

# Muer tells of constructing restaurant from the ground up

By ETHEL BERENSON  
 Charley's Crab, which will open early next year at the Chrysler Hilton in Troy, is Chuck Muer's first restaurant to be built from the ground up. "It will be a room-for-400, free-standing restaurant tied to a hotel," Muer said. "It will be completely autonomous in its operation. We'll use fast tracking, an overlap of design, bidding and construction."

Construction will get under way in September, and the new Charley's Crab is expected to open in February or early March.

Locating the seafood restaurant in Troy was the result of a search throughout south Oakland County for the "right community," Muer said.

The hunt began when Charley's Crab on Pine Lake burned down. Efforts to relocate in West Bloomfield and then Orchard Lake "created more interest in Charley's Crab than I thought a restaurant would justify," Muer said Wednesday at Detroit's Hotel Portchartrain.

HE RECALLED a woman in Orchard Lake who stood up at a meeting to ask why tears in her eyes. "Why couldn't you go on Telegraph Road with your restaurant like everybody else?"

"The Troy restaurant's decor will feature an exterior of rustic birch wood and contemporary roof treatment. There will be natural materials inside, nautical fixtures, trees and plants."

An eye-filling element is a Gothic parapet, purchased at auction from

the Alfred Glancy estate on Lakeshore in Grosse Pointe. The bay window will add architectural detail.

Muer said Charley's Crab "will have class and sophistication but will be warm and comfortable." He said you will come in on an oyster bar, then a long drinking bar with piano player. Muer hopes to have pianist Bob Seeley from the Pine Lake restaurant. An atrium area will be as high as three stories in some areas. "This one we're going to pull out all our stops," he said.

MUER TOLD how he closed the Mediterranean Restaurant, which was Holiday recommended, in the Hotel Portchartrain to open a Raw Bar instead.

"It has been tremendously successful. People have come from all over to dine here after Charley's Crab burned down," he said. Both the Portch and the Troy restaurant will offer such dishes as bouillabaisse, French fish soup, and Spanish paella. Troy's menu also may include a rack of lamb and some meat dishes.

Speaking for the City of Troy, Mayor Pro Tem Anthony Paliotta said, "I think we both complement one another. You're a feather in our cap. We've been after you for a long time."

Muer agreed. "Our restaurants provide a quality of lifestyle in your community."

The new Charley's Crab is expected

to open at the same time as the 191-room section of the Chrysler Hilton, on Crooks Road west of I-75 in the Northfield Hills section.

The Chrysler Hilton itself will house a restaurant seating 214, a dining room and cocktail lounge for 180, ballrooms for 600 and meeting rooms 200

rooms will be located in a 45-story tower scheduled to open in late 1978.

THE C. A. MUER Corp also recently purchased Dairy's Gin Mill in Farmington Hills. Extensive remodeling is planned and a November opening for the seafood restaurant.

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## Perch fishing is on increase

The Automobile Club of Michigan has proclaimed the return of the "good old days" in Great Lakes perch fishing because of recent checks imposed on commercial harvesting of the fish and the increased planting of salmon—a predator that feeds on alewives.

The yellowbelly explosion may not be publicized as well as salmon and steelhead runs, but the average angler should credit his salmon-hunting cousins in numbers of fish caught, and in angling hours and dollars spent landing the perch as the news spreads, according to Joseph Radtke, Auto Club touring manager.

Radtke attributes the perch resurgence to the banning of gill nets off Michigan shores and ever-increased planting of the alewife-hungry salmon in Lakes Huron and Michigan. For almost 10 years, the perch was in a losing battle for food with the small, inedible garbage fish.

The accompanying map pinpoints 48 of the best sites where even the novice angler, with a little luck, can catch dinner for a few dollars and a few hours time.

Lakes St. Clair and Erie also hold good perch populations again, although fish run smaller than the slabs frequently found elsewhere in the Great Lakes, Radtke said. As Lower Peninsula perch schools grow, public piers and boat livers are expected to host thousands of persons using everything from hand lines to expensive fishing gear to land the eight- to 16-inch fish trophy.

In the last two years for example, experienced anglers on Lake Huron's Tawas Bay have been hauling in bucketful of jumbo perch, a few approaching the state record of three pounds, 12 ounces.

Even the party boat industry, once cut to a few craft, is enjoying a rebirth. At least six boats from five docks are operating in Saginaw and Tawas Bay.

"These boats carry 24 to 33 persons each, offering inexpensive, family-style fun for persons preferring boat to dock fishing," Radtke said. Most knowledgeable veteran guides and livery operators see perch fishing getting much better through the end of September. Because of this conviction, they have been vigorously marketing their services throughout southeast Michigan and northern Ohio.

Using perch rigs, a pair of number 6 or 8 hooks placed 12 to 18 inches apart with the lower hook above a head or tin's end, has resulted in the very common catch of "doubleheaders" (fishing vertically for two fish caught at the same time on the same line. Anglers hooked through the head are the most popular bait.

Radtke said that most of the good catches reported to the livery stations used by the Auto Club to monitor Great Lakes fishing come from less than 50 feet of water. Schools are moving to the shallows in the early morning, toward deep spots at midday, then back to the shallows in early evening.

Radtke suggested that persons interested in a Lake Huron party boat trip should contact: Joe's Fishing Trips, Point Au Gres; Brown's Landing, Albion; Holiday Fishing Trips, East Tawas; Chuck's Party Boat, Cassville; or Don's Resort, Cassville. There is no size or creel limit on the number of fish you may bring ashore (except in the case of the Les Cheneaux Islands area where a 10-fish daily limit is imposed) but all Great

Lakes fishermen must have a valid state fishing license in their possession.

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