

MORE THAN 100 professional chefs throughout Michigan are expected to enter the Professional Culinary Arts Salon on Sunday-Monday, April 17-18, at Cobo Hall, Detroit.

Deadline is March 15 for entries in the American Culinary Federation's first professional salon in Michigan. Chefs will vie for medals and ACF points toward the 1984 Culinary Olympics in Frankfurt, Germany.

The salon is sponsored by the Michigan Restaurant Association and the Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association.

The public may view the food creations, in Hall A, apart from the MRA food show open to the restaurant trade only.

An apprentice/student competitive salon goes into its fifth year, during the show. Individual students and food service school groups may submit entries by March 15.

Entry blanks are available from the MRA, 30161 Southfield Road, Suite 300, Southfield 48076.

WIN SCHULER's restaurant in Marshall has earned the Fine Dining Award from Travel/Holiday magazine for 1983, an award it has received every year since 1952.

In a special awards edition, the magazine complimented Win Schuler's entrees of prime rib and fresh seafood and its desserts.

Eight other Schuler's restaurants include ones in West Bloomfield and Rochester.

LONGTIME Birmingham residents John P. O'Neill and his wife, Mary Ann, are going into their fifth year of operating La Becasse (The Woodcock), a restaurant at Burdick-Wille in northern Michigan.

Mrs. O'Neill, the proprietor, is chef at La Becasse during the summer.

mer. O'Neill, a lawyer, commutes from his Birmingham law office to lead a band on summer weekends.

Extending the season year-round is a possibility now, O'Neill said, because the couple recently added to the staff Don Stuever, former sous chef at the London Chop House.

Mrs. O'Neill studied at cooking schools in France and Italy. During the winter she gives cooking demonstrations in the Birmingham area.

The O'Neills visit France each fall to keep up on the cuisine scene.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** wishes are sung in Italian at Ciro's restaurant, 1535 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor.

A cake decorated with miniature Italian flags greets the birthday celebrant. The restaurant's entire staff, Italian and non-Italian alike, joins in singing "Buon Compagno!"

RIP'S, which has been known for its barbecue ribs and chicken, is under new management, but the same menu specialties and informal atmosphere will continue.

Donald Bortz, who lives in Adams Castle in Bloomfield Hills, is now the owner of this long-established establishment at 998 W. Huron, one block west of Telegraph, Pontiac.

Beside barbecue fare, the full menu offers such choices as burgers and seafood catches-of-the-day.

Rip's serves lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and dinner from 5 to 11 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 5 p.m. to midnight Fridays-Saturdays and 1-9 p.m. Sundays.

There's also a Happy Hour 3-5 p.m. and 10 p.m. to midnight Mondays-Fridays. The bar is open daily till 2 a.m. Sundays till 9 p.m. Free valet parking is available on weekends.

— Ethel Simmons

## Company does improvisation

The Fourth Street Playhouse will present improvisational comedy, with the Detroit Times Theatre Co. beginning Monday, March 7.

Performances will continue at 8 p.m. Mondays-Tuesdays through April 5 at the playhouse, 301 W. Fourth, just west of Washington, in downtown Royal Oak.

The theater company is a 10-member troupe, directed by Jonathan Round. Its performances will consist of selected game forms, improvisational sketch material and skits based on audience suggestions. The company also performs at the Soup Kitchen Saloon.

Tickets at \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors with ID, are available at the door.

# Lead actor crackles with energy

Performances of the Troy Players' production of "The Music Man" continue at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday at the Troy Community Center, Big Beaver Road at 175. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$4 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 879-1285.

By Gay Ziegler  
special writer

River City, Iowa, has become as familiar as Des Moines since the day Harold Hill, the scoundrelly Music Man, chose that locale for his hoodwinking operation.

He and his creator, Meredith Willson, introduced a whole new set of players into the American consciousness. The Middle America of yore, complete with holiday festivities in school gymnasiums, steadfast morality and patriotism, and "sociables" would never be the same.

The Troy Players production, under the adept direction of Bob Oleksiak, while weighted down with some flaws, conveys the spirit of those days with an appropriate combination of sporadic robustness and tender humor.

Bob Brown, in the lead, is brilliant.

## review

The stage hums with his energy. He struts and bantocks his way into the hearts of the townspeople and the audience. His singing, dancing, and enunciation are near perfection. His rousing musical renditions often carry the show.

UNFORTUNATELY, the momentum he generates too frequently thuds to a halt. Subsequent numbers are almost soporific. Internationally long scene changes put a distance between the players and the observers. When an audience has to sit through 14 such changes, it looks for some indication that crew members regard this as a necessary nuisance to be wrapped up posthaste.

In most respects, though, the play glimmers with life. The music is solid and spirited, the choreography inspired, the costuming outstanding. The players allow us to appreciate their characters.

As Marian, the librarian, Holly Helsten handles the metamorphosis of

her character from standoffish career woman to besotted maiden with true skill. One minor problem: When Helsten sings, she assumes a different persona.

Suddenly all warmth and feeling drains away, and she appears mesmerized. It is as though the seriousness of the task obliterates all else. Since her voice is just fine, she might lighten up a bit.

As the town's mayor and his first lady, Gerald McCray and Cheryl Bubar are a delightful duo. McCray has mastered fierce pride and bluster. His character twists his tongue up in knots, all the while thinking he has made himself "perfectly clear."

BUBAR IS a marvelous mugger. She is ludicrous and overplayed, just what the part calls for.

In addition to the large-scale production numbers and scenes of special poignancy, there are two notable moments.

The "Quartet" and the "Pick-a-Little Ladies" nicely punctuate the action with brisk musical interludes.

Tim Gerdan is particularly at ease when stepping about and singing of women with worldly ways.

And no one will forget the expression on the face of Bobby Trochynski, as the young Winthrop, when the hero and heroine's lips meet and their bodies entwine in warm embrace. His unspoken "Yuck!" says it all.

## Musical on radio days opening at Power Center

"The 1940's Radio Hour," Broadway musical that recreates an actual radio program, will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday-Sunday, March 4-6, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at the Power Center for the Performing Arts in Ann Arbor.

The show is part of the Professional Theatre Programs' Best of Broadway series. For ticket and discount information, contact the PTP ticket office at 764-0450 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2-5 p.m.

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