

Local Restaurant Continues To Put On The 'Ritz'

The Shinnston News & Harrison County Journal, in conjunction with United Security Agency, has named Ritzzy Lunch

as March's Business of the Month.

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Nestled in a storefront on West Pike Street is one of Clarksburg's little treasures - Ritzzy Lunch. Started in 1933 by Joseph and Mary Selario, the traditions are carried on 72 years later by their son, John Selario.

The hometown feel is experienced even before entering the restaurant. On the sidewalk in front of the establishment are two park benches where patrons can shoot the breeze. Selario can often be found there too, conversing with them.

Selario took over the business in 1970. Though both of his parents are deceased, the small diner is the same today as it was when they started it. Only fresh coats of paint and maintenance upkeep have been done.

The restaurant employs three people. It seats 50 by way of booths, a bar and two side tables. Serving breakfast and lunch, the restaurant has a variety of foods - Italian Sausage sandwich, hamburgers and Giovannis, but is best known for its hotdogs. "That's

our key seller," said Antonio Selario, the owner's son. "That's our money maker."

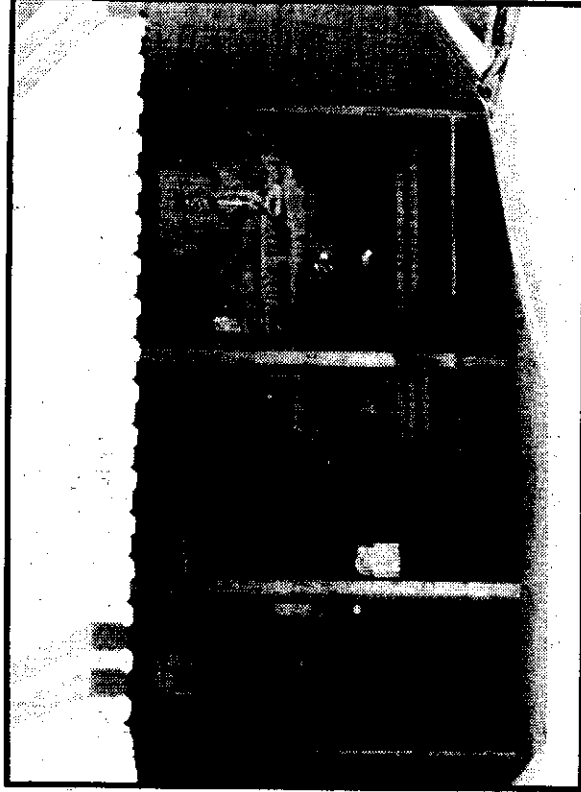
When asked what makes their hotdogs so special, the younger Selario said, "Years of experience and taking your time while cooking the chili."

What sets Ritzzy Lunch apart from the rest? The elder Selario said being a locally owned family business makes the difference. "It's being family oriented and the generations of patronage. They keep coming back," he said. While home for visits, people stop by to treat their palate to one of the famous hotdogs.

The friendly atmosphere contributes to the success of the business. "Giving them quality service and food," said Selario. "It's more personal."

More recently, Ritzzy Lunch has become the hotspot for bikers. Every Thursday evening from 5 to 7 during the summer, bikers come from as far as Kandolph, Lewis, Lipahut and Monongalia Counties to enjoy the fellowship at Ritzzy Lunch.

In conjunction with Clarksburg Baptist and Christ Episcopal Church, Ritzzy Lunch hosts a Family Biker Night. In its third year, the evening is filled with entertainment and good food.



Ritzzy Lunch, famous for its hotdogs, is located at 456 West Pike St. in Clarksburg.

The popularity of Ritzzy Lunch's chili spreads past the city limits of Clarksburg. It placed sixth in the first Chili Cook Off held at Snowshoe. Selario said he entered "more for fun than anything." This past year, Ritzzy Lunch was recognized by Marlboro Country Magazine as being number one east of the Mississippi for its hotdogs. Also, in the late '70's, Ritzzy Lunch was mentioned in Bon Appetit for the business and the cuisine. And, still yet, the restaurant is listed in the top ten best hot dogs on the website www.epicurious.com/restaurants/be

In its original location, Ritzzy Lunch can be found at 456 W Pike St. The doors are open for business Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.