



**'MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS'  
IS TRADITIONAL CHARMER**  
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# Sunrise

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1992

## SWEETSTAKES

### Readers rave about Ritter's in Franklin

**Top this!** Frozen custard from drive-up stand is a winner.

We asked our readers to tell us where to find the best desserts in the area. Today's story focuses on those sold at curbside-type establishments. (Second of three parts.)

By STEVE MANHEIMER

The quick, white

How sweet it is — and how long it can last — if you ask our readers — and we did — they'll tell you there's no need to drop a wad to get the best dessert in the area. According to our expert readers, some of the spiciest, sweetest, creamiest, richest, most soul-satisfying desserts can be had straight from the drive-up window or display case — or at least to the modest sort of restaurant that doesn't mind if all you order is dessert.

Nearly half the letters we received mentioned delights readily available either in chain restaurants or in specialty shops devoted to looking like the public's sweet tooth.

The No. 1 vote gripped us not only because it was a drive-up stand at 351 North Morton Street in Franklin. Who'd a thought it?

"Surprise!" heck, we were taken aback, and figured the eager entrepreneurs were stuffing the ballot box. There was only one way to verify the vote: Trading the site.

At Ray Hart's drive-up stand, Ritter's Frozen Custard is well worth the drive. Give it a try. You'll love it.

We did. For \$1.00 for a one-ounce cup, we sampled the two basic, chocolate and vanilla, and almost couldn't believe our taste buds.

Creamy white begins to describe the smooth, deeply rich flavor of this frozen custard. John and Bonnie Ritter work from an ice-cream recipe using eggs but only 10 percent butterfat, all blended and compressed to force out most of the air that inflates normal ice cream and frozen yogurt. Each batch is made fresh daily.

The result: A flavor and consistency so dreamy that it might be compared to your first childhood memory of ice cream.

**Brings back memories**  
There's something to that. Frozen custard is a treat from the past for anyone 25 years old or older who grew up around here. Many may recall devilled frozen custard, a small chain that no longer operates in the Indianapolis area.

Nowadays, you'll have to drive to Franklin or Lafayette to get genuine frozen custard. After a cup or waffle cone filled with Ritter's, or maybe a malt, sundae or even banana split made from the same wonderful stuff, you may find yourself making that drive regularly.

Here's a quick look at some of the letters we received for Ritter's. He advised, though, that you'll have to wait awhile to enjoy Ritter's. It's closed for the season, and usually reopens April 1.

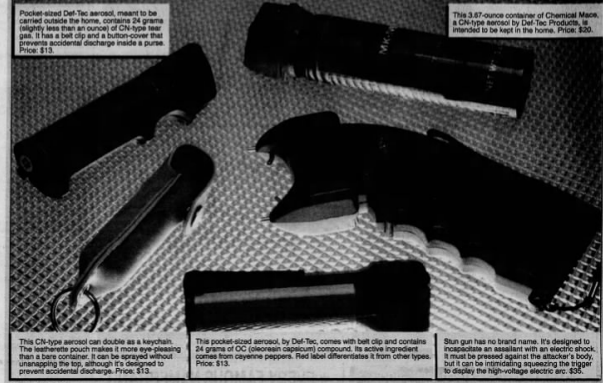
Sister Johnson wrote that picking a flavor is "usually a problem for my husband. We can't make up our minds. Usually I get my old standby, one scoop of chocolate and one of vanilla. Then I ask my husband into English office or better yet, or peach — and I help him out like."

Kathy Hargre wrote simply, "It's great." Mary Freder said, "Ritter's Frozen Custard has become a daily treat around our house."

We even received a well-typed letter on suspicious Baker & Daniels legal stationery, upon which Rita H. Martin exclaimed that Ritter's provides "an unsurpassed, old-fashioned taste experience... the red raspberry is incomparable."

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## WEAPONS for DEFENSE



STAR STAFF PHOTO: GUY REYNOLDS

**You can fight back without using a firearm. The options include sprays, stun devices and martial arts.**

By HAROLD WILEY

Star Staff Writer

**Y**ou don't have to carry a gun to protect yourself. People who don't carry a gun can still protect themselves. And many self-defense experts point out an obvious risk: A gun can be taken away and used against the victim.

Just as there are plenty of reasons for not carrying a gun, there are many non-lethal methods of self-defense.

Sgt. S.C. Robertson, supervisor of the

Indianapolis Police Department Firearms Training Unit, says his work involves teaching not only firearms use, but "a wide variety of use-of-force training."

Robertson is an expert on certain types of self-defense devices because he teaches police officers how to use them. He knows about other devices because police have that kind of experience with criminals who have used them.

Knowing that not everybody has or wants to have a gun, the Star has researched the variety of non-lethal weapons available for self-protection. Our sources include police and those who sell such devices, our goal is to give readers an idea of their choices.

All the items listed here are legal in Indiana, with some qualifications. Here's how Robertson rates the most common ones, along with some other information gathered from suppliers and Indiana law.

**Self-defense sprays**

These include two types of tear gas and so-called pepper gas, a vegetable derivative, packaged in aerosol containers and intended to be sprayed in the assailant's face.

They have varying degrees of effectiveness, depending upon the active ingredients. Sprays must be kept constantly at hand — and usable. A spray attached to a keychain will do little good if you're in

**Self-defense starts with a constant awareness of your surroundings.**

**T**he best self-defense comes long before you actually need to defend yourself, say two Indianapolis Police Department instructors.

Sgt. S.C. Robertson and civilian Jeff Brunner, firearms instructors who also teach other uses of force to police trainees, say the most important thing is to be constantly aware of your surroundings.

A would-be assailant is more likely to pick a person who strolls about mindlessly, looking at the sidewalk,

than one who moves briskly and appears alert.

Here are more precautions:

**In your car**

■ Keep your car in good mechanical condition and make sure you always have sufficient fuel.

■ Park in well-lit areas. Choose a lot with an attendant, if possible.

■ If your car breaks down, stay inside the car with the windows closed and the doors locked. Put a "HELP" sign in the window.

■ A citizens band radio or a cellular phone can be a big comfort if you need to call for help.

■ If you carry a chemical spray, take

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the pressure is adequate.

The sprays are available at military surplus stores, gun shops, pawnshops and sporting goods stores. The four most types:

■ **CS spray.** This is the original Mace, Robertson says. When sprayed in a face, this irritating agent causes temporary closing of the eyes, a burning sensation in

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## NEW TALENT

### Music-loving doctor puts his wallet where his heart is



Twenty-one-year-old singer-songwriter Melbourne Moon strums his guitar in a

**Local infertility specialist-turned-benefactor is doing all he can to see that a new recording star is born.**

By MARC D. ALLAN

Star Staff Writer

**F**ew are the crazy things for music they love, and even an otherwise responsible doctor can go to extreme lengths when he hears a performer who moves him.

That's what prompted Dr. John C. Jarrett to bring a singer-songwriter named Melbourne Moon to Indianapolis from the Wyoming dude ranch where he first saw Moon perform.

During the past year, Jarrett, who specializes in infertility and in vitro fertilization, has bankrolled the singer's career, including his soon-to-be-released album, Melbourne Moon.

Jarrett provides Moon with a place to stay, expense money and the financial backing to record his music. And Moon, a Cal State/Denver-style performer who looks like he could be rocker Neil Young's son, writes and records folk-like

rock songs in hopes of landing a major recording contract.

**Following through**

"I guess the bottom line here," Jarrett says, "is that we had this notion and we actually followed it through. If nothing happens, I'm sure a lot of people will look at us and say, 'Well, there's another dumb doctor doing something stupid.'"

"But the primary goal was to produce a really good piece of music, and this entire album is for and every my favorite album."

If Moon's career takes off — and the odds of that are long, as they are for anyone trying to break into show business — he will be able to tell an amazing story about his beginnings.

Even now, though, the unknown Melbourne Moon, 21, can tell a fairly incredible tale.

It starts in Mariposa, Calif., one Yosemite National Park, on the 130-acre ranch where Bryan Melbourne Moon grew up. The ranch is 20 minutes from the nearest town. Because of that somewhat isolated upbringing, Moon spent good portions of his teen-age years listening to

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