

Landmark restaurant changes hands

By Bill Casper
staff writer

Quinley's Restaurant is a small, unassuming diner — family owned and operated and easily missed by passers-by on Grand River.

It doesn't advertise or use flashing lights to catch the eye or clever slogans for name recognition.

But for 37 years, owner Maude Quinley has survived against her corporate competitors in Redford Township and surrounding areas without really trying too hard.

The 87-year-old Mrs. Quinley, certainly not a wheeling-dealing business tycoon, has fared extremely well, at one time owning three area restaurants.

THE SECRET to her success, she said with a friendly smile, includes "good home cooked meals at a reasonable price and friendly, smiling waitresses."

But there's more to her success than that. There's Maude Quinley herself, who became not just a restaurant owner, but a personal friend of many of her customers.

Monday was the last day on the job for Mrs. Quinley who is retiring. She has sold the restaurant at a significant profit over the paltry \$1,500 she acquired it for Sept. 8, 1944, but she declined to reveal the purchase price.

But the continuing success of the restaurant is very important to her, and the new owner has invited her to visit regularly and "eat as much as I like."

She plans to accept the invitation from time to time, not because she eats a lot, which is apparent by her thin frame, but because "I've made many close friends while I've had the restaurant and I want to visit them on occasion."

Mrs. Quinley said she considers all of her customers friends and the feeling obviously is mutual, evidenced by a standing room crowd for the usual Sunday breakfast that doubled as a farewell party for the long-time restaurateur and friend.

"SUNDAY MORNING is normally busy with the breakfast crowd, but this place was packed this past Sunday," she said. "It was my last Sunday breakfast and all my friends, the regulars, crowded in. We didn't have seats for

everyone, but they came in and cried and stood and waited for their chance to be seated for breakfast."

Many of the regulars have been coming for 37 years.

"We've had entire families continue as regulars after their parents died. I'm surely going to miss this restaurant and my customers and I know they will miss me, but I'll still visit them."

The restaurant and Mrs. Quinley's large family have been her life. In fact, the reason she got into the business was to give her life some purpose.

"I'm a native of Virginia and moved to Detroit in 1911 after my husband died because three of my children lived here," she said. "My husband was a

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