

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

The good life gets easier all the time. First, the new Bijou restaurant in Southfield opened with a French menu but English description and even a number to order by.

Now the Brown Bear, one in the New Trio at Franklin Place Restaurant, also in Southfield, has a

no-menu policy. Your waitress tells you what the specialties are that week (duck, lamb, roast sirloin, ribs and seafood casserole, for example) and you make your selection.

At one of the recent pre-opening nights, I was served appetizers of mushroom caps, sausage, crab-

No-menu policy

meal, and feta cheese and bacon. Soup was Manhattan chowder or mushroom-barley.

Salad was giant-sized, mixed by your waitress at the table. Desserts included ice creams, with a high butterfat content, making them extra rich.

THE BROWN BEAR, as well as Buddy's Barbeque and The Great Oyster, are all places to go and meet the crowd. They're lively, maybe even noisy, but should prove to be terrific gathering spots.

The Great Oyster is a cocktail lounge with seafood snacks. Buddy's Barbeque, which inspired The Trio, features the ribs that made the owner family the Meyersons famous.

Originally, a Buddy's Barbeque was located at Twelfth and Clairmount in Detroit and was immortalized for its "Detroit barbeque ribs" in the rhythm and blues hit "House of Blue Lights."

All three Trio restaurants fan out from a central lobby. The scale is grand, like being in a big modern

hotel. Stairs climb to the individual rooms but central focus is on ribs turning on a rack behind a picture window.

BUDDY'S BARBEQUE is being touted as an informal family place, the Brown Bear as a spot for dining out graciously without a lot of fuss.

Incidentally, before you sit down to your table at the Brown Bear you can sample wines from a special display just outside the restaurant. Then, you can decide what you want to order, maybe tempted by something new to your taste buds.

Children's films set

Elementary school age boys and girls should know that Saturday is time for the next "Second Saturday" film jamboree at Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham.

And this time the program includes five old favorites. They are, "Snowy Day," "Seven Ravens," "Walter the Lazy Mouse," "And to Think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street" and "The Celebrated Jumping Frog."

The hour-long program begins at 2 p.m. in the 2nd floor Jeanne Lloyd Lounge of the library. Martin at Bates in Birmingham Admission is free.

NIGHT PLACES

CONQUISTADOR LOUNGE — Don Evans, vocalist, pianist and recording artist, Friday and Saturday evenings through February.

The Gales, Irish vocal and instrumental group, Sundays from 8 a.m. to midnight. At Holiday Inn, 175 and Rochester Road.

THE RAVEN GALLERY — Return engagement of vocalist Claudia Schmidt, also one-man band Ken Bloom, both through Sunday, Jan. 19. Showtime Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 9:30 and 10:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday at 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. At 29101 Greenfield, Southfield.

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