

**YOUR CHRISTMAS GUIDE TO FINE DINING**

**Spot Checking**  
Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Whitman

★  
A  
Gay  
Happy  
Holiday  
Season to  
our gay and  
happy advertis-  
ers on the enter-  
tainment and restau-  
rant pages of the Press-  
Herald and the Press-  
Journal as well as the Har-  
bor-Mail so here's to you from  
this side of the typewriter. Like  
for instance, *The Red Balloon*, *Fish-  
erman's Haven* down there on *The  
Pier*, *Indian Village*, *Hunting Horn*, *The  
San Franciscan* and the *San Francisco*,  
*Caesars*, *Galley West*, *House of Prime*, *Kyoto*,  
*Pizza Palace*, the *Plush Horse*, *Red Onion*,  
*Radium Drive-In*, *Roger's*, *Latitude 20*, *The Ma-  
tador*, *The Princess Louise*, *BBQ Pete*, *Le Bistro*,  
*Plush Bunny*, *Plush-Plush*, *The Tea House*, *The Ad-  
miral Risty*, *Jump 'n' Jack*, *The Wayfarer*, *The half-  
way House*, *Louie's Garden*, and anyone else which we  
may inad-  
vertently  
have over-  
looked in  
our mad scramble to  
get things wound  
up in time to  
make last call  
at one of  
the spots.

And whittle you bet the guys in the composing room'll put a chunk of coal in my Christmas stocking this year for THAT! But then, guys, it's all in the spirit of spirits after all! And who'n to deny a bit of frivolity at this time of year!

Speaking of frivolity, there's a lot of it "going around" in the area so hang tough and "leave us enlighten you!" Take a look-see one time at Rose and Louie Song's Tea House Restaurant there on Crenshaw sort of in the Plaza Shopping Center.

It's that entertainer's entertainer, Gail Stoddard playing up a storm these Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nites, much to the delight of not only the regulars but the newbies (and there's a bunch of them!).

Now the Tea House'll be closed on Christmas Day, of course, but Christmas Eve's going all out to make it a real festive occasion for you so be sure and drop by Louie's gotten into the cat and is (or was, because at the present writing (?) it's Sunday afternoon!) decorating *The August Moon* (that's the little cocktail lounge in the rear) complete with a canopy over the piano-bar (or did Rose say "UNDER" the piano bar?!). Anyway, just swing by and take a look yourself.

But here's a soft little aside to you followers... there's to be some sort of a "do-over" these Wednesday nite (hey, that's like tonite!) involving a bunch of GIRLS! They're having some kind of party and it might be a good spot to sort of... get acquainted... could we say?! Anyway, that's the Tea House action!

Soy now, just for a second here, let's take a short trip to Las Vegas and the Hotel Tropicana, to name-drop one! They've got a swingin' thing opening there on the 23rd (that's Dec.) involving stars and specialty acts from 10 different countries to brighten the international attraction of the Folies Bergere Centennial.

Heading the upcoming bill will be the beautiful Baker Twins, song-and-dance greats from England and a selection of Anthony Newley.

Then you've got acrobats. The Herculeans involving six great comics in the field, adagio acts, contortionists, trapeze performers and of course the long-time specialty team of the Tropicana Folies Bergere, Florence and Frederic, dancers from France.

It's a league of nations production at the Tropicana with people like prima donna Nicole Nancel from France, lead NUDE Patricia La Forge from Scotland, Vassili Sulich, lead dancer from Yugoslavia, The Merlin Singers right here from the good old USA...

just to mention a few in this fabulous new production at the Tropicana Hotel

Anyhoo, it's to be quite an extravaganza they're putting on there at the "Trop" for the upcoming holidays so like, if you're planning on being up there soon, make the scene.

And/or... The Riviera where the Christmas gift is to be Debbie Reynolds in the Versailles Room. In fact she opened last nite for a 6-week shot!

Never knew until now that Debbie had "Half-Brothers" but according to the release we received, she's appearing with same. Along with pixieish Miss Reynolds, in addition to the Half Brothers will be Roy Zitzell, Harve Evans and Rudy Render, all directed and produced by Bob Sidney.

An elaborate premiere is in the planning and invitations have been sent to some of the most glittering names in the Southland area. (Hm-m-m, wonder if the Christmas mail rush has held up your glittering invitation!)

But Comic Supreme Shecky Greene (hey, that rhymes!) is still another luminary at The Riviera who's been signed up for a five-week stint in the Starlite Theatre the 28th of this month, so you can see from where you're sitting in that dingy old beer bar in the made-over garage of your house, that they've got a swinger going and waiting for you in Las Vegas at The Riviera with guys like Shecky and Debbie. You CAN'T go wrong! (Wanna bet?)

Back to town now, at Hop Louie's Latitude 20, the Hawaiian Surfers who are doing a land-office business for this popular Torrance spot. Combine this with the "Islands Cuisine" featured at the Latitude 20 and you've got yourself a deal, be it Christmas or mid-summer!

Up the street a short shot you'll run into Jack Roger's Jump 'N' Jack at 2900 Pacific Coast Highway, and Jack is sending Christmas Greetings, not only to his patrons but to just EVERYONE.

He's also featuring a Christmas feast including the turkey with all the trimmings to rtwo ninety-five and will be serving from noon on Christmas Day. Better call for reservations, though... 326-0880.

Just called Clara Dalhke, genial manager-hostess at the Red Balloon on Hawthorne but she was unavailable (probably doing her Christmas shopping!) but knowing

the Red Balloon as we do, it's a fair bet there'll be a swing-in' thing going over there for this holiday.

While we're still in the general neighborhood, let's not forget the Indian Village on Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance.

They've always got something good going down there but keep in mind... they'll be closed on Christmas Day. But don't let that stop you from getting a reservation or two for the "private holiday party" bit. Just call the banquet manager and they'll take it from there.

Now then, leave us not get too far afield! Y'know Dick Burg'll have a thing going for you at his brand new Caesar's at 4111 Pacific Coast Highway although at the present "pecking" we can't say whether it'll be turkey, ham or cheese, but whatever it is, you can bet, it'll be good if Dick Burg puts it together.

In any event, that fine talent from across the seas, Maurice Allen & Trio will be on hand to regale you in their own inimitable style, as only this sharp Londoner can do.

Up on the hill, now, there's always Rogers Restaurant at 27672 Silver Spur Road in Peninsula Center.

It's new and different for either luncheon or dinner... and if you're cocktail-bound... there's the chummy little

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FLAMENCO ENTERTAINMENT  
**Matador**  
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**Longinotti's**  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
Restaurant  
At The Piano Bar  
**JACQUES FOTI**  
Luncheon • Cocktails  
Dinner • Late Supper  
WILSHIRE at 9th  
UP 0-1934  
SANTA MONICA

**Kyoto**  
1608 So. Western Ave., Gardena  
PA. 1-160 and 22-751

**Hollywood Reporter**  
By Mike Connolly's Staff

Dear Sirs: Please tell me the range of the following personalities' singing voices and how their voices rate with people who know music. These are my favorites: Julie Andrews, Andy Williams, Jane Morgan and Gordon MacRae. — J.B. Houston, Texas.

Dear J.B.: Julie is a soprano; Andy, a tenor; Jane an alto; Gordon a baritone. A local voice teacher could tell you how their voices rate, but you have to consider that the voice is coupled with the personality (your word) of the individual. These are extremely likable performers. And why do you care? These are your favorites and you stick with them.

Dear Mailbag: Please help end a family dispute. Whose voice was used for "Francis," the talking mule in the movies with Donald O'Con-

nor? — C.J. Plymouth, Mass.

Dear C.J.: The voice of "Francis" was the actor Chill Wills, whom you might have been watching in TV's "The Rounders."

Dear Sir: Remember the big Texas movie, "Giant,"

job in the rear of the "store" where Doug mixes 'em up real good!

Then there's always one of the owner-hosts on hand to greet and seat you — Tom Burger or Don Rogers, so you won't go un-noticed when you visit Rogers Restaurant.

Whoosh! If you ever run into a guy by the name of Mike Tonnemacher at The Red Onion (he'll be the one with a couple of burritos in his mouth!) and he offers to make you an honorary member of his fraternity... you better remember the name of it 'cause he'll ask you out of a clear blue sky. Keep in mind — it's OMACHRON... that's the middle name — and you better have it!

Mike's visiting his folks in Rolling Hills (and some gal somewhere around — don't know just where or who!) on his Christmas vacation from college in Mansfield, Ohio. (That's the Ohio — capital O-h-hen!)

This's the cat who gets such a craving for Bart Earle's Mexican food from the Red Onion that he writes his folks and they SEND him some via the U.S. Mail! Now how's that grab you! Bart's sure getting exposure! (That's NORTHERN style, son!)

**DRIVE-IN**  
**ROADIUM**  
THEATRE  
December 21-22-23-24  
"DEAD HEAT ON A MERRY-GO-ROUND"  
Plus  
"THE OSCAR"  
December 25-26-27  
"BUTTERFIELD 8"  
Plus  
"LOST COMMAND"  
Swap Meet Wed., Thurs., Sat.  
Sun. 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.  
**DRIVE-IN THEATRE**  
DA 4-2664  
REDONDO BEACH BLVD.  
Between Crenshaw & Van Ness

**Longinotti's**  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
Restaurant  
At The Piano Bar  
**JACQUES FOTI**  
Luncheon • Cocktails  
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WILSHIRE at 9th  
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SANTA MONICA

**Playing Nitely**  
**THE HAWAIIAN SURFERS**  
HOP LOUIE'S  
**LATITUDE 20**  
3901 Pacific Coast Hwy.  
Torrance • 378-8358

**Kyoto**  
1608 So. Western Ave., Gardena  
PA. 1-160 and 22-751

Dear Mom and Dad: Well, Dad, I hope you won't have to do dishes for a week if you lose, but this is Chill Wills' day.

Dear Sirs: Is Bob Denver alive or not? I've heard so many rumors that I can't believe any of them. If he is alive, what is he going to do besides acting in "Gilligan's Island"? — R.L., East Boston.

Dear R.L.: Bob is very much alive and healthy. He's a health food nut as well. He'll work in "Gilligan's" for perhaps another two years, or as long as



Dear Workers and Patrons: The facts are: James Stewart married his wife, Gloria, in 1949. She had two sons by a previous marriage: Ronald, and Michael, who was born in 1945. They also have twin daughters, Kelly and Judy, who are younger.

**SEAFOOD SPECIALTIES**  
LAKE SUPERIOR WHITEFISH  
ALASKA KING CRAB LEGS  
PLANKED SALMON  
For Private Party Rooms for "Between Holiday Parties" Call Banquet Manager for Information  
CLOSED CHRISTMAS

**Smith Bros**  
**INDIAN VILLAGE**  
RESTAURANT  
LUNCHEON - DINNER POW WOW ROOMS - FIREWATER  
Open Daily from 11:30 A.M. Telephone: 378-9363  
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From Jack Rogers & Staff  
To Everyone  
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With All The Fixings  
Served From Noon  
Christmas Day

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For Reservations: 326-0880

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Superb Cantonese Cuisine  
**PLAYING NITELY**  
Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat.  
**GALE STODDARD**  
At The Piano Bar 9 - 1:30  
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY  
Family style dinners from \$1.85

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Fresh Oysters and Clams on the Half Shell  
MANY OTHER SEAFOOD SPECIALTIES  
LUNCH • DINNER  
COCKTAILS  
at Fisherman's Wharf  
FR. 9-1477 Redondo Beach

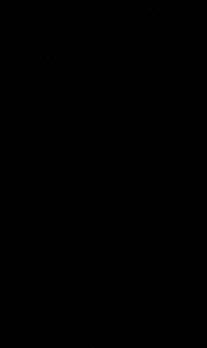
**Pizza Palace**  
FUN ★ FUN ★ FUN  
TORRANCE GARDENA

with ROCK HUDSON and Elizabeth Taylor? We're having an argument about who played the old Texan. My opponent says Burt Ives and I say Chill Wills. — Mr. and Mrs. A.J.M. Austin, Texas.

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the series lasts. Eventually, he'll try for films. Why not write him your vote of confidence?

Dear Mailbag: In the Beauty Salon where I work, the argument concerns whether James Stewart has a grown son. Does he have a grown family of 20 years and up? Fifteen people from here are going to watch for your answer. Please — The Tessie Beauty Salon and patrons, Fort Worth, Texas.

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Torrance  
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