

Old Family Recipes Bring Crowds to Lonely Corner

The lonely, windswept corner of Telegraph road and East Long Lake seemed a most unsuitable place to open a public dining room thirty years ago. There were no houses for miles around and not much likelihood of there being any.

Nevertheless, Mrs. Laura Turner, charmed by the quaint building there and armed with a closetful of cherished family recipes, gathered up her courage and

opened the now famous Devon Gables.

ON THE FIRST night the staff



ECENTRIC PHOTO

Devon's Starlit Lounge

The Starlit Lounge at Devon Gables, Telegraph road at East Long Lake, greets diners as they approach the colorful entrance.

prepared dinner, put out an "open" sign and gathered up their automobiles in the most conspicuous spot in the parking area.

Then, putting a light in every window, each employee sat down to enjoy his dinner, in full view of any passers-by, giving an impression to the outside world that a sizeable crowd had come to dine at Devon Gables that night.

Soon nine people had wandered in for dinner. The following Sunday there were nineteen, and in a month they could expect fifty to sixty people on a Sunday.

Last Mother's Day 4,000 people were served dinner at Devon Gables. Seven hundred can be seated at one time in one or another of the many charming dining rooms that have been added from time to time.

"THE WHOLE place just rambles on," says Mrs. Turner, looking back on the fantastic growth. We've just kept up with the times."

Despite its enormous size Devon Gables still retains the atmosphere and charm of the country inn for which it is named. This is due partly to the great number of dining rooms, each with its own decor and atmosphere.

One of the most interesting is called the Guatemala room which, with its exotic patio, is reminiscent of Mrs. Turner's childhood ranch home in Guatemala.

THERE ARE many other delightful rooms, including some decorated in early American and one very modern one called the Hillside Room.

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