

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

It's the only bar in town—at Machus Sly Fox in Birmingham—and Wendy Jaynor, the daytime bartender, has been working there since the restaurant first opened in October 1973. Other locations and locations-to-be mostly may be serving drinks, but currently the Sly Fox north of Lincoln at Haynes and The Community House are the two local spots with liquor-by-the-glass.

Despite the new popularity of women bartenders, Ms. Jaynor does not owe her drink-mixing skills to the magnanimity of present management. She has been a bartender for 12 years, working eight years in downtown Detroit and then at the Port O'Three in Bloomfield Township until it folded.

BEFORE THE Sly Fox opened, Machus restaurants "never had a lady bartender," she said. Some of her customers get to be good friends, and she has shopped for

The one and only bar

gifts for their wives and husbands, she said. Most customers at the bar aren't looking for someone to give them bits of philosophy or psychology but "someone to joke with them," she finds.

As daytime bartender, she reports public taste is toward vodka, partly because people have to go back to work and vodka leaves you breathless.

"I'm selling probably as much vodka as everything else combined," she said. "We serve just gallons and gallons of Bloody Marys and vodka martinis."

She added, "Vodka was looked down on until the last 10 years. More people are drinking it now. And you can mix it with anything including beef broth, limeade, iced tea or strawberry pop."

A LOT OF people are drinking wine who didn't used to, and young people especially are expanding their tastes from pop wines at home to chablis,

rose or Burgundy by the glass in the restaurant.

"We have more requests for white wine, which is lighter. People on diets like it. They drink it with soda or without."

"It used to be traditional—white wine with chicken and fish, red wine with meat—but that doesn't hold true anymore. People can drink what they want."

Do people ask for drinks she doesn't know how to make?

"That's called stump the bartender," Ms. Jaynor said. "If I haven't heard of it, it's brand-new or just another name for something else. I'll tell the waitress. I'll make it if the customer can tell me what's in it. They usually can't."

The Sly Fox also serves a special drink of the month.

This month's special is a Blue Puma, made with lemon juice and bright blue Curacao.

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