



Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman



No Half-Way Measures Here

"Here" being at the Half-Way House down there on Pacific Coast Highway by the entrance to the Torrance Airport. Yeah, and it's under new management, too.

The new owners at the Half-Way House, Nick Papas, and Art Maskrey, know their way around and neither one is allergic to hard work, as long as they can see results.

These two have done beautiful things with this store. One very important thing was when they got rid of that coffee counter you used to stumble over every time you entered the Half-Way House. You remember... that thing in the middle of the place. Now, you enter into sort of a foyer that develops into a regular "peacock alley" that has been beautifully paneled and carpeted, the wall directly as you enter being graced with a most unusual nude. Whoever did it has certainly a flair.

The cocktail salon is still located in the same place but has undergone extensive renovations, still leaving the same ample dancing area and with the piano-bar over in the corner where music is furnished

nighly by a single which grows to a duo Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Half-Way House will feature American and Continental cuisine, to be served either in the cocktail lounge or in the spacious dining area at the other end of the building, which has also been re-done from wall to wall, including new lighting plus carpeting. They'll have a seating capacity of 150 persons plus a large banquet room, still further back, and features ample parking.

Chef Bob Brown has gone all out to present an attractive menu for both lunch and dinner, with prices ranging from \$1.25 for a deluxe hamburger to a top price of \$1.85 for a Reuben sandwich from the vast Sandwich Board. And for the dinner menu, there's nothing higher than \$5.45 for the broiled lobster tail. Chef Brownie's been around this area for some

time and is no slouch when it comes to culinary artistry. So don't forget, tomorrow night's the time for the Grand Opening of The Half-Way House and the address is 3103 Pacific Coast Hwy. in Torrance... right by the airport. See you there?

Wandered into the Red Balloon Coffee House on Hawthorne Boulevard in Torrance one day last week and had C & C (that's 'coffee and conversation') with manager Clara Dalhke regarding something new and different she's got going on over there.

It's an Italian Fiesta featuring the Spaghetti bit with their own special meat sauce on an "all-you-can-eat" basis and the whole shot goes off at 99 cents... now how about that! This includes the tossed green salad with Italian dressing plus garlic bread. (Oh come on, kids, don't worry about the aroma! Just take some parsley and it'll take your breath away!) This Eye-talian deal is, of course in addition to the already popular Southern Fried Chicken thing at the same price and is also an all-you-can-eat deal.

It's the Red Balloon who's slogan is "the place you get more for your dining dollar." Just ask Manager Dalhke (she's such a Doll-ke!) if you don't believe us!

Got a new spot for you to try. At least it's new on this page, and it's the Mollere Restaurant in Manhattan Beach.

Here now it's the Continental cuisine and served with fine wines and champagnes. The Mollere is open daily except Sundays; for lunch from 11:30 'til 2 p.m. and gets under way for dinner at 5:30 and serves 'til 10:30 in the evening.

There's ample parking here (in the rear) and is all air-conditioned for your dining comfort these warm summer days. There's also banquet facilities available for that next soiree you're planning, so keep in mind the Mollere Restaurant. Cards from American Express, Diners, and Carte Blanche are accepted here at 1501 Sepulveda. Make it soon, and if you care to make a reservation, just pick up the 'phone and call 374-3446.

Down Wilmington way there's been a 'return by popular demand' thing introduced at the Cove Bowl and all ye sharp rock 'n' roller'll be happy to know that the Juan Brady Trio is now the nightly feature down there at 311 W. Pacific Coast Hwy.,

beginning tomorrow nite, the 11th.

Now just a minute! They're not there every nite... it's to be a Thursday, Friday, Saturday thing for the time being but like tomorrow nite, by way of bringing the Brady Bunch Back, there's to be a Watusi contest for one and all who attend The Cove Bowl on Thursday, Aug. 11.

These three cats play bass, drums and guitar is a highly skilled manner and are featuring a fine little bit of fluff by the name of "Little Egypt" for your further entertainment. Make that scene!

Hop Louie's new and extremely attractive Latitude 20 in Torrance has what is probably one of the most relaxing cocktail areas in the South Bay.

Above the giant bar, providing the indirect lighting you will spot giant turtle shells as shades. And behind the bar, outside amid the tropical plants and waterfalls may be seen the giant mating clam shells. So o'ms everything at Latitude 20 is giant... and that includes the drinks! Ample portions.

Then, where the big bubble used to be when it was tenanted by the Jamaica West, there's a warm and intimate "waiting room" type cocktail lounge, where you may sip your "giant malt" while awaiting your table for a sumptuous repast of excellent Cantonese and Mandarin dishes, served up in the true Oriental style.

You're sure to enjoy yourself when next you visit the Latitude 20, for both food and entertainment.

"Tom and Jerry sing with Gusto!" That's the by-word down at Gus and Chris' beautiful new Harborlight Restaurant in San Pedro.

True, too! 'Ysee, Frank



LEERING LEewardS... Well, almost nearly, not quite hardly! This is the current and very popular group appearing nightly at Sam Failla's San Franciscan Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge on Sepulveda at Crenshaw... The Leewards, whose toe-tapping rhythms and special brand of comedy have again brought them back to this approved dine-outery for an extended engagement in the Torrance area.

Gusto, who has a touch at the keyboard you wouldn't believe, plays there nightly, and Tom and Jerry play the cash register. Most unlikely names for a pair of bartenders, doncha think?

However, Jerry is the possessor of an excellent tenor set of pipes that carry a truly-true pitch. As he sings, he never misses a beat while doing his mixologist act.

Tom, by the same token, swings with Gusto to just about any of Frank's familiar numbers he renders down there nightly. He's seldom

stuck to come up with the right lyric for any tune Frank begins to noodle at the giant piano-bar, even if he has to ad-lib 'em. And he can do that, too!

You've got to visit the Harborlight to really appreciate the fun that does into an evening down there. This Frank Gusto fairly reeks with a genuine friendship and a unique personality. A highly talented Jewish lad. It's fun to get the Harborlight Habit. And don't forget, they've got a swingin' cocktail hour waiting for you down there. Give

Gus or Chris a call and make a reservation. It's 547-2474.

Now then, diagonally across the street from there is The House of Prime and while talking with co-owner-manager "Rip" Van Winkle one nite recently, he mentioned that from here on in, they'll open at 2 in the afternoon and will be closed all day on Mondays.

They're still featuring that

wild Top Sirloin Steak for three and a quarter, and it's a 12 oz. job. That's Tuesday through Sunday.

And as an extra added attraction, little Kittie Paige sings and swings for your listening enjoyment, too. Care to nail down some eating space? Just call "Rip" at TE 2-2334.

Jever hear "Connie" and Benny do their duet bit down at the Tea House? They do indeed have a beautiful blend of voices.

Benny, as you know, is that versatile "string-man" that appears there for Rose and Louis Song several nites a week and Connie's the ever popular, ever-efficient and ever-happy cocktail-type gal there that serves 'em for you at the tables while Ronnie does the stirring at the bar.

Here, too, enjoy fabulous cuisine in the Cantonese manner.



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