



Shoppers sit under skylights and tapestries munching and sipping on items available at 45 different shops in Tally Hall.



Using a rake as a salad fork, Joe Tocco, owner of the Farmington Fruit Market, prepares what was billed as the world's largest salad at the grand opening of Tally Hall.

Home of designer jeans and gourmet potatoes

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Talk to developers of Tally Hall and adjacent Hunter's Square Mall and you'll be told fun is being offered, not food and fashions.

The word "fun" comes up often as shop owners and investors attempt to describe the hall next to the mall at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Mall in Farmington Hills. Under one roof, as advertisements proclaim, are 45 different food shops and restaurants specializing in ethnic and gourmet foods.

Grand opening ceremonies last weekend included what was billed as the world's largest salad which contained 1,500 heads of lettuce, 3,000 olives and other goodies and garnishes. The concoction was tossed by a man with plastic bags over his shoes who mixed the ingredients with a rake. The idea behind the 225,000-square-foot complex is to create a shopping "experience" locally along the lines of such centers as the Ghridelli Square in San Francisco, Faneuil Hall in Boston or Eaton Place in Toronto.

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A STROLL through the hall is correctly described as "a sensory overload" by mail manager Phyllis Proud of Bloomfield Hills.

There are smells such as High Mountain Tanzania coffee from Kilimanjaro available at Nellie's 1900 coffee, tea and spice shop. Walk a little farther and you get a noshful of baked potato with toppings of chives or clam, among many, at a place called the Incredible Spud.

"All the other retailers are talking gloom and doom because they don't do anything creative. In those places you find the same people with the same old thing. We're giving people entertainment and a very pleasurable experience. This facility is destined to become a landmark retailing facility in the entire metropolitan area."

The mall was financed by Manufacturers Hanover Mortgage Corp. of Farmington Hills. TALKING to shop owners reveals that many are making their first venture into mall food service.

Donna Folster, owner of Nellie's 1900, named after Mrs. Folster's grandmother who was born in England in the year 1900, was a nurse. She explained why she opened the shop.

"I love coffee and I researched the market," Mrs. Folster said. "I found coffee is the second leading import in

this country. Second only to petroleum."

She imports 30 different coffees, including one called Amaretto, 140 varieties of tea, 35 of which are decaffeinated, and an assortment of teas from a firm in Moonachie, N.J. Her mother, Jean Blanchard, helps her run the 20-foot by-20-foot shop. Her husband Mike is a Southfield policeman.

Something called funnel cakes are being dripped into hot vegetable oil at another stand. Don Wallace, who describes himself as "owner, operator, bill payer and dishwasher," lives in Lincoln Park and commutes daily.

Wallace is a retired policeman who formerly sold the funnel cakes at county fairs. He now holds the rights to sell Flossie's Famous Funnel Cakes exclusively in Michigan and Ohio after purchasing the franchise from a Hot Springs, Ark. firm.

THE INCREDIBLE SPUD baked potato stand is being run by the Feig family of West Bloomfield. Maxine Feig explained that it is the family's hope that the stand will be profitable enough to support her daughter, Andrea, and fiancée Jerry Weinberg.

At this mall, even the potatoes are "gourmet." Mrs. Feig explains that the potatoes specially ordered from Idaho, are Size 60 potatoes, numbering 60 spuds per 50 pounds. About 250 potatoes per day were sold over the weekend at prices ranging between \$1.50 and \$2.80 depending on the topping.

But all is not eats at Hunter's Square Mall. The anchor store is Lochmann's, and surrounding shops include a novelty store known as Let's Entertain.

Co-owner of the store, Marge Robbins of Oak Park, says people who want to entertain others come to the shop.

"People are giving more gifts to make people smile than giving practical items," Ms. Robbins said. "To see the look on someone's face after giving a gift from here is more rewarding than giving an appliance or stable-type gift."

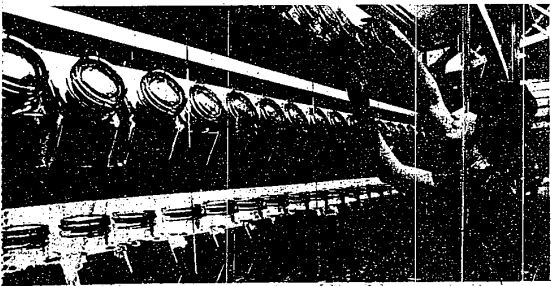
A wall of cards features arty, or so-called adult themes. "Not something you'd send your sick aunt as a sympathy card," Ms. Robbins explains.

There are pigs. Lots of pigs. "Pigs are real big," Ms. Robbins says. There is a dizzying array of soft sculptures, ranging in price from \$11 to \$120, including Steve Stunning, "with the whole works in his shorts," as Ms. Robbins explains. There are gag ashtrays, cowboy boot candles, personalized license plates, art deco lamps, presidential-approved Jelly Bellies and X-rated erotic candies and suckers.

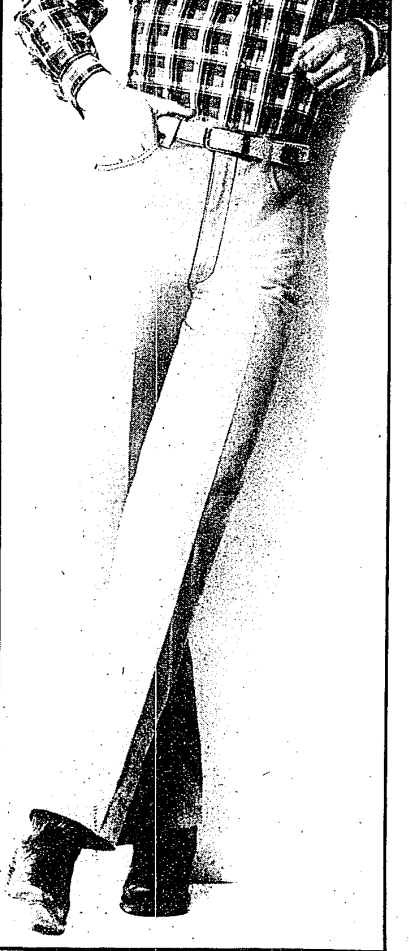
Fun stuff for a fun place. That's the message.



Don Wallace fries up a batch of Flossie's Famous Funnel Cakes for waiting customers.



There are 140 different teas at Nellie's 1900, and store owner Donna Folster selects the favorites of one customer.



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Reg. \$42. Our cotton twill, 5-pocket jeans for men are savings-priced in time for spring and summer. In three smart basics: khaki, black or white. And they have the Calvin Klein fit: neat, trim with boot-cut legs. Sizes 28-38. 2000 shops* in The Woodward Shops for Men, all stores.

HUDSON'S