

After Dark: 'Bookend' at Chateaubriand

By FRANCIS RAFFETTO

"You ought to be doing comedy," Art Carney told Dallas' Diane Wisdom last winter in Miami.

"Did you decide this before or after hearing me sing," asked the blond Diane, who has a good sense of humor.

The fact is that Miss Wisdom is an expert song belter. She was appearing at the time as one of the Double Bookends with the Ray Anthony Orchestra.

Miss Wisdom stayed in the Carillon in Miami, where her next door neighbor was "Trixie" on the Jackie Gleason TV show. Trixie is really Jane

Kean, who plays Art Carney's wife, and she also told Diane she should concentrate more on developing her comedy flair.

THE DALLAS GIRL is now singing in the Chateaubriand, 2515 McKinney, backed by the Ernie Johnson Trio. She is taking a breather before leaving for Las Vegas, where she will buy another Honda motorbike.

"This is the most economical way of getting around, although it does attract some attention," says Diane, who wears a helmet and boots while driving.

"When I rode it the first time and didn't know whether I could keep it upright, I said to myself now this is the silliest thing I've ever done."

But she went on to expert success, taking off by riding around the rim of the Carillon pool before entering the street. She sold the Honda reluctantly when the Ray Anthony job there in April finished.

And on her last day, "Trixie" or Miss Kean, said "Diane, you made it. I watched you for weeks thinking you would go

into the pool with that thing."

WITH THE Anthony band, the blond "Bookend" last summer toured the Orient. On the way back, she and a fellow "Bookend," redhaired Natalie Moore, stopped off for a week in Honolulu. "We didn't know when we would get a chance to see it again," said Diane.

At the Chateaubriand, Miss Wisdom sings songs like "I'll Take Romance," or "Cabaret," or some special additional lyrics to "I'm a Woman."

The special lines were written by a male writer named Sherry Cloth and include these lines: "He takes you out to dine

and feeds you wine, but he's not trying to be your friend—to him each drink's an investment that's going to turn out to be a big dividend. . . ."

WHEN SUNG by Diane it sounds witty and cynical and worldly wise.

The fact is that Diane never takes a drink. And when in Dallas she stays with her parents and sometimes calls her father, R. E. (Phil) Wheelis, who has the Highland Park Pharmacy on Knox, and says, "Dad, bring home a milkshake."

But this is only if she feels ill—"There I was with sundaes and milkshakes all my life and I was always watching my weight."

THE CHATEAUBRIAND, by the way, is offering its uniformly excellent food and the Greek veal is especially novel and delicious, thinly sliced and in lemon butter sauce. The Vouras family has refurbished much of the club, with a new wine cellar and room for private parties. Travis Keel as the new sommelier is a knowledgeable wine man and will give you the correct word.

INCIDENTALLY: Barbara Randolph is drawing enthusiastic patronage at Club Village these nights and owner Sammy Ventura Jr. is trying to sign her for the future before she phases out Sunday.



Diane Wisdom . . . Has Honda—will travel.