care given by staff members of Jacobson's Beauty Salon; "Best Face Forward," a workshop on makeup beauty tips and "The Art of Wardrobe Planning," teaching the psychology of dressing.

A variety of classes are offered to

students who enjoy working with their hands. Everything from flower arranging to machine quilting is available.

Registration is being taken now for all of the workshops at the Community House, 380 S. Bates. For information, call Ruth Snyder, director of education.



Winery marries old world to new

Whether one is in France, Germany, California or Michigan, summer is a good time for winery touring — but, then, what season isn't? (My next column will suggest a tour for this summer in Northern Michigan.)

I am often asked to recommend winery tours for those headed for vacations in Napa or some other section of California. As I think back over the last few years, one winery stands out as the "must visit" place in northern California that I always urge people to dedicate some time to.

It is hardly representative of its neighbors in Napa — that is not its appeal. Its "must visit" status comes from its being a marriage of the French and California wine industries. It boasts a magnificent restaurant, makes great wines and offers warm hospitality in a very classy setting. The place is Domaine Chandon, on California Drive in Yountville.

OPENED LATE in 1976, the winery is owned and operated by Moët-Hennessy, one of the fine Champagne producers of France. Using French skill and procedure, they use California grown Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Pinot Noir to make their two sparkling wines, an austere Brut and a softer, salmon-colored Blanc de Noir.

They are both, beyond question, two of the finest wines produced in California and many feel they are the absolute best of California's sparkling wines, exceeding Korbel, Kornell, Schramsberg and Mirassou. I am certainly one of them. That they do not call these "Champagnes" is a reflection only of their heritage which carefully governs use of that name to wines produced in the Champagne region of France.

A visit to the winery is most pleasant. The two wines are, of course, to be tasted, whether in the bar along side the dining area or to accompany a meal. Or both!

The winery tour is a winery tour, although the architecture and coopers shown are extremely handsome. Tours occur daily, Wednesday-Sunday, at regular intervals.

But it is in the restaurant that the wines, the food and the ambience of the place all come together. Both lunch and dinner are served at fixed prices, the lunch at \$8.50 and the dinner something like double that. (Unless you must dine in the evening, the luncheon is probably the better investment.) Lovely salads and pates are followed by a choice of entrees, distinctly French in style.

THE SELECTIONS vary daily and are as imaginative as they are elegant. For those so inclined, there follows a widely varied selection of desserts, selected from a dessert table. And surrounding all this, the sparkling wines, prices at only a dollar above shelf price! This is only one of two winery restaurants so licensed in the state, and that's a shame.

A modest caution. Also available during meals are several still "house" table wines, made by Domaine Chandon from pressed grapes. In general these are to be avoided. If you must have a still wine with your meal, they do permit you to bring your own and charge only a modest corkage fee.

But drink the two sparklers; you'll not get wine this good very often in your life. And make dining reservations at least three weeks in advance; such is the popularity of the restaurant.

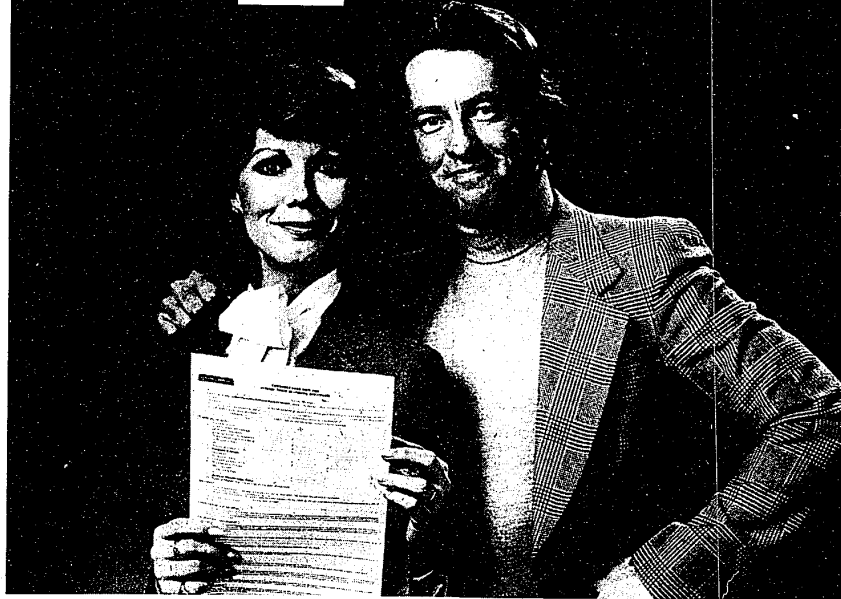
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