



Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Ethnic meal goes elegant with Detroit Plaza's chef

What was promoted as an ethnic luncheon, with dishes from around the world, turned out to be a very elegant ethnic feast at the Detroit Plaza Hotel.

A busload of women, each of whom had paid \$16 for the outing, made the round trip from The Community House in Birmingham, which sponsored the trip.

For their money, the women got to sample a luncheon of dishes from the menu at The Summit, the revolving restaurant atop the Plaza, world's tallest hotel.

Chef de Cuisine Walter Steimel first demonstrated the preparation of each course before it was served. To put everyone in the festive mood, a cocktail—compliments of the Plaza—began the luncheon in one of the hotel's banquet rooms.

The drink combined Kir, a French liqueur

made from currents, with champagne and a lemon twist. White wine may be used instead of champagne, if you prefer, explained Assistant Banquet Manager Daniel Dodson, who stood at a lectern to talk about the Detroit Plaza and the luncheon program.

DODSON, as well as others participating in the program, is proud of being associated with the Plaza and is an enthusiastic supporter of Detroit.

He told the women lots of fascinating details about the Plaza, such as the fact that if you think it's ugly because there's too much concrete inside, "it's not a building—it's an environment."

This made sense to me, as one who has stayed there during a convention and found the facilities highly acceptable and praised by other conventioners.

Dodson also pointed out that "moving water and lots of yellow mums are John Portman's (the architect's) signature."

Chef Steimel has been with the Detroit Plaza for two years, since it opened. "I opened the Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta with the same company," he said when I asked him about his background, during a break in the program.

The Detroit Plaza, one of the Western International Hotels, has striking architectural features similar to its sister hotel in Atlanta, the Peachtree Plaza.

At the luncheon, Dodson explained the Detroit Plaza is taller because although both hotels are 73 stories, the Detroit Plaza requires a lightning rod by city code.

CHEF STEIMEL, who is from Germany, started as an apprentice at the



Chef de Cuisine Walter Steimel demonstrated.

age of 14 and has been in the food business for 22 years.

Luncheon for The Community House group was simple but quite spectacular, especially when the Summit Orbiter arrived for dessert. But first, the women were served Scal-

lop Ceviche, an appetizer combining fish and shrimp marinated in a Mexican mix of such things as chopped onion, tomatoes and peppers.

"Raw scallops," various women were heard to murmur, as they tasted the dish. Apparently so, but the marinade had made the scallops tender and yes, tasty.

Banquet Manager Leo Pendl gave a demonstration on how to open a bottle of wine with a waiter's corkscrew, emphasizing the correct leverage. He served a 1973 Trübenheimer Rübepfote, a German moselle. It was light with a fragrant bouquet.

The entree was Chicken Montmorency, breast of chicken covered with a sauce named for Montmorency, an area famous for dark cherries.

His R's rolling, the German-accented chef prepared a demi-glacé, a

brown sauce that starts off many sauces. A buttery aroma filled the room, as he cooked over a burner on a rolling cart. Canned cherries and burgundy wine completed the sauce.

"If the sauce stay on the meat, you have the right consistency. Okay?" he said. He talked about the "wedgetable" (vegetable, which was green beans) and the rice accompaniment, was a mixture of white rice and wild rice.

"Always make sure you have the right combination of colors," he said, showing the eye pleasing platter of food.

THE DESSERT recipe was a secret, the women were told. A recipe sheet told how to make Scallop Ceviche and Chicken Montmorency but the Summit Orbiter was not included.

However, the main

ingredients of this colorful dessert are Harvey Wallbanger ice cream (vanilla ice cream, Galliano and Kirsch), chocolate chips and fresh whipped cream.

To put this dish into orbit, it is served over a cocktail ice into which dry ice has been placed and touched with a few drops of blue food coloring. The ice goes up in blue smoke, and when raspberry sauce is poured over the ice cream, the result is a red, white and blue celebration.

Maggie Kapdi of Troy, who was among the women attending, said she came along on the trip because "I love eating. I'm learning to cook. That was mainly my interest."

The Community House plans to repeat the luncheon program at the Detroit Plaza, but no date has been scheduled yet.

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Chicken Montmorency is breast of chicken with a dark cherry sauce.



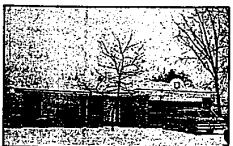
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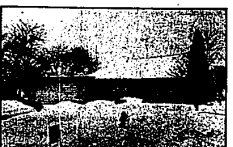
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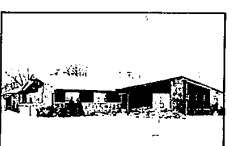
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