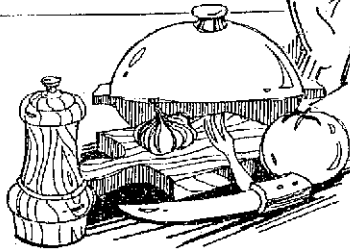


# Dining Out



## BIG JOHN'S



**Christies** One of the oldest fish houses in the city, it's been dishing it out since the 1940s. All kinds of fish, re cooked anyway, you might want it. 3130 Broadway. 826-3261. Sun-Sat 10-10.

**Chung Hua** Chinese food, specializing in Szechuen (province in China) style of cooking. Two lunch-specials every day for \$2.75/9. Texas 90 West. 675-0192. Sun-Sat 11-2, 5-10.

**Copper Kitchen** One dish-no selection that varies each day. Very artsy-craftsy. 300 Augusta (Southwest Craft Center). 224-0123. Tues-Thurs 11:30-2:30.

**Crystal Baking Company** Kind of elegant Victorian with varied fare, including magnificent salads. Bar. 1039 N.E. Loop 410. 826-2371. Mon-Sun 11:30-2:45, 5:30-10:30. Sat until 11.

**El Meson Latino** Specialties are paella, Spain's seafood platter; Churrasco steak; Argentina's classic steak; and barrilita, a classic Argentine dish; also classic Mexican food and American steaks. 3802 Broadway. 822-3000. Tues-Fri 11:30-2 and 10-10:30. Sat-Sun 11:30-10:30.

**Golden Palace** Besides a regular menu of Chinese food, a luncheon special is offered that varies every day. 8822 Wurzbach. 696-6700. Sun-Sat 11:2-30. Sun-Thurs 5-10. Fri-Sat 5-12.

**Hung Fong** Looks 3, Food 10, which is surely better than the customary reverse. Stroll through the large and varied menu, but take a pit stop for the egg rolls, which may well be the best this side of San Francisco. The neon signs on the ceiling are a conversation piece, too. 3624 Broadway. 822-9211. Sun-Sat 11:30-11:45.

**Ichabod's** A steak and oyster dinner is the hit of the house, with King crab legs and fried oysters also high on the list. You'll get a well-stocked refresh tray of fresh garden crunchies as soon as you're seated. Ceiling fans on the atmosphere. Bar. Wurzbach and Fredericksburg Roads. 690-1212. Mon-Thurs 5:30-10:30. Fri-Sun 5-11.

**King Wah** Chinese haute cuisine that not only looks good when it's served but is good. Two locations. The original is at 1512 Bandera Road. 432-3751. 1800 N.E. Loop 410 at Harry Wurzbach. Sun-Thurs 11:2-30, 5-10:30. Fri-Sat until 11.

**Krakow** Where you get a mixture of folk dancing and other Polish delights, including a very unusual dill pickle soup. Daily luncheons include choice of soup or salad, and the dessert list is beautiful. 605 Augusta. 226-4963. Mon-Fri 11:2-30. Mon-Sat 5-10.

**Millard Fillmore Grammar School and Grille** School days are dear old golden rule days in this innovative restaurant harking back to the 1930s. Big Chief tablets for menus, a 1937 Chevy bus, old school desks, etc. Bar. 6180 Wurzbach at Evers Road. 684-8451. Mon-Fri 11-2. Mon-Thurs. 5 10. Fri-Sat. 11-11. Sun. Noon-9.

**Pankle's** Mexican food, all you can eat for \$1.99. 3662 Fredericksburg Road. 735-9238. Sun-Sat 11-9.

**Rothbar** The luncheon special varies every day —antiflog, chicken and dumplings, Mexican food —and noon and night, you can order steaks, seafood, Mexican food, Italian food, sandwiches. 9226 Wurzbach. 696-9114. Mon-Fri 11:30-11. Sat 5-11.

**Sizzler Family Steakhouse** Family dining, specializing in steaks, of course, and seafood. Specialties are steak and seafood combinations. 4620 Broadway. 1402 W. Military Drive. Broadway at Loop 410. Texas 90 at Military Drive. Vance Jackson at Loop 410. 828-0792. Sun-Thurs 11-9. Fri-Sat 11-10.

### Fast Food Service

**Bun 'N' Barrel** Bar-B-Que and it's been around 27 years, so the people at this place know what they are doing. Drive-in and indoor service. Cater parties of all sizes. 1150 Austin Highway. 828-2829. Sun-Sat. Indoor 10-9. Drive-in 10-Midnight.

**Dairy Queen** Various locations around town for sampling such goodies as DQ. Humber and Bett-duster burgers, ice cream, shakes, sodas, sandwiches, et cetera.

**Taco Bell** Tacos and Burritos Supreme, an original recipe, are the specialties here. The Burritos are made with beef, beans, onions, sour cream, olives, lettuce and a mild chili sauce. 3667 Fredericksburg Road. 735-1731. Sun-Thurs 10:30-11:30. Fri-Sat 10:30-1.



## Journey Into The 1800s . . .

Two signs out front beckon the diner: "Live Dancing 'til 2," and "Don't shoot the bartender, he's half shot already."

It's Big John's Steakhouse and Saloon, a steak specialty house in the country and western vein. The place literally reeks with mid-1800s nostalgia, from the Judge Roy Bean "Law West of the Pecos" facade to the wagon-wheel ceiling lamps.

But don't get the impression Big John's is attractive just for its nostalgic atmosphere. No Sir. Top C&W hits playing on the stereo, the 100 per cent rough-hewn cedar wood floors and walls and the mirrored dance floor also establish Big John's uniqueness.

No small contribution to the restaurant's charm are the hundreds of autographed photos of major movie stars adorning each and every wall. Big John, you see, is well-known in

the motion picture business. Glen Corbett and Dan Haggerty (of "Grisly Adams" TV fame) stopped to dine last week. The entire San Antonio Dodgers baseball club showed up Wednesday.

So it's no wonder Big John's (he's been an actor for nearly 20 years) attracts so many big names.

Among the personal photos are those of Big John's good friend John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, Raquel Welch, Jimmy Stewart and lots more.

The menu reflects the steak specialization. Seven out of eight entrees listed are steaks.

Steak prices are listed by the ounce. All but the filet, however, are available in only two portions: eight and 10 ounce. The filet may be had in a six ounce serving.

All entrees are served with "All the salad you care to eat; bread and potato of your choice." The food is very good.

Outgoing manager Irma Marroquin personally greets diners at the door and the waitresses are very perceptive. Having downed one glass of tea, another appeared without request.

Big John's certainly has a lot of attractions for the casual diner: a nostalgic, laid-back atmosphere, live music and dancing on Friday and Saturday nights and KKYX "record-spinners" Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights after 9 p.m.

Big John is located at 3239 Harry Wurzbach Road and is open from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 5 to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The Saloon is open from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. every day except Monday.

### ROE TRAUGOTT

Paul Clay, left, and Jesse Marroquin right, give their orders to Irma Marroquin, manager of Big John's, top photo. Ronnie Lopez, top left and near left, is bar manager and disc turner. Don Rives tends the bar. Far left, Carla Guins hands Bob Rivera his steak.

