

## second runs

### Hugh Gallagher

"Hindenburg" (1975), 12:35-10:10 p.m. on Ch. 7. Originally 125 minutes. TV time slot: 165 minutes.

This was made during the craze for disaster films. This one, of course, is based on a true event, an event that is strong in the memory because of newscast footage and a particularly vivid and emotional radio account of the disaster as it happened. The movie has its moments, especially in the grand design of 30s costumes. Good actors do journeyman work, including George C. Scott, Anne Bancroft and Charles Durning. The plot, presenting several possible reasons for the still unexplained disaster, has its moments but in the end falls flat. The length is excessive.

Rating: S2.

"Tall Gunner Joe" (1976), 11:30 p.m. Saturday on Ch. 7. Originally 144 minutes. TV time slot: 175 minutes.

Peter Boyle gives a strong performance as the pitiful Sen. Joe McCarthy. The film has a strong anti-McCarthy bias but the point of view is not unsympathetic and the period detail and understanding of politics in postwar America is insightful. Lately McCarthy has been getting some revisionist support for his cheap, scandalous red-baiting. This is a reminder that this poor, deluded man ruined careers and lives before finally succumbing to the bottle.

Rating: S2.

"The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming" (1966), 1 p.m. Sunday on Ch. 5. Originally 120 minutes. TV time slot: 150 minutes.

Hilarious comedy about a Russian submarine that accidentally lands off a New England town. The film has a simple, maybe even sim-

### WHAT'S IT WORTH?

A ratings guide to the movies

Bad	..... \$1
Fair	..... \$2
Good	..... \$3
Excellent	..... \$4

pleminded, message about the shared values of all humans and the stupidity of knee-jerk political reactions. But it's not the message that counts, it's the performances. Alan Arkin is outstanding as the low-key, level-headed Russian officer who wants to get out as soon as possible. Brian Keith is equally effective and low-key as the town's Andy Griffith style sheriff who never gets ruffled. Jonathon Winters, Carl Reiner, Theodore Bikel, Michael J. Pollard and Paul Ford are outstanding.

Rating: S2.5.

"The Desert Fox" (1951), 2:30 Sunday night on Ch. 4. Originally 88 minutes. TV time slot: 120 minutes.

Erwin Rommel was a professional, honorable German military officer who pursued his career, unfortunately, during the Third Reich. This film is a defense of Rommel as a great man on the wrong side. It is a good combination of exciting battle scenes across the North African desert and an intriguing character study of the man who finally takes action against the tyrant he served, Adolf Hitler. James Mason is superb as Rommel; all his polish, charm and strength are put to good use here to portray a man who had all of that.

Rating: S2.5.

Hugh Gallagher is an Observer & Eccentric copy editor.

By Ethel Simmons  
staff writer

Don Vargo, owner of the 1940 Chop House, said he's the first restaurateur in downtown Detroit to offer free limousine service to dinner guests arriving from the major hotels, apartments and convention center nearby.

Vargo, a Farmington Hills resident, explained, "Competition is getting keener and you have to offer more service."

Vargo's restaurant, specializing in certified Angus beef, opened last October. He introduced the limousine service in December and it has proved very popular.

"It's a VIP treatment," he said. "They really like it when that limo pulls up, and their guest is impressed."

THE LIMOUSINE has been taking calls from such places as the Hotel Pontchartrain, the Westin Hotel, the Omni Hotel, Riverfront Apartments, Millander Center Apartments, and Cobo Hall, for conventions.

"We had 22 runs with the limo last week," Vargo said one recent afternoon at the restaurant.

He recalled that during the filming of "The Rosary Murders" in Detroit, "I personally picked up Charles

Durning. His hotel called, and I wasn't doing anything, so I just jumped in the limo and went over. I picked up this pretty gentleman."

Durning enjoyed the 1940 Chop House so much, "He became a very good customer," and returned at various times with other people involved in the film production.

Also making Vargo happy at this time is the word he received recently from Esquire magazine, which called him from New York to say the 1940 Chop House has been chosen as "one of the 100 best restaurants in America," he said. The magazine will be talking about the chop house in the column Cheers, in its November issue.

WHAT MAKES his restaurant special, Vargo believes, is the top quality of its food and drink.

"The certified Angus beef has just been received marvelously," he said. Visitors from Europe have been especially pleased because, "The European market doesn't get good beef."

The restaurateur used to have a restaurant in Livonia, which was called Vargo's. It had a fine wine cellar.

He continues to emphasize good wines at the 1940 Chop House. "Everything we serve here is premium,"

## table talk

he said. Wine by the glass — a seven-ounce one — from the cruvinet, is priced from \$3.75 to \$5.50. Wine runs him \$50-\$180 by the case.

Vargo said his prices are reasonable for the wines served. "I barely double my cost of wine." Among wines available are superior first-growth ones.

Along with the regular offerings, there's also a wine of the month. As to liquor, "I never feature anything but brand names — only premium."

RETURNING TO the menu, Vargo noted, "We have seafood, fish, veal and lamb but about 70 percent of our business is the certified Angus beef." Entrees range from a low of \$14.95 to a high of \$29.95, for steak and lobster tail.

"We're an all-American restaurant," he continued. "We're having a love affair with a steak and a baked potato."

On a recent afternoon, Vargo offered a sampling of his specialties. Shrimp with curry and chutney was

one tasty dish. Another was a plate with soft-shell crab, escarot and butter-fried shrimp.

"I've been doing Maryland soft-shell crab since 1966-67," Vargo said. "We saute' em."

Next sampled were melt-in-your-mouth filet mignon and top sirloin. A champagne he chose was Lembeys Brut, a Spanish wine.

Then it was time for dessert from the pastry tray. Two of these are creations of Joe Salis, the chef. They are warm, rum-baked pudding and a Hawaiian, fresh-fruit cup. Other desserts are midnight-layer cake, chocolate velvet, Grand Mariner cream torte and raspberry cream torte.

The 1940 Chop House at 1940 E. Jefferson has a smart, art-deco look. The downstairs dining area features a large gleamy bar. The upstairs dining area is usually opened to the public only when there's an overflow, on Saturday nights, and the rest of the time is used for private parties.

## Fair Lane hosts Ford birthday picnic

The 123rd anniversary of Henry Ford's birth will be celebrated Sunday, July 27, with an old-fashioned, all-day, summertime picnic at the auto magnate's fifth and final residence, Fair Lane.

Old-time fiddle music, hayrides, a children's haystack slide and other miniature farmhouse games, a Model T display, guided tours of the estate, contraband on the terrace and historic Ford films will highlight the birthday celebration.

All activities will take place alongside a meandering river and a woods with 300-year-old burr oaks, now part of the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Beginning at noon and running through 9 p.m., guests will — for a \$1 admission charge — be able to

participate in the following indoor and outdoor activities (additional charges, as noted):

For further information, call 593-5590.

## ON THE TOWN

22041 MICHIGAN AVE.  
DEARBORN, MI 48124  
562-4000

THE BEST OF BRUNCHES

- A dazzling, ever-changing array of breakfast, luncheon and dinner favorites and pastries too numerous to mention.
- No compromise is ever made with quality or freshness.
- Elegant ambience of the Kingsley dining rooms.
- White linen silver service
- Adults \$9.95, Children 7 & under \$4.95

SUNDAY DINNER  
SERVICE FROM 2:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

**Kingsley Inn**

WOODWARD AT LONG LAKE ROAD  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS 48100

**10th Anniversary Celebration**  
Month of July  
Thursday Night Rib Jam  
Special Every Thursday Night  
Barbecue Ribs for 2 \$8.95 Per Person  
Served with baked beans, coleslaw and potato salad

MONDAY Seafood Platter \$14.95 for Two per person includes salad & hot bread  
TUESDAY Live Maine Lobster \$13.95 includes salad, bread of potato or corn on the cob & hot bread  
Featuring: Steaks, Seafood  
\*No discounts on specials

**Pearl's Garden**  
Serving the Finest in Chinese & American Cuisine

Luncheons • Dinners • Carry Out Orders  
Szechuan and Mandarin  
Open 7 days a Week

Mon.-Thurs. 11 AM-10 PM • Friday 11 AM-11 PM  
Sat. 12-11 PM • Sunday 12-10 PM

469 S. Woodward • Birmingham  
644-2913

**Marchus Sly Fox**  
Let Us Help You Celebrate Summer

One FREE dinner entree when a second dinner entree of equal or greater value is purchased.

Offer good Sunday thru Thursday from 5 p.m. Cannot be used with any other promotions. Valid thru July 31, 1986

Sly Fox  
Reservations 642-6900  
725 South Hunter  
Birmingham

**THE BROADWAY BRUNCH**  
The All New Troy Hilton Sunday Brunch Buffet

A star is born...The Troy Hilton's all new Sunday Broadway Brunch Buffet starring live Broadway piano music, an exciting chance to win two theater tickets plus an appetizing cast including a chef's carving, creative omelettes and international specialties made to order, chafing dish selections, fried shrimp, smoked salmon and bagels, endless pastries plus much more!

The All New Troy Hilton Sunday Broadway Brunch Buffet...You'll come back for an encore!

Every Sunday 10am-3pm  
Adults \$12.95  
Senior Citizens \$11.95  
Children under 10 \$7.95 + tax.

**Troy Hilton Inn**  
1455 Stephenson Highway  
Troy, Michigan 48064  
(313) 563-9000

**the Benchmark**

*The Ultimate Evening*

Experience excitement with style at the Benchmark. Our new, elegant, decor serves as a dramatic setting for superb continental cuisine, fine wines and impeccable service. The critics agree it is an exceptional dining experience.

The piano music is soft. The chime crystal and silver will shimmer. Cocktail and dinner service available Monday thru Saturday beginning at 6 p.m. For reservations call 559-6500. It is a special place for very special people.

16400 J.L. Hudson Drive, Southfield, Michigan 313/559-6500

**HURLEY'S**  
Classic Oldies By  
**STINGRAY '63**

Monday • Saturday thru Aug. 2  
9 p.m. - 1:40 a.m.  
No Cover Charge

- Gals' Night Out Mon. thru Thurs. from 7:30 p.m.
- Happy Hours Mon. thru Fri. 5-7:30 p.m.

Dancing • Do Wop  
Be Bop • What Not

NORTHFIELD HILTON  
Cooks at 1:15  
679-2100