

table talk

Continued from Page 5

Nov. 19, the Pike Street Company restaurant in Pontiac will offer two Georges Du Bouff and Bouchard. The wine will be available at lunch and dinner.

Turkey dinner

You can serve Thanksgiving dinner without cooking your own, without going out to dinner. Bowman's Catering in Berkley offers a traditional home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner, with turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie and other menu items. The dinner for 12-15 people includes all items prepared fresh and delivered to your kitchen for \$92.50, or \$84 if you pick up the meal yourself. An economy dinner includes the turkey but not all the trimmings. The carry-out package is \$51.75. For more information, call Bowman's Catering at 328-1030.

Celebrity chefs

An array of treats by local celebrity chefs will be served at "Appetizing Appetizers and Divine Desserts," a benefit for Cranbrook Hospice Care, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. Among participants will be certified executive chef Richard Benson from the Schoolcraft College of Culinary Arts in Livonia. Admission is \$15 per person in advance, \$20 at the door. For reservations, call 644-6116.

Hungarian fest

Ten days of feasting are in store at the "Hungarian Hyattfest." A 10-member team of chefs and musicians who have traveled to the United States from the Atrium Hyatt Budapest will conduct the event. The troupe was at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn in mid-September to kick off a two-month tour and is returning to Dearborn before departing for Hungary. A menu of authentic Hungarian foods and desserts will be served Friday, Nov. 20, at the Hyatt Regency's La Rotisserie restaurant. Music is by Ferenc Santa's Gypsy Orchestra. For reservations, call 593-1234, ext. 2322.

Medallion opens

The Medallion, formerly the Aristocrat, has reopened at Crosswind Mall, formerly Pine Lake Mall, in West Bloomfield. Avella Lanza, owner, said the Medallion serves creative American cuisine. New chef is Scott O'Dell, who worked at the Orchard Lake Country Club for eight years. Sous chef is Hasan Akala, from the Renaissance Club. The Aristocrat closed five months ago due to storm damage. Now remodeled, the restaurant is serving dinner and will resume lunch soon.

Raisin biscuits

Hardee's has teamed up with the California Raisins to promote its new breakfast treat, Cinnamon N Raisin Biscuits. Made from Hardee's Rise and Shine buttermilk recipe, the biscuits are filled with natural California raisins and speeded with a dash of cinnamon.

New manager

Robert Jones has been named general manager of Charley's Crab in Troy, replacing Paulette Winn who was promoted to general manager of the new Charley's Crab restaurant in Jupiter, Fla., scheduled to open in January. Before joining Muer, Jones held management positions with Gil Robinson Co. restaurants in Kansas City, Mo.; the Bristol Bar & Grill in St. Louis, and Mogates restaurant in Washington, D.C.

Playbills recall hit shows

Continued from Page 5

Also, a close look will reveal that ticket prices once averaged about \$5 for the best seats. An early-'50s production of "Can-Can," with Gwen Verdon, offered balcony seats at the Shubert for \$1.89. (Tickets today are priced at around \$50 for the better seats, with the cheapest averaging about \$20 less.)

"I think, eventually, the average person isn't going to be able to afford to see a Broadway play at all," said Petris. "I think the unions are killing the theater and, of course, property is so expensive in New York, too — they can't allow a nice old theater to occupy a space where they could put up a skyscraper instead. Eventually, there'll be more theater closings, and I think, someday, there'll be just one or two theaters left."

"Broadway doesn't look anything like it did when I first went there," said Petris, when asked what other changes she's noted since the early '40s. "In those days, if you walked down the street at 4 a.m., you'd sometimes have to get off the sidewalk and walk in the street if you were in a hurry because there were so many people. Now, you could

shoot off a cannon at 4 a.m. and not hurt anybody.

"Also, THE LIGHTS just aren't what they used to be. And the signs — all those marvelous neon signs. Most of them are gone now."

"Another thing — when I first started going to plays in New York, you dressed up. Women wore hats and gloves, even to matinees. Now, you see people coming in, in jeans much of the time."

Petris said she often attended plays at the Cass and Bonstelle Theaters in Detroit, along with her parents, when she was growing up.

"But I have no theatrical background — I go to these plays simply because I love the theater, and because I believe you'll see the very best performances in New York. I did take one drama class, though, at East Los Angeles College when my husband and I lived there several years ago. I loved the class, and I was in one of the school plays. But basically, I'm too shy to get up on a stage and perform."

Does the seasoned theatergoer have a favorite play?

"Really, I've enjoyed almost all of the plays I've seen, in one way or another, and I don't actually have any favorite," she said. "But I do

tend to like musicals best. I saw 'A Chorus Line' seven times. I like going to something that's going to make me feel good when I come out.
 "I can remember walking up Broadway, after we'd seen 'Camelot,' at the Music Box one evening, humming those tunes, singing those songs. I think I felt as if Broadway were Camelot, and we were part of it."

PETRIS ALSO remembers seeing "South Pacific," "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot" all in the first week of their long runs on Broadway. "It was before so many people discovered what great shows they were," she said. "We were able to just walk off the street, up to the box office and into the theater. It was wonderful. You felt as if you were part of (theater) history in the making. In just a short while after that, of course, tickets could not be bought for love or money."

"The last play I saw, 'Starlight Express,' was a musical. I loved that, too, although I'm not too crazy about the new George Gershwin Theatre where I saw it — it's too much like an office building, and doesn't have that wonderful 'magic' I think a theater should have."

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