

Native completes first novel

By JUDITH BERNÉ
After you have been food editor of the "New York Times" at 30, where do you go from there?
For former Detroit Raymond Sokolov—in a variety of directions. He has just completed his first novel "Native Intelligence" scheduled for spring release by Harper & Row. He is a frequent free lance contributor to the "Times" on a variety of subjects—and coming a piece about cheating in tournament bridge. He has in the works a cookbook on French sauces which he describes as "probably the last cookbook I will ever do."

THE SON OF Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Sokolov of Farmington, the younger Sokolov came from New York last week to address a Detroit Jewish Book Fair audience.

In a later interview the author of "Great Recipes From The New York Times" was quick to say that he doesn't consider himself "a food person in any classic sense." Over an unpretentious beef salad and beer at downtown Detroit's "Money Tree" restaurant, he stressed "I'm just writing and using food as a focus."

Indeed Sokolov added a new note to gastronomic writing while at the Times with evaluations of prison and dog food.

OCC observes its 10th year

The Oakland Community College Board of Trustees hosted a founder's day brunch Nov. 10 at the Orchard Ridge Campus to honor members of the community who worked on committees to bring the College into existence.

Following the brunch, guests were taken on tours of the Campus to get a first-hand look at the products of their efforts.

The event was the beginning of a year of celebration of OCC's decade of progress. In June 1964, the college was authorized, local tax approved and the first board of trustees elected. The college opened in 1965 with 2,860 students enrolled at two campuses.

The college's first decade has witnessed dramatic growth in facilities, programs and student body. It has produced three campuses, a Southeast Campus System, 14 extension centers, a student body of more than 16,000, a wide range of career and academic programs, comprehensive community services and an international reputation for innovation.

The college received full accreditation from the North Central Association in 1971.

But he emphatically denies they were reasons for his departure. "I never planned to stay more than three years," he declared. "I got out to restaurants four and five nights a week was no way for my marriage to go—especially with my wife in law school."

Now Sokolov and his wife, Margaret seldom patronize the New York restaurants.

"Why should we? They're so terrible," he laughed.

The young writer presently works out of his Brooklyn Heights flat which makes it easier for the Sokolovs to divide responsibilities for two young sons, household management and cooking.

SOKOLOV FREELY ADMITS he had no burning desire to be a writer. "Everything that's ever happened to me has been off the wall," he explains.

As a pre-doctoral student in the classics at Harvard, he claims "Newsweek" lured him to its Paris office as a foreign correspondent in training.

"I was required to read eight daily French newspapers and 30 magazines a month," he recalls. Beyond that he had time to get a foothold among a clique of journalists and gastronomes in Paris.

"Those two years in France really influenced my life," Sokolov declared. "The gastronomic disease set in."

In addition, he laughed, "I found I got physical satisfaction out of working an electric typewriter."

He credits his Cranbrook education for at least some of his writing ability.

"The English department at Cranbrook apparently believed it was impossible to teach writing except by writing."

"We were made to do a tremendous amount of composition which in retrospect seems an intelligent thing to do."

SOKOLOV'S INFREQUENT Detroit visits usually set off "a wave of irrational nostalgia."
Also the local price of salmon and "fantastic produce" are almost worth giving up the New York scene, according to Sokolov.

While food editor of the "Times",

his major culinary rival was former Detroit Gael Greene, restaurant critic for New York magazine.

Sokolov acknowledged, "I was always amused that gastronomic life in New York was being presided over by two people from Northwest Detroit."



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Raymond Sokolov returned home last week to push his new book, "Native Intelligence." (Photographed by Leilani Hu)

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Leaders named for Israel fund

BIRMINGHAM—Richard Sloan of Birmingham and Arthur Howard of Southfield have been named general chairmen of the 1975 Allied Jewish Campaign-Israel Emergency Fund (AJC-IEF) by the Jewish Welfare Federation.

The AJC-IEF is the Federation's annual fund-raising drive.

Proceeds assist nearly 50 local, national and overseas agencies providing health, welfare and educational services.

Sloan is president of Suburban Detroit Theatres, Inc.

He is also a director of the Detroit Service Group, a trustee of Sinai Hospital, a director of the Detroit chapter of Project Hope, an advisor to the Wayne State University Press and a long-time United Foundation worker.

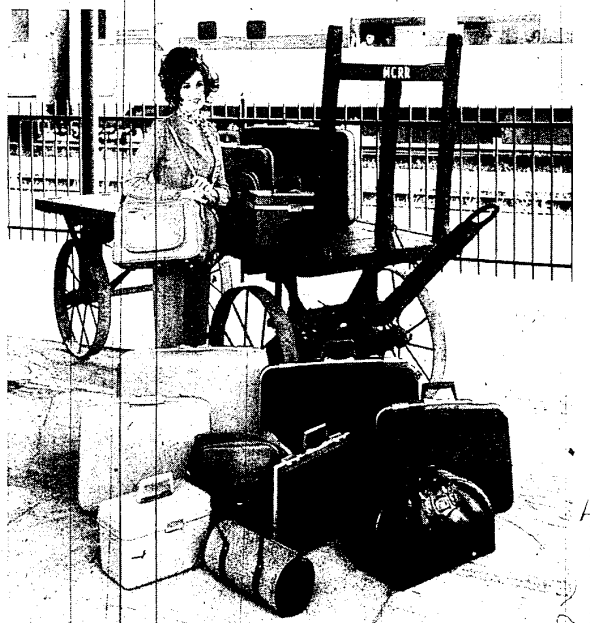
Howard, owner of the Southfield-based real estate firm of Howard Brothers, is president of the Detroit Service Group, the year-round organization for AJC-IEF volunteers.

He is also a director of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

Last January, he represented Detroit at a United Jewish Appeal Social Cash Needs conference in Jerusalem.

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