

If it swims, Minnie's seafood has got it

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

MINNIE'S fishmarket and 40-seat restaurant at the Troy Century Plaza, 3652 Rochester Road, Troy, is the first of two Minnie's restaurants opened by Jim Brunetti.

Brunetti has been working 12 hours daily, back and forth between Minnie's in Troy, which opened last August, and the Minnie's he established in March where the old Raven Gallery was located, at 12 Mile and Greenfield roads in Southfield.

Within the year, he expects to open up a third Minnie's in South Oakland County. This will be a full-service operation with liquor. Brunetti also hopes to open two more Minnie's next year.

The Troy restaurant features a special dinner for two at \$8.95, including a seafood selection of scrod, whitefish, pickerel, dolphin, or frog legs, plus colelaw or salad, potato, rolls and butter.

RESTAURANT hours are 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays.

The retail fishmarket is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. A sign above the counter reads, "If it swims, we can get it." At holiday time, Minnie's has filled requests for

smoked eel and smoked fish. Live lobsters are available anytime.

Estelle Sanchez, director of operations for both the Troy and Southfield restaurants, said Minnie's doesn't buy any frozen products. Some fish comes from the Canadian lakes, and lobster is flown in from Boston the same day it will be purchased.

On the lunch bill of fare, one daily special is shrimp salad in a pita pocket. For \$3.25, the meal includes cole slaw and English-cut potatoes with skins.

All seafood at Minnie's is prepared English style — except for fish 'n' chips, which is deep fried. English style is lightly breaded, and the fish may be baked or broiled.

SALMON and halibut are available char-broiled. Deep-fried fish and fries are done in peanut oil for a nongreasy taste.

A special seafood platter provides a sampling of dishes. Petite shrimp, New England style, are lightly breaded and marinated (seven delicious pieces of shrimp are served on a Friday Feast, at \$7.95, in Troy). Light, flaky scrod and tasty perch are both done New England style.

An Italian touch is in the salad, fresh vegetables dressed with an olive oil and vinegar base.

Jim Brunetti named Minnie's af-

ter his mother. He was raised in Pennsylvania, where his father had an Italian and seafood restaurant on the north side of Pittsburgh.

"Minnie was my mother, who used to prepare all the Italian and seafood for my father."

BOTH PARENTS were born in Italy and brought their native country's culinary heritage to the United States.

Brunetti joined the Sheraton Hotel Corp. after military service. He was in charge of their specialty restaurants in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and also was executive chef with Hilton for four years in Pennsylvania.

He studied cooking at the Culinary Institute, at that time in New Haven.

Working for the Ramada Inn, he was transferred to Southfield. Then he went to Boston as regional food and beverage director of 34 restaurants in New England.

His name also may be familiar because he ran Brunetti's, on a consulting basis, for two doctor-owners in Southfield. The restaurant was sold to the Excalibur.

IN THE restaurant business, the big chain operations provide margins, Brunetti said. "Here you got to run it lean and mean." His manage-

ment philosophy, however, is "fair and firm." He's talked out any problems with employers and hasn't had to fire one in his 25 years working in restaurants.

The Southfield restaurant seats 175 diners, has an upstairs, terrace seating and a main dining room. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 4-10 p.m. Saturdays and 3-8 p.m. Sundays.

Minnie's corporate offices are in Southfield, and Brunetti is a Troy resident.

HARRIS O. Machus has received an Ambassador of Tourism Award from the Michigan Travel Commission. The president of Harris O. Machus Enterprises headquarters in Birmingham was one of six "ambassadors" honored.

Gov. and Mrs. James Blanchard presented the awards in Ann Arbor. Machus was lauded for his leadership role in professional organizations and for developing Michigan's vacation and hospitality image.

FATHER and his family may pose for a free photograph on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, at the Kingsley Inn in Bloomfield Hills. A 5-by-7 color print will be available to any father who dines with his family at the Kingsley that day. Photographic sittings will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Will-O-Way hosts Mexican theater

Will-O-Way Apprentice and Repertory Theatre in Bloomfield Hills has been selected to host a young, experienced Mexican theater group named Trauma, as part of the International Theatre Festival Olympiad '83.

The troupe will present the Mexican farce "Don Guillen de Lampart" at 8 p.m. Monday, June 27, at the Will-O-Way Theatre, 775 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Township.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for older persons and students younger than 12.

The play's action centers around an Irish historical figure living in New Spain at the beginning of the 17th century. The story deals with his failure to overthrow the colonial government in order to bring about the abolition of the slavery of both blacks and Indians. Ex-sulting complications are treated both satirically and seriously.

MUSIC, WHICH appears to be American rock Top 40, is an important part of the production, not only as background but to complement the pacing of the dramatic elements.

"Don Guillen de Lampart" provides an excellent opportunity for language students to see a one-hour play in Spanish, said Celia Merrill Turner, artistic

director of Will-O-Way. The plot will be easy to comprehend for all levels of Spanish students because of the pantomime, she said.

For further information on the Mexican production of "Don Guillen de Lampart," contact Will-O-Way at 644-4418.

The International Theatre Olympiad is a consortium-financed project sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the city of Detroit, the International Amateur Theatre Association and others.

Objective is to bring together theater companies from all over the world for a 10-day festival every year.

TO FURTHER celebrate Olympiad '83, titled "The Worker," the Michigan Theatre Association will hold its 1983 annual convention in Detroit on Friday-Sunday, June 24-26, and at the same time host the Great Lakes Regional Theatre Convention including Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

More than 300 theater people in the American Theatre Association Region III are expected to gather in Detroit for the three-day weekend of showcase performances, workshops and panels.

Band seeking new members

The Metropolitan Symphonic Band is accepting applications from musicians to perform in its summer series beginning Monday, June 20, and ending Monday, Aug. 1.

Two concerts are scheduled for Thursday, July 21, at the Manchester Festival in Manchester, with "Fat Bob, the Singing Plumber," and Aug. 1, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester, with Victor Borge.

Rehearsals are scheduled 7:30-8:50 p.m. Mondays at the Macomb Community College Center for the Performing Arts at Hall and Garfield roads in Clinton Township.

Send resumes to the attention of Dr. Martin Stella, music director, Metropolitan Symphonic Band, Macomb Community College, 4475 Garfield, L-117-2, Mt. Clemens 48044-3187.

Theater Stagecraft class offered at Orchard Ridge

A new class in Theater Stagecraft will be offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in the new Performing Arts Theatre on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills.

The class is part of the K-12 Enrichment Short Course Series. Students, ages 11-15, will have an opportunity to learn about scenery design, construction, painting and stage lighting. Jamie Mason, who recently joined the OCC staff, will teach the course.

"In the new Performing Arts Theatre, students

will get a chance to work with the latest equipment, including a Micro-C computerized lighting board," Mason said. "No theater experience is necessary, just a desire to learn what goes into the backstage aspects of putting a show together."

Mason comes to the Detroit area from Central Oregon where he was owner and managing director of a dinner theater. He has previously taught at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., and Riverside City College in Riverside, Calif.

Mason, who has been associated with the theater since 1985, received his B.A. and master's degrees

from the University of California where he also spent two years working as designer and actor of the Riverside Children's Theatre Association.

For more information about the course call 471-7595 or 471-7587.

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