

Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Selling wine is more than just a job to Richard Gergis, owner of the Vintage Wine Shoppe in West Bloomfield.

Gergis, who opened his supermarket of discount wines last fall at Wilson and 16th, has a passion for wine. He found a local wine club recently when he conducted a wine tasting evening for the West Bloomfield Optimist Club at the Potomac Club.

"They kept me on stage for three hours answering questions," he said.

Gergis, who speaks five languages, travels the world selecting wines. In California, he met with Robert Lawrence Blazer, one of the most knowledgeable people in wine today. In the wine country, he called on many winemakers recently when he conducted a wine tasting evening for the West Bloomfield Optimist Club at the Potomac Club.

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shop operation. Blazer has been invited to come and lecture to the club in April.

The club got its first 120 to 200 members through a grand opening flyer with a membership card. Guests were asked to check their appropriate category: beginner or connoisseur.

Some wine lovers with a smattering of knowledge checked a membership in between. Gergis plans to divide the club members into three categories at \$50 each, divided by expertise for meetings of not more than 50 persons.

"Each meeting will include a speaker, and we will test wines with appropriate cheeses," Gergis said. He estimates that through the years he has conducted 50 to 60 wine tastings.

"The VINTAGE" Wine Key Club is just getting under way, as part of Gergis' wine

business, but it will be during the first part of March in the West Bloomfield area.

DISCUSSION OTHER club activities. Gergis got an organization to go through breweriana and antiques. I have arranged a tour of the Warner Vineyards in Pewee two months from now.

Lectures and meetings on wines will be held every six weeks. The second member of the club will be asked to buy wines at greater discounts.

"We want to educate people all about what wine is," he said. "We will introduce the public to the districts and the differences between these districts: California, France, Germany, Italy, Spain."

Gergis thinks the time for wine education and pleasure is now.

"People are health conscious. They don't care what they spend. They drink for enjoyment, not to get drunk."



Richard Gergis (left) and Robert Lawrence Blazer get together to talk wines in California.

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