

# Spectacular setting but average food

Mississauga has more than its share of seafood restaurants.

The most spectacular seafood restaurant of Mississauga's many is the Mark Twain Showboat. It is spectacular because it sits in Port Credit Harbor, looking much like the old Mississippi paddlewheeler it once was. It is spectacular because it is decorated in a gay '90s motif with everything but Mississippi mud included.

It is not spectacular because of its lunches. On that, it scores a little lower.

An early July Wednesday lunch at the Mark Twain produced a unique experience — totally personalized service. We were the only party in the spacious dining room.

While that provided peace and quiet, it didn't

## Out to Lunch

provide prompt service. Lunch took well over an hour with more than a few insufferable lags in service. Possibly they weren't expecting anyone for lunch.

The special was fillet of sole in a white wine sauce with vegetables, soup or salad and bread. All for a reasonably-priced \$3.95.

The cream of asparagus soup was creamy and had a full asparagus taste. The salad was simply limp iceberg lettuce with a too-sweet cream dressing.

The sole was tasty although a bit overcooked and would have sated even the largest appetites. The sauce had obviously

been sitting under a heat lamp a little too long but was still quite pleasant.

The vegetables, green beans and brussels sprouts, were fresh and cooked just right.

The other lunch special was a soup-and-sandwich course for \$2.95. The sandwiches included egg salad, salmon salad, tuna salad and sliced turkey.

The rest of the menu included the usual seafood fare. Curried seafood (\$5.75), halibut steak (\$6.25), baked red snapper (\$6.25), seafood crepe (\$4.95) and filet mignon (\$6.50). All include soup or salad and vegetables.

Soup and salad are both \$1.25. Onion soup is \$1.95 and clam chowder \$1.75.

**Mark Twain Showboat.** 1 Port Street East. Major cards accepted. 278-2244. — Chris Zerkovich



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# Travel



The entrance to the monastery at Glendalough

## Irish hills beckon

By BRIAN C. GREGGAINS

WICKLOW, Ireland — The Hills have always been prominent features of my memories of Wicklow, visited in early boyhood. It is appropriate, of course, that although I clearly remember a bus outing to the hills on my earlier visit, the hills most clearly identified in my mind were the ones immediately visible from my mother's home town, Bray. These were Bray Head itself and the Great and Little Sugar Loafs.

But these hills and Bray itself are only the entrance to the county that is known as the Garden of Ireland and to the granite mountain range which runs northeast to southwest in the central portion of Wicklow.

Easy to reach and ex-

plore nowadays in a number of ways — from hiking, cycling, car, scenic bus tours to ponytrekking — these hills reek of history, romance and more than their share of violence.

Any student of history visiting Wicklow will want to visit Glendalough which was once a great monastic city. This was a centre of learning of international stature, founded by a famous abbot, Saint Kevin, and at its peak, during the sixth and 10th centuries, attracting scholars from all parts of Ireland, from Britain and the continent as well.

As for romance, you can share many of the sights which inspired Thomas Moore, the famous Irish poet who wrote so many well-known songs and poems like The Last Rose of

Summer and The Meeting of the Waters, a poem about the Vale of Avoca.

When I was staying in Bray last summer I decided to renew my acquaintance with The Wicklow Hills. And although I had a car at my disposal, I chose the lazy way. I took a CIE day tour from Dublin to Glendalough and Avoca, which cost just over three pounds.

For a comfortable way of seeing and sampling some of the beauties of The Wicklow Hills, I can thoroughly recommend this coach tour. The buses are specially designed for sightseeing with big windows all around. The drivers also serve as commentators along the way.

The tour took us down the coast road through Dun Loaghair and Killiney, where the bus stopped for photographs of a breathtaking view of the coast south of Bray Head. Then we passed down through Bray and off into the interior of Wicklow past the two Sugar Loafs, so called because of the white quartz found in these hills which resembles the coarse sugar of bygone days.

The rolling splendor of The Wicklow Hills is difficult to describe in

words, but Fodor's Guide to Ireland starts the description well by saying, "The color of the Wicklow Mountains suggests Irish tweed, being all shades of brown, flecked with whitish grey of granite outcrops, the gold of the gorse, purple heather and the contrasting greens of the hillside forests and small fields filled with sheep and lambs."

Our route before lunch took us through the Village of Annamoe, associated with the 18th century author of Tristram Shandy, Lawrence Sterne. A few miles further on was Laragh, where the road rejoins the old Military Road which runs south from Kilakee Mountain through Sally Gap and Glenmacnass. Here we turned west for Glendalough, where we soon stopped to visit the ruins and to have lunch at the local hotel.

The gateway still stands at Glendalough, and this was the principal entrance to the walled monastic city. When the caiseal or stone wall formed the city boundaries, all monks and visitors had to pass examination here, entering or leaving.

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