Uncle Louie's is neat place for bargain dining

Your traveling taster visits area eateries and rates them on a 100-point scale. Up to 30 points is awarded for ambiance (which includes general atmosphere and service), 55 points for food and 15 points for price/value. A total count of 55 points or less indicates a restaurant is not recommended, 56-74 points signifies from passing to good, 75-89 pts designates very good with some extraordinary features and 90-100 points shows that a very special dining experience awaits you.

UNCLE LOUIE'S DINING SALOON, 25641 Plymouth Road, Redford (937-8220) is similar in appearance to many other popular priced eateries. The smoke-filled room, busy bar, booths with oilskin tablecloths and short-skirted waitresses are designed to give Uncle Louie's a trendy feeling.

Uncle Louie's attracts a wide variety of diners, from mothers with small children to couples in jeans or jackets. Our table was not cleaned very well from the previous occupants. The saloon is peppy, but better ventilation would do wonders for the air. *General Atmosphere — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 9.*

We visited Uncle Louie's on a week night. The restaurant does not take reservations, except for large groups, but we were seated immediately. Our waitress was as pleasant as she could be. Service was prompt, and we finished our meal, from drinks through dessert, in one hour. Water is not served unless requested, which we had to do several times. Unfortunately, our dinner rolls and butter were still on the table while we finished dessert. *Service — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 12.*

Drinks were quite weak, and we were urged to "have another round," which may explain why water is not routinely served. Our plate of mixed hors d'oeuvres included batter-dipped mushrooms and zucchini, cheese sticks and chicken fingers — all for $3.50. The batter was very greasy, and we did not think the items were especially good. The rolls were ordinary. *Drinks, Appetizers and Bread — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 4.*

There are a number of salads on the menu. We sampled a small house salad, which was fairly fresh but uninteresting. *Salad — 5 points maximum. Points awarded — 3.*

The menu offers a selection of burgers, omelettes, Italian and Mexican dishes, ranging in price $4-$9. Daily specials, including fish, are also in this price range. We chose a Buster Keaton Burger at $3.75, with chili and cheese, and the Shrimp and Rib special at $8.95. The burger arrived medium-rare, as ordered, and with ample chili and cheddar cheese. The ribs, however, were considerably overcooked and seemed to have been sitting in a steam table, waiting for the evening's orders. The criss-cross potatoes were more greasy than we like. *Entree, Vegetables and Garnishes — 30 points maximum. Points awarded — 18.*

There is a limited dessert selection of several varieties of cheesecake. We had the cherry cheesecake, which tasted as if it had come from the grocery-store freezer counter. Dessert and Coffee — 10 points maximum. Points awarded — 4.

Total cost for our meal was under $30 per couple, and we ordered heavily. An average dinner for two should cost about $20, with a drink or two, and that is not unreasonable. Price/Value — 15 points maximum. Points awarded — 11.

A Counting for Taste — 100 points maximum. Totals awarded: 61 points. As a place for a fairly inexpensive date — or a night out with the kids — Uncle Louie's will do.

D. Gustibus welcomes your reactions, comments, and suggestions of favorite restaurants in the Observer & Eccentric communities. Write to Gustibus in care of the Observer & Eccentric, Entertainment Department, P.O. Box 503, Birmingham, Mich. 48012.

a counting for taste
by D. Gustibus

table talk

American cafe

Lord and Taylor's American Cafe is introducing a new menu of regional favorites plus the cafe's own traditional specialties and American Spa Cuisine. Lox and Taylor Cobb Salad, American Waldorf Salad, Gold Coast Fruit Salad, Garden Vegetable Bowl and the Spa Lunch are offered under Spa Cuisine with calorie counts listed and ranging from 250 to 350. The cafe is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays at Twelve Oaks in Novi, Fairlane in Dearborn and Lakeside in Sterling Heights.

Family dining

C.J.'s By My Guest, a family restaurant, has opened at 29505 W. Nine Mile Road at Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. The menu features everything from prime rib to pizza, homemade soup to seafood. Burgers include a half-pounder, with a choice of eight different cheeses and 17 different toppings. Liquor is served. Charles and John Willson are the hosts.

'Cruise' dinners

A "French Cruise" dinner, with French cuisine, will be served at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, by the management students of the Hospitality Department, at Tirrell Hall, J-Building on the Orchard Ridge Campus at Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills. A "Spanish Cruise" dinner is planned for Thursday, Dec. 5. Each specialty dinner is $14.95 per person, including tax and wine. Also open to the public are Fall 1985 Buffet Days, luncheons which continue from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24; Tuesday, Nov. 12; and Tuesday, Dec. 17, at $4.75 per person. The meals are produced by culinary arts students and hospitality students at the college. For more information, call 471-7607, 9-10 a.m. or 2-4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays.

Stately series

"Celebrate the Seasons" is the theme of the 1985-86 Stately Dinner series at Meadow Brook Hall on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. The gourmet eight-course dinners with wine include seasonal themes of Halloween, Hunt and Harvest, a Bagpipers Christmas, Winter Wonderland, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Spring Medley and May "Oui." Dinner is $60 per person. For further information, call 370-3140.

Fund-raiser stars Eckstine

Billy Eckstine will be a headline for the cabaret-style fund-raiser "Return to Paradise Valley and Old Hastings Street" from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Riverfront Ballroom of Cobo Hall in Detroit.

The program also features the Jimmy Wilkins Orchestra, the dancing Sultans, and the Canadian Club "Tribute to Black Designers" fashion show.

Fund-raiser tickets are $20 for general admission, $30 for reserved seating. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For further information call Louise Burton, at 833-5004.

Proceeds from the benefit will help build the life-size Hastings Street/Paradise Valley section of the park's Black Streets in America.

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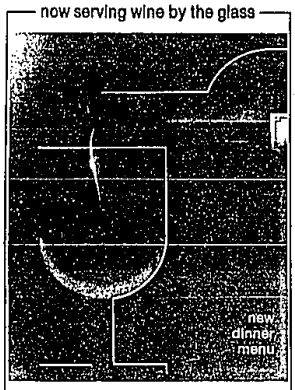

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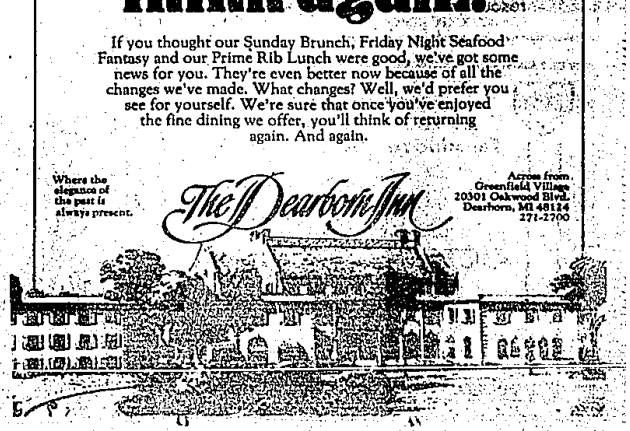

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