

Food, musical groups attract diners to Nicky's

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By Ethel Simmons
Staff writer

NICKY'S IS the elegant new restaurant, cocktail lounge and nightclub on the ground level of the top of Troy building.

John Reaser, of Milford, a lawyer with offices in Southfield, and Nicky's of Troy are partners in the restaurant that opened Sept. 12. The location most recently housed Nicky's, previously Sidney's and before that the Bonaventure.

The partners spent more than \$50,000 remodeling Nicky's, which has a striking, contemporary look. Its interior is designed by Ronald Rea, who has done the decor for many top-flight Detroit-area restaurants.

Reaser said originally the partners were striving for an art deco touch but were pleased to see it develop more into high-tech.

Soft lighting enhances the big room, with its "laser lights," even at midline. A mirrored wall bounces the area where Top 40 bands play for listening and dancing in the evening.

The food comes first, Reaser said, but the entertainment will bring back people to enjoy the food. Attractions appear through Saturday. Pam Martin, who is opening at Bob Hope at the Premier Center next month, will be at Nicky's in October. Marlene Hill and the Loving Sin, "the top group in Detroit," will play Nicky's in November and December, Reaser said.

The chef is Tino Barrera of Westland, who formerly was day chef at the Restaurant Duplax in Southfield. One of the lunch menu favorites is chicken romano, chicken breast sautéed with romano cream sauce and pasta.

Utilizing the chef's concept of "earth food," the delicious dish has whole cream, unsalted butter and freshly grated romano cheese.

Chicken breast is also featured in the most-ordered luncheon selection, croque madame, a sandwich where the chicken and gruyere cheese is baked in cream sauce.

At dinner, veal picante is often chosen. The chef also offers veal, a dish he says is "pretty rich." Nicky's, at 1-75 and Big Beaver Road, is open from 11 a.m. to midnight Mondays-Thursdays, until 1 a.m. Saturdays. Saturdays dinner is served from 5 p.m. Nicky's is closed Sundays but may host private parties.

A pink-canopied private room also is available for parties.

One or both partners is usually on the scene at Nicky's. "We work it day and night," Reaser said, "but we love it."

DIN HOW Szechuan Restaurant is Livonia's only restaurant

serving Szechuan and Mandarin-style food, said David Chen, owner of the new family-run restaurant at 29195 Plymouth.

Chen formerly owned the 200-seat restaurant New Peking in Garden City. After selling the New Peking to another Chinese owner, he has opened the 70-seat Din How (which means "the best" in Chinese).

American taste is changing. They want the real Chinese taste—traditional, hot and spicy Chinese food," Chen said.

Chen pointed out some of the specialties on the menu. The menu covers a hint of the work that goes into making Peking duck. "Preparations are as easy as 1-2-3... 4-5-6... 7... 'Whew!'" reads.

"It has crusty skin outside and a juicy skin inside," Chen said, explaining the dish. "We use a pancake to wrap it." Because of the lengthy preparations, a one-day advance order is required.

The restaurant's hot and sour soup is prepared individually to order, not from a big soup kettle. moo shu pork or moo shu chicken include slices of pork or chicken, cabbage and Chinese mushroom wrapped in a thin package. "Something like a taco," Chen said. "We prepare the pancake by ourselves. The shape is not very beautiful, but it is homemade."

Din How also carries vegetarian food. Among desserts on the menu are spun sugar banana, "crusty outside and a banana inside, cold outside and hot inside." A spun sugar apple is offered the same way.

The restaurant's decor is simple, accented by two and three-dimensional Chinese pictures, each 12 feet by 5 feet.

The Din How had its grand opening Wednesday. Restaurant hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and noon to 9 p.m. Sundays. Liquor is served.

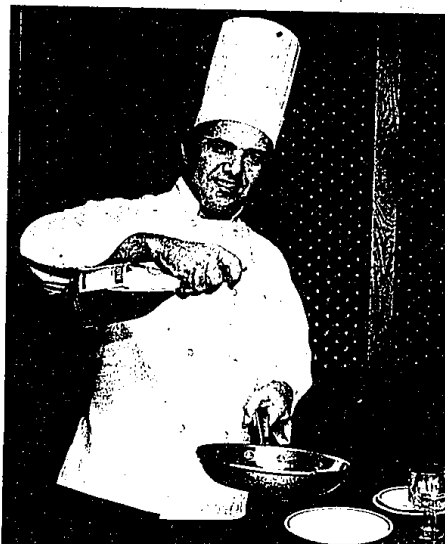
GIORGIO'S will have its grand opening week beginning Saturday and continuing through Oct. 7. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays. During grand-opening week, customers will receive a free dessert with their meal.

GIORGIO'S, national restaurant chain of Mexican eateries, has just opened two more locations in the northern and western suburbs. Now there are Chl-Chl's at 29330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, opposite the

owner plans to do much of the cooking in Giorgio's open kitchen.

Among the many entrees available at dinner will be veal marsala, steak au poivre, ocean flounder, beef tenderloin and shrimp Dijon. Soup, salad and broccoli or baked potato accompanies the meal. At

table talk



Giorgio Golematas, owner and manager of Giorgio's in Birmingham, demonstrates his flair with desserts les flambes.

lunch the Giorgio-Burger is one of the features.

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tions are served for dinners or a la carte dishes. The chimichanga, meat-filled burrito, is Chl-Chl's specialty that may be ordered any of five different ways. Fried ice cream is a different dessert on the menu.

The Livonia restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m. to midnight Fridays-Saturdays and 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays. In Madison Heights, hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m. to midnight Fridays-Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays.

NOPALITOS Restaurant and Cantina, with Mexican cuisine, opens Saturday at Somerset Mall in Troy. A Mexican interior of stucco and tile, with cactus plants for accent, replaces the formerly French setting of the Magic Pan creperie.

The restaurant offers gourmet Mexican food, with shrimp, red snapper, chicken, pork, beef and steak featured in entrees. Mexican beers and margaritas (a 17-ounce Rio Grande) are among drinks served.

Nopalitos has a 160-seat dining area and enlarged, 60-seat cantina.

JACQUES Seafood in Bingham

ham Farms continues its Friday night clam bake as long as the weather permits. An all-you-can-eat buffet for \$34.95 includes lobster, jumbo shrimp, Alaskan king crab legs, clams, smoked sable, poached salmon, oysters-on-the-half-shell and mussels.

Chicken or ribs barbecued on the outdoor grill provide still more variety. Clam chowder, redskin potatoes and salads compete the menu. For reservations call 642-1375.

THE BLOOMFIELD Canopy is marking its 21st anniversary year. The restaurant at 6550 Orchard Lake at Maple roads is owned and operated by Anna and Frank Stratton.

THE RHINOCEROS Restaurant in downtown Detroit is celebrating its fifth anniversary by cutting its prices more than half during the week beginning Sunday and continuing through Oct. 8. Jumbo garlic shrimp, veal Wellington, fresh lake trout with cucumber sauce and sautéed fresh lake perch will be among entrees served at bargain prices, with vegetables and house salad, for dinner. Champagne will be half price, too.

Actors Alliance offers season's first production

The Michigan premiere of "Madonna of the Powder Room" by Paula Cizmar will open the 1983-84 season of the Actors Alliance Theatre at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, at Lycee International, Evergreen at 13 Mile in Southfield.

Jeff Nahan will direct the professional resident company's production, which continues at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 8:30 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 6.

Tickets at \$7-99 are available by calling 642-1326. Group rates are available, and there are special discounts for senior citizens and students. "Madonna of the Powder Room" is set in a bungalow in Steel Town, Mid-

west America, on Labor Day 1981. Women meet in Bessie Pulecki's kitchen to celebrate Irma Sovik's retirement.

The women and their daughters talk about the past, present and future. The kitchen scene is soon transformed through light and props to bring out their fears, loneliness and regret of lost years.

As their youthful memories flow, they relive their feelings of the war years when they worked in a munitions factory. The "Madonna" was the cheerleader of the work crew, who read aloud to them to still their weariness.

Benefit to feature Irish group

A group of Irish singers, dancers, musicians, comedians and storytellers will appear on its second American tour at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, at the Masonic Temple Auditorium in Detroit.

The show will benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland. Tickets, at \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens, are available at the door. For more information call 584-3888 or 963-8695.

String band to play

A square dance and concert featuring the Ruffwater String Band is being presented from 8-11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, on the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College in Union Lake. Cider and doughnuts will be available.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. For more information call Student Activities at 360-3041.

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