

Perkins Pancake House

Judging by the food, service and management, it's not difficult to see why Perkins Pancake Houses are among the fastest growing franchises in the diocese.

We stopped out to the area home base, on West Ridge Road last week, to find an immaculate restaurant with courteous and efficient service, very well-prepared and inexpensive food, and have a chat with a young, and idealistic, though aggressive, management.

John Kendall describes his operation as "very quality, conscious." He says that he would rather raise his prices by ten cents than cut his preparation standards.

Perkins provides its franchises with special flours and recipes, but they "make everything from scratch" at the individual restaurants.

One of the reasons for special Perkins quality is a rigid control over the age of the Perkins batter.

None of it is stored for more than six hours.

Fortunately, the turnover at the restaurants is so high, there isn't much loss incurred with such standards.

The cleanliness of the place is spectacular, mostly because of a policy, Kendall says, of maintaining the restaurants so that "when we walk out of here at night, the place is ready for business the next day."

Even the chandeliers go through the washing machine once a week, he says.

The house serves several thousand customers a week and the management is proud of the fact that of all the Perkins franchises, theirs is number one in gross sales for its size.

The Perkins menu lists more than 100 items including a wide array of pancakes, crepes and waffles, and also a goodly assortment of steaks and fish

dinners, as well as sandwiches.

There is a special children's assortment, and all meals are on the inexpensive side.

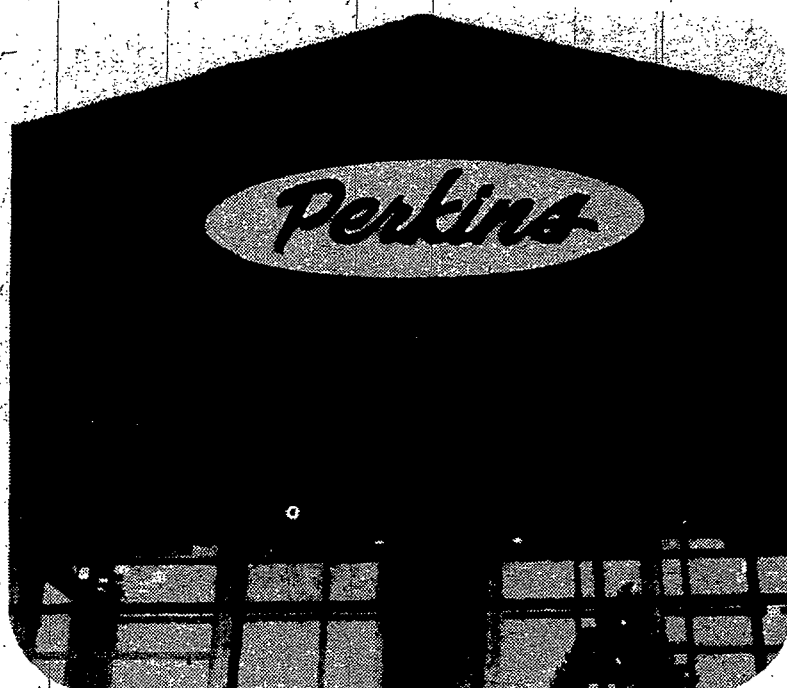
From the pancake side, we selected the blueberry rollups, delicate pancakes which the chef showers with sweet blueberries and whipped topping. The coffee cup seems bottomless and is very good.

Other mouthwatering tempters on the menu are crepes Suzettes with strawberries, sour cream blintzes, potato pancakes and pecan pancakes.

The carte also features a bacon waffle, an intriguing idea and one we will have to try in the near future.

Perkins also serves eggs and omelettes and dinners ranging from T-Bone steak to fish 'n' chips.

Dieters will be pleased to note a special section devoted to them



and sandwich eaters may also select from their own columns.

Nice Guy Carl Arena and his family have finally realized an old dream. Last week they opened La Soupe Shoppe in 111 East Avenue to a crowd of delighted newsmen and women.

According to Arena, the whole family is, in one way or another, involved in the operation which features soups of many nations and an extraordinary welsh rarebit.

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