'Meet, Eat & Enjoy' menus highlight 190 restaurants

Ethel Simmons

If each week you visited three or four of the 190 restaurants listed in "The Meet, Eat & Enjoy Menu Book," by the end of the year you would have dined at them all.

Reading the new edition of Mary Conway and Harry Satchwell's large softcover guide (J. Well, Inc., $6.95) tempts you to strive for this near-impossible dream.

Of course, the authors aren't suggesting you try anything of the sort, but flipping through the book's sample menus from each of the recommended restaurants does make one yearn to spend endless days in an orgy of dining out.

You don't have to be adventuresome, however, or even have lots of money to spend for big dinners to find spots to enjoy, from the book. Many choices are right around home, and some are modestly priced.

OF COURSE, you may want to venture forth to cover even a broader area of restaurant dining. If you love to visit downtown Detroit, there are new places included to supplement old favorites.

The new 1981 edition of "Meet, Eat & Enjoy" is 212 pages of recommended places, casual to elegant, American to continental and ethnic, including our Canadian neighbors.

Southeastern Michigan and nearby Ontario are the geographical areas represented. Ms. Conway and Satchwell claim they dined at more than 100 new spots, as well as more familiar ones, to come up with the 190 they consider totally worth a visit.

The book's cover says "200" menus inside. The authors' goal was 225 restaurants but only 190 passed muster.

From south Oakland County, a great number of restaurants are featured in "Meet, Eat & Enjoy." Chuck Muer has scored heavily, with Bloomfield Charley's in West Bloomfield, Diggers in Farmington Hills and Charley's Crab in Troy considered worhty of merit.

Bruce Cameron's restaurants the Dougle Eagle in Troy, Midtown Cafe in Birmingham and Meating Place in Orchard Lake all made the book.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES also make points with the following:

Birmingham — P.J. Clarke's, Tweeny's, 220 Merrill (German specialties).

Bloomfield Hills — Fox and Hounds.

West Bloomfield — Rikshaw Inn (Chinese).

Troy — Eden Glen, Kyoto (Japanese), Mon Jin Lau (Chinese), Piper's Alley-Troy, Victoria Station.

Southfield — Ala Carte Cafe, Benchmark, Bijou, Diamond Jim's-Town Center, Golden Mushroom, Healthy Jones, Meriwether's, Original Pancake House, Restaurant Duglass, Roman Terrace (Italian), Tunnel Bar-B-Q, Victoria Station.

Farmington Hills — Botsford Inn, Cafe Cortina, Tokyo Japanese Steak House, Wing Hong (Chinese).

Oakland University, near Rochester — Meadow Brook Hall (stately dinners).

Auburn Heights — Shalea Inn.

The authors are too nice to say anything bad about other restaurants they have chosen not to include. They do refer the reader to the "Ins" and "Outs" page, which takes a swipe at a few places, including several from the northern suburbs.

THEY DECLARE that a "Shot and shell with peanuts at the Money Tree bar (in downtown Detroit) is In," while "Dry white wines with the famous orange plastic cheese at Win Schuler's is Out." (Schuler's has West Bloomfield and Rochester locations, among others.)

In, the authors say, is "Deliciously kinky ambience at Ruby Taboo's" (in Detroit) and Out is "Slick/thick machine-sliced atmosphere at Machus Red Fox" (in Bloomfield Township). "Saturday night at Kovac's is In. Out is "Any night at Excalibur" (in Southfield).

You might want to turn 1981 into a year of experimentation, skipping a routine visit to a handy but ho-hum restaurant and saving your dollars instead for an extra-special restaurant. Or, you might just expand your vistas to new dining places in Greektown, Hamtramck, downtown Detroit, midtown Detroit, Windsor or Ann Arbor, to name just a few places to be fed delightfully.

Glancing at the menus in "Meet, Eat & Enjoy" makes it look easy to find the kind of restaurant you're looking for. The authors have invested a lot of time, not only in visiting various restaurants but in compactly recreating what in many instances are more extensive menus.

EACH MENU PAGE is topped with a lengthy paragraph, in Ms. Conway and Satchwell's lively prose, that tells the best things about each of the places, from decor to dishes. A handy picture code tells what the mode of dress is, which credit cards are taken, whether liquor is served, and so on.

All you have to do is meet, eat and enjoy.

You may not agree with every one of the author's selections. Despite their great care, some choices they have made I find surprising, as well as a number of their omissions.

But on the whole they have packed the covers with dining that is out of the ordinary, at most charming places.

Oakland offers B'ham classes

Birmingham area residents may choose from more than 50 Oakland University courses offered at community extension sites. Starting Jan. 7, Oakland University courses will be available at Seaholm High School, at the Jewish Community Center and at the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education (BCCE).

During the winter semester, Oakland University faculty will teach about 280 different courses in the evening on campus in Rochester and at 14 extension sites located in Oakland and Macomb counties.

Adults who want to take an Oakland University credit course in the evening can register, pay tuition and fees and buy books in the classroom where the course is taught. Students registering for an Oakland class for the first time may be admitted to the university on a non-matriculating basis for one semester.

Registration for winter semester on-campus classes is set for Tuesday, Jan. 6. Students can register for extension courses the first night of class beginning Wednesday, Jan. 7.

For information and a complete schedule of classes, call Oakland University's evening program office at 377-4010.

This Want Ad appeared in the St. Helens (OR) Sentinel Mist Chronicle: To the person or persons who stole my duck and goose decoys last weekend: They were yours to use any time you asked. You thought it took courage to steal them. If you would like to know what real courage is, bring them back. Be assured you will be the first person I will loan them to." The ad was signed by Bill Nelson of Deer Island.

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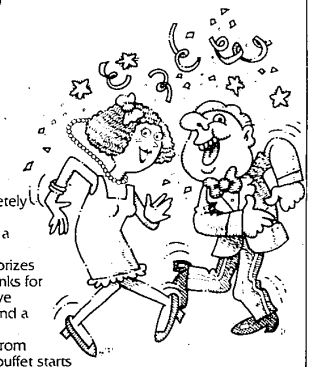
Like having fun.



Remember last year?
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