

Damski & Criss'



Jon-Henri Damski and Erin Criss

SHADOWS IN MILWAUKEE

Who would ever think that one of the best American restaurants serving old fashioned American food would be a small 45-seat, gay-owned, and operated restaurant and bar, located at 2nd and National in Milwaukee called **Shadows**.

Chicago has nothing like Shadows. San Francisco has nothing better than Shadows. And Boston, Philadelphia, Toronto, and New York have no gay restaurant to surpass Shadows.

When **Frank Thalacker**, the owner, last February took over the bar Shadows and added a restaurant, he thought he was going into a good business and doing something needed in Milwaukee.

He had no idea that he was setting up a restaurant that would be the talk of traveling gays throughout the network from San Francisco, to Toronto, New York and Chicago.

Why in Milwaukee? Why Shadows?

Most gay restaurants are either too loose or too uptight.

When they are loose, everyone feels free to camp it up, party and be outrageous. But no one feels the food should be clean or hot.

Oh isn't that waiter cute dancing on the table. And because it is gay-owned and operated, and we are still cousins together, we are supposed to overlook the burnt toast, the overcooked vegetables, and the worm crawling on our lettuce.

When they are uptight, you and your lover are never to hold hands for fear you will give away the owner's secret. And you are not to complain because you are in an award winning, nationally recognized Top 10 linen napkin restaurant; and so what if the food is as cold as the atmosphere, the portions are as thin as the waiter, and the price and time they let you eat are



Frank Thalacker