

a counting for taste

D. Gustibus

Your traveling taster visits area eateries and tries them on a 100-point scale. Up to 30 points are awarded for ambience, which includes general atmosphere and service; 55 points for food, and 15 points for price/value rating. A total count of 55 points or less indicates a restaurant is not recommended; 56-74 points signify from passing to good; 75-89 points designate very good with some extraordinary features; and 90-100 points show that a very special dining experience awaits you.

GOLDEN FEATHER BAR-B-Q, 20833 Ford Road, Garden City (421-2114) is perhaps the best-kept secret in Garden City. A neighborhood restaurant that does not take reservations, this friendly, casual spot really does have the right touch. There's nothing fancy here, except the food, but plan to wait unless you go before 5 or 5:30 p.m. Waiting means standing at the bar (if there is room), at the front door or—possibly—outside in the parking lot. The tables have vinyl table covers, and the simple interior which includes exposed brick walls is attractive though smoky. No credit cards are accepted.

GENERAL ATMOSPHERE — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 11.

Service is what you would expect: friendly, neighborly, sometimes a bit easy-going. We asked to have our water refilled on several occasions. With barbecue, water pitchers on the tables would be a nice addition. The young, enthusiastic servers are anxious to help, but when one of the hostesses cleared our table, she left dirty napkins and empty drink glasses. Dinner moves right along and takes about an hour to an hour and a quarter. **SERVICE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 11.

The drinks seemed a bit weak, but on the other hand, \$1.75 for a premium liquor is quite reasonable. The onion rings (\$1.80) and the mushrooms (\$1.95) were both delicious. Neither one was at all greasy, and in both appetizers the taste of the vegetables was enhanced, not at all hindered, by the light batter. The mushrooms were especially juicy. Ingredients were fresh, and portions large, and this proved to be true for all the other dishes served. Our only disappointment was that the garlic bread served with the entrees did not have

enough garlic flavor. **DRINKS, APPETIZERS AND BREAD** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 8.

Dinners offer a choice of cole slaw or salad. Again, the fresh vegetable ingredients were obvious in the taste, but the dressing on the slaw was heavy. The garden salad was large but had no special appeal. **SALAD** — 5 points maximum. Points awarded — 3.

If you enjoy barbecue, you'll be in heaven here. The chicken (\$7.95 for a whole chicken) was succulent, and the sauce delicate enough to permit us to enjoy both the chicken's taste and the barbecue flavor. The ribs (\$10.50 for a slab or \$11.95 for a whole slab and extras for two) were also juicy, with excellent seasoning, again complementing the meat. The extra barbecue sauce we requested was a little stronger in flavor, but wonderful on either chicken or ribs. The shrimp was served with a light batter that, once more, allowed us to taste the shrimp. You also receive your choice of potatoes, but we would have preferred a bit of additional seasoning on the home fries. **ENTREE, VEGETABLES AND GARNISHES**

— 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 27.

We felt a bit let down by the desserts. The rice pudding was flavorful but too thick, and we missed the raisins — a personal preference. The strawberry shortcake had frozen fruit and a very large pile of whipped cream which overwhelmed any shortcake there might have been. **DESSERT AND COFFEE** — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 6.

At \$25 per couple, including tip, this is a real value. Portions are very large and extremely well prepared, and almost all have fresh ingredients. The appetizers are also especially worthwhile at the price. **PRICE/VALUE** — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 14.

A Counting for Taste — 100 points maximum. Total points awarded: 80. Golden Feather Bar-B-Q is an ideal place for young and old alike. The obvious caring of the owners makes it worth the wait, but wear comfortable shoes because you'll be on your feet for a while.

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