

Workplace will serve retarded

By SHERRY KAHAN

A combined restaurant, bakery and gift store that could be of historic significance to retarded persons in Michigan will soon be established in the area of the Association for Retarded Citizens, Northwest Communities.

Most of the employees of the three units will be retarded adults. Target opening date for the enterprise, which is expected to cost more than \$160,000, is June 1981.

It is the first such project in Michigan, said Sylvia Kloc of Redford Township, chairperson of the ARC's business ventures committee. She said the idea of only three such projects in the country. Two are in Connecticut and the other is in California.

"I think it's the most exciting thing we've done," she said.

Committee members are seeking a site in Redford Township, Livonia or Plymouth. Training will begin soon for the retarded adults who will be working for the enterprise. In charge of training is Larry Jones of Plymouth, who has already drawn up preliminary plans for the building. Formerly associated with the Gourmet Gallery of that city, he has also been an instructor in the food service program at the North West Skills Center for the Handicapped now located in Ford Elementary School, Westland.

"THEY WILL BE taught how to cook, make salads, be buspersons and waiters and waitresses," said Jones. "With the right amount of training and the proper facilities, I have no doubt it can be done. Hopefully, after they gain experience in our restaurant, they will be able to take jobs in others."

The hopes of many parents of retarded persons and their families are riding on the venture.

The membership of ARC, Northwest Communities, numbers about 350, most of them parents of retarded children who were raised at home.

"Retarded people are no different from normal people when it comes to wanting and needing to work," said Mrs. Kloc. "The unemployed feel frustrated and useless when not working. The retarded feel exactly the same way when they have nothing to do. This is particularly true when they come from a school setting where they have been taught skills, and then no one gives them an opportunity to use them."

She stressed that most parents are deeply concerned about what their retarded adult children will do when they leave the mandatory education program at age 26.

"There is one workshop in the area sponsored by the Wayne County ARC. Currently there is a moratorium on intake in that workshop because sufficient funding has not come from the Michigan Department of Mental Health. Even when funding comes through, there is only room for about 60 community clients. We know there are many more adult retarded in the northwest catchment area who need programs now and in the future."

"The project will give the retarded an opportunity to interact with the community on an equal basis," noted Margaret Olesnavage, executive director of the association. "When people see them working and being productive, they will respect them more."

She hopes that once they are trained



Larry Jones and Sylvia Kloc examine plans for the establishment they hope will provide employment for retarded adults. (Staff photo by Art Emanuele)

and have experience, they will become valuable employees. "Restaurants have a 180 percent turnover," she said. "It is expensive to keep training workers. Retarded employees are more likely to stay on the job."

MRS. KLOC said the association planned the venture "so we can provide real work opportunities for our young people without having to rely on government funding."

"If we can start something ourselves, raise money for it through our own fund-raising efforts and through private donations, we possibly have a bet-

ter chance of being successful," she added.

Jones said the organization is exploring various ways of financing the enterprise, approaching local banks and the Small Business Administration and contemplating the sale of stocks and bonds.

ARC will invest "a large sum of our own money made through our weekly bingo games at Roma Hall in Livonia," noted Mrs. Kloc. The event takes place at 8:45 p.m. each Wednesday.

Jones already has drawn up tentative plans for the restaurant. He talked about its concept.

"It will be the homey, tea room type of place which can be enjoyed by the entire population," he said.

"It will seat between 75-100 people. Probable hours will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., a two-shift operation. Customers will be able to have pie and coffee or a complete meal. Our emphasis will be on healthful food, such as good homemade soup."

He added that the bakery will make bread, rolls and desserts for the restaurant as well as for sale. The crafts shop will sell articles made by area handicapped.

Dorati leads orchestra

Maestro Antal Dorati will be on the podium for two 8:30 p.m. performances with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Thursday and Saturday.

These concerts are the second of a three-week series honoring distinguished American composers celebrating milestone birthdays in 1980. This week's performances salute Samuel Barber. The featured soloist will be Italo Babin, the orchestra's principal cellist.

The program will include two works by Barber, *Medea's Meditation* and *Dance of Vengeance* with the Cello Concerto. The remainder of the program is Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben*.

Gordon Staples, concertmaster, will be the violin soloist in the Strauss work. Guitarist and recording artist, Jose Feliciano, will join Richard Hayman, conductor, for the Friday evening and Sunday afternoon concerts this week.

The program will include the Overture to Auber's "The Bronze Horse," E. Strauss's *Clear Track Polka* Opus 45, Schönberr's *Oktobert-Musik* Opus 25, and Feliciano's *Concierto de Paulinho* (world premiere).

The Friday concert is at 8:30 p.m. and the Sunday concert at 3:30 p.m. All of the concerts are at Ford Auditorium. For ticket information, call 962-5524.

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