

table talk

New menu, decor and name at J.T.'s

JACQUES Seafood restaurant owner Jim Thompson is the man whose initials are being used for the name of "J.T.'s — A Cafe," new moniker for the former Marvin's New York Deli, in Bingham Farms. The deli touch isn't gone, however. A separate deli counter for carousals will enable customers to order traditional deli sandwiches, soups, salads, croissant sandwiches, flab, meats, pasta, sauces and desserts. The dining area of booths and tables has been separated from the bar, which is raised. A hand-made Mexican tile floor accents the contemporary setting.

Hot entrees range from chicken parmesan at \$6.50 to beef tenderloin on pita bread at \$9.95. Other choices are Canadian whitefish, better-dipped shrimp and Delmonico steak. A selection of everything available at the deli counter, and more, provides still greater variety for the hungry diner.

"J.T.'s is right next to Jacques in the Bingham Farms office complex on Telegraph just north of 12 Mile Road. Hours are 11 a.m. to midnight Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Fridays and 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturdays.

NORTH CHINA Restaurant in Southfield specializes in Szechuan, Hunan and Peking Cuisine.

The menu of luncheon specials is served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. There's a choice of 15 dishes at \$3.95 per meal, all accompanied with fried rice and tea. Pork, chicken and beef are available in a variety of ways, such as Spicy Mongolian Pork, Peking Almond Chicken, and Beef in Oyster Sauce.

The restaurant's chef, H.J. Jan, is a winner, chosen as a Washingtonian Best Chef Award Winner in Washington, D.C., and 1983 Michigan Restaurant Association Judge's Special Award Winner.

Chef Jan's specialties are available from a party menu, from as little as same-day order for the North China Dinner (\$10 per person) up to a one-year advance order for the China Super Dinner (\$500 per person).

The regular carry-out menu list seven pages of various dishes, in categories of Chef Jan's Specials (both hot spicy dishes and non-spicy dishes), appetizers, Chinese-style cold dishes, soup, pork, chicken, duck, beef, lamb, seafood, seafood and meat combination, vegetables, fried rice, chow mein and chop suey, lo mein, Chinese noodle, family dinner, desserts and beverages.

North China is at 29155 Northwestern Highway. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

THE SUMMER Tea Room at Meadow Brook Hall on the Oakland University campus near Rochester is open Mondays-Saturdays through Labor Day.

Guests may have informal indoor service in the Dining Room and outdoor service on the porch. A buffet dinner is served Sundays. Anyone touring Meadow Brook Hall also may dine at the formal Christopher Wren Dining Room daily through the season.

For more information call the hall at 377-3140.

By James Windell
special writer

Bill Cosby's never had to worry about getting enough respect, like at least one other well-known comedian. But having a Ph.D., which Cos has, doesn't hurt either.

You just have to respect a comedian who can saunter out on stage, sit down on a chair, stretch out his legs, occasionally puff on a cigar and completely captivate an audience for 90 minutes.

That's what America's favorite funnymen did Saturday night at Meadow Brook Music Festival. He's done it before here, but there's something awe-inspiring about someone who doesn't tell jokes — although he did toss in one about how parents get into heaven — yet can bring tears of laughter to an otherwise sophisticated audience.

Cosby, who stands in for Johnny Carson on the late-night TV show and pitches such things as Jell-O Pudding and computers in television commercials, does it in the most unfrenetic and relaxed manner. Leaning back in the chair, looking like he's talking to his next-door neighbor, he talks about raising kids and the hazards of being a parent.

THAT'S ALL. We've heard a lot of this material before, too. However, it's always refreshing when we're reminded of some of these terrible truths about parenting. Cosby can zero in on so many of the truths in an hour and a

review

half that the howls of painful and funny recognition leave us a teary-eyed mob grateful to Cosby.

Cosby can skewer us or our kids with a turned-down mouth or a word. All he has to do is characterize a mother as a person with a perpetually angry and drawn face and a pointed finger and mothers fall over laughing at themselves.

Fathers fare no better. With his precise ability to mimic people at their worst, he can make us recall the time we felt angry enough to kill one of our kids.

And does Cosby ever know kids. He hasn't let a thing from his own childhood in Philadelphia, or the more wealthy childhood of his own five kids, escape him. His fables of growing up remind us again of this.

He knows exactly how kids look and act when they've just broken something they were told not to touch and when a teen-age girl first "gets the scent of wild boy."

AFTER A LUKEWARM 30-minute opening by Ann Arbor musician Peter "Madcat" Ruth — who's been seen and heard to better advantage at Meadow

Brook with Dave Brubeck — Cosby did his own warmup act.

Perhaps sensing that Ruth, a fine musician, didn't connect with this audience and that the announced 30-minute intermission would do nothing to make the crowd more responsive to him, Cosby grabbed a mike backstage and said some funny things about day-old popcorn. That was enough to whet appetites.

Opening with a true story about some of the youngsters he works with in the Jell-O commercials, Cosby then launched into his easy-going monologue.

His thesis for his routine was stated early: "My wife and I didn't have children for any other reason than to see what we could make. We didn't know there was a penalty for this."

That penalty has been a staple of the Cosby humor for several years. All children have brain damage and they never do what you want them to do, he says.

THIS TIME OUT at Meadow Brook his variations on the theme had no surprises. Children drive mothers and fathers to angry distraction, he says, making it funnier each time the point is driven home. And when parents dream about skipping lovingly through the grass in slow motion with their children, this is just a great illusion.

Leaning back in the chair, looking like he's talking to his next-door neighbor, he talks about raising kids and the hazards of being a parent.

The truth is that our parents have put a curse on us. The curse has gone like this: I hope you get a child that is just like you. And in all cases, the curse works. We do get such a child.

That, says Cosby, is why children trip each other, break valuable things at home and fight in the back seat of cars. About children fighting in cars, Cosby asks, "This is an area where a lot of cars are built. Why not build a car so you can reach around behind you and grab a kid who's fighting?"

Since Cosby and his wife now have two teen-age daughters, the routine tends to center around the problems of raising teens. "When you've had two good days in a row," he tells naive parents, "you should not open any mail you get from the school."

Meadow Brook Music Festival concerts are held in Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

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