

Sydney's shakes with Irish wake

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Photos: LANE WADDELL

Next to New Year's Eve, St. Patrick's Day is just about the biggest day to whoop it up in metropolitan Detroit saloons.

At Sydney's, new restaurant in the Top of Troy Building, a full house was celebrating in all the nooks and crannies, as well as main dining area, on March 17.

Besides Irish music from tenor Denny O'Connor, who has toured with the Irish Rovers, Jan Johnson of Southfield entertained the jovial customers.

What set Sydney's part apart from other St. Patrick's Day fests undoubtedly was the unusual gimmick of providing a hexagonal, open "coffin" similar to those at an Irish wake.

PATRONS WERE urged to climb in, lie down and have their instant photograph taken, without charge, by a photographer from Sydney's. Many people jumped in gleefully;

nightlife

some folded their hands in serious respect, and looked as if they were glad to get the rest. Some pairs and even threesomes shared the fun.

One bearded man crossed his arms on his chest, his green top hat in hand.

There was Irish food, including Irish stew and corned beef and cabbage. If you lacked out, when you ordered beer, it arrived green.

Sydney Harris, the host, was everywhere. He looked longingly at the menu, while party-goers perused it. He said he was hungry but too busy and unsettled to take time to eat.

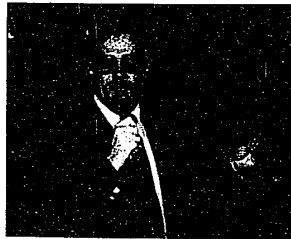
The party was still in full swing when Sydney sighed, saying, "This isn't my kind of party. It's too noisy. Next time I'll do something like 'A Tribute to Regis Toomey, or Chester Morris.'"



Mary Jo Schreiner of Troy celebrates the day.



Charles Fisher of Troy (left) and Peter Andries of Bloomfield Hills share resting place at O'Riley's Wake, held at Sydney's.



Denny O'Connor, Irish tenor, sings.



More music is from Jan Johnson of Southfield.

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