

Redamak's, a road house in New Buffalo that opened its doors in 1947, recently was named one of the 100 best burger places in "Hamburger America: One Man's Cross Country Odyssey to Find the Best Burgers in the Nation" (Running Press 2008) by George Motz. The book started as a documentary when Motz and a friend, who is a vegetarian, took a road trip to tell the story of eight historically significant hamburger counters in America. The trip expanded, and after visiting more than 1,000 places, the film aired on the Sundance Channel and was nominated for a James Beard Award. Called "Hamburger America," it is required viewing for a food course at Princeton University.

The book, released this year, names two other Michigan hamburger joints, Krazy Jim's Blimpy Burger in Ann Arbor and Miller's Bar in Dearborn.

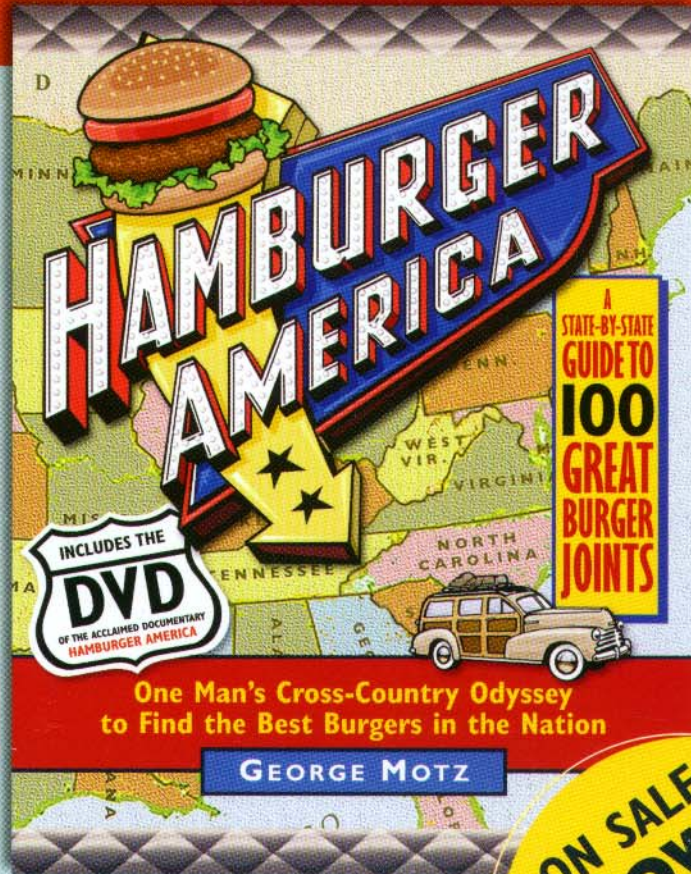
I've been thinking a lot about how many restaurants were once important in this community and now have closed. I know in the past we've talked about Holly's Landing because my friend Pam Cottier was looking for their salad recipe and was hoping someone might have it (no one seems to), and before that people have written in about Mead's Chicken Nook. Today as I was driving down Lakeshore Drive, I thought about the Lake Lodge, which was located around where South Cliff Condominiums now stand. There are so many places that are gone now, but I would love to hear readers' recollections about them, their favorite dishes and even find recipes if possible. So let me know.

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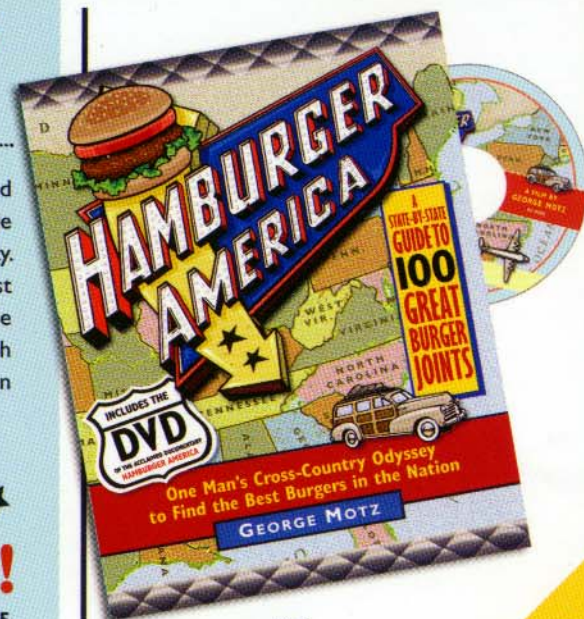
BY GEORGE MOTZ

No other food says "America" like the hamburger, and acclaimed documentary filmmaker George Motz has made it his mission to save our nation's unique burger identity. He's traveled across the country in search of the best burger joints—those that have survived outside the fast-food mainstream—and has documented their rich histories and one-of-a-kind taste experiences in *Hamburger America*.

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