

RESTAURANT REVIEW 47 Schneithort's May 10, 2017

REVIEW: **Schneithort's** has been on Lindbergh Blvd. at Clayton Road since 1956 when Arthur Schneithort, Jr. opened the restaurant and drive-in with car hops. The family had a long history with St. Louis eateries dating back to 1900, including hotel restaurants, managing the Bevo Mill and other operations.

Schneithort's, on the edge of Ladue with the car hop service, competed with the Parkmoor in Clayton on Clayton Road and Big Bend (now a Walgreen's location) and one in Kirkwood at Kirkwood Road (Lindbergh) and Manchester (now a Lou Fusz Toyota used car lot and office). They served double burgers, fries, onion rings and offered diner style service inside, with two-way speakers for the car patrons and at the tables for diners. (I spent an hour searching the web for photos of the Schneithort's Drive-In with car hops to no avail. But, I remember going there and to Parkmoor.)

The drive-in closed in 1973 and then there was just the Kaffe Haus. Next to the former diner, then the Kaffe Haus was the Hofamberg Inn, a full service higher end restaurant with traditional German dishes and American food. It was a destination restaurant.

In 2002 the Hofamberg was closed and the building was razed. The property was rebuilt as Schneithort's Village with retail shops and offices. The restaurant is back with a dining room serving breakfast, lunch and dinner until 9 o'clock. The large bar with darker lighting offers the same menu as does the upstairs patio and serves booze until 11.



We went there one weekday evening at 7:50. The first floor dining room was almost empty. Rather than the bar or an upstairs dining room we stayed down stairs.



We started with a cup of Crème of Chicken soup (\$5.00). It might have been the highlight of dinner, not to say there was anything wrong with our other orders, but the soup was that good, even after being around all day.



My wife ordered the Milwaukee Club sandwich (\$11.00) which is a piece of cold braunschweiger, bacon, lettuce and tomato. It came with a side of fries. I ordered the Veal Wiener Schnitzel (\$20). It came with two sides.



The Milwaukee Club on rye with some wide frozen French Fires that were perfectly cooked.

My wife like the sandwich and took half of it home for lunch the next day.



Everything served was hot, but we did have a table close to the kitchen and it was not busy at 8 o'clock on a Wednesday. The service was very good also. The waiter, Eric, was in his early 20's and was amazed when I told him about the wild drive-in with car hops that had occupied the south end of the property in 1960s.

My Weiner Schnitzel was pan fried with a nice coating of breading. It came in three thin pieces. The first piece was tough and chewy, causing me to wish I ordered something else. But the next two pieces were tender and perfect. I was glad I got to the lousy piece first and not last.

St. Louis used to have a huge population of Germans. There were a number of German restaurants in south St. Louis and South County. The top one was the Bevo Mill, which was closed for a long time and recently reopened with a pub menu and is run by the people who own Sugarfire BBQ.

Everything was fine at Schneihorst's. However nothing screamed at me to come back. Overall I found everything we ordered was about \$2 too high. But we were in Ladue, where houses sell for \$100,000 more just because they are sitting in the Ladue zip code.

Here is a link to an article written by Ron Elz, someone who I used to work for as a disc jockey 46 years ago, about the history of Scheithorst's.

<http://www.antiquewhs.com/2010/Inside%20STL/Schneithorst's/Index.htm>