



Renovating a landmark is a daunting task. This project team hopes to unveil a showstopping new Colony Restaurant by Labor Day weekend. From left: Ken Schultz, president, Shannon Construction; Edward and Anna Dunlap, owners, the Colony Steakhouse and Club Colony; Amy Storrs, interior designer, Zahradnik-Storrs & Associates, and Don Ralutz, vice president, Shannon Construction.

A WHOLE NEW COLONY

If you've lived in Mt. Lebanon long enough, you probably remember the first time you walked through the doors of the Colony Restaurant at Greentree and Cochran roads. It was dim and quiet, with comfortable upholstered chairs. The menu was simple and elegant. And when the tuxedoed waiter brought the salad, and the tall "tree" of fixings that came with it—the real bacon bits, bleu cheese, green olives and homemade creamy dressings—it was a not-to-be forgotten dining memory.

Memories—preserving them, and creating new ones—are the mission of new owners Ed and Anna Dunlap of Upper St. Clair. With the help of interior designer Amy Storrs, of Longuevue Drive, and architect Kerry Solomon, Rock Springs Road, they've realized their vision for a new, elegant restaurant and piano bar where memories can be created—the Colony Steakhouse and Club Colony, slated to open Labor Day weekend. Club Colony will bring back the restaurant's past tradition of local musicians playing soft jazz in a lounge setting.

The Dunlaps are no strangers to landmark dining spots. Owners of the LeMont on Mt.

Washington, and another LeMont in West Palm Beach, Fla., the couple also owns the rights to the Park Schenley, the elegant Oakland restaurant that served patrons in the 1950s until closing in the '80s. They are on the lookout for the ideal location to reopen that restaurant in the East End, and have just purchased the London Grille at the Galleria.

They will rename it the Red Lion, and hope to reopen it sometime next year, Anna Dunlap said. The Dunlaps bought The Colony from the Steliotes family, who first opened the restaurant in 1958, for around \$1 million, and have put an estimated \$2 million into its renovation, which is being carried out by Ken Schultz's Mt. Lebanon-based Shannon Construction.

The new menu at the Colony will be simple and steak-based like its predecessor, with a few more seafood choices. The Colony's original menu back in 1958 consisted of lobster tail, sirloin steak and filet mignon.

The Colony Steakhouse and Club Colony will be complete by mid-August, says Solomon, with a two-week shakedown period training and arranging staff, and will be ready to open Labor Day weekend. All parking will be done by valet—a welcome touch of service when the cooler weather hits. ■