

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman



The Business of Tipping

And you better believe, this IS big business, so it might be wise if you knew just what you're doing when you get around to the gratuity department.

Received a letter last week from a young lady in the Torrance area inquiring about this exact thing, so thought it might make a good lead this week, as others may also be in a quandary as to just what the proper amount is to tip.

In the first place, as you probably know, the word "tip" means "to insure promptness," but it's gotten away from that in recent years.

Vivian DeWeese asked specifically about the proper percentage to tip a waiter, waitress, etc. Well, as we told her, you're always safe when you go the 15 per cent route, although this doesn't necessarily have to be cut and dried. The object from this department when it comes to tipping is more or less as a means of saying thank you for the service. HOWEVER, should the service be lousy... then forget it! At least that's how we feel about it. It hasn't happened too often but there have been occasions when a waiter or waitress has been "stuffed" by us if the service wasn't up to snuff! Don't believe in tipping just for the status it might bring you!

Regarding the tipping of a parking attendant, this depends on many factors. The size of the lot, how far the attendant had to chase to get your car, also the weather. Twenty-five to 50 cents is usually accepted. And you give the tip when they return your car, not when they take it away! Whether it be one attendant or five!

On the question of room service tipping, as was Miss DeWeese's question, or at least one of them, the 15 per cent should prevail here, too, just as table service. In the case of room service, you should tip them, but for table service, we usually wait 'til we're ready to leave and take care of the gratuity when we pay the tab.

When it comes to taxi drivers, as we explained to the Torrance lady, we generally keep that in round figures, depending on the length of the haul, the weather, the SERVICE, etc. Also what the meter reads. In some instances two bits is sufficient and in other cases maybe half a dollar. (Although if you tip less than a buck in Las Vegas you get glared at!)

The accepted tip to a red cap at an air terminal or hotel is 25 cents per piece of luggage. Four pieces and you've blown a buck, and so on.

So that about covers it and hope any other of you pleasure-bent folks will find it helpful. Will be glad to help if you have any questions on the subject.

Yes, sir, the Christmas season is upon us and that means it's Los Posadas time at La Ronda.

Ben Cruz has a beautiful spot there on Robertson Blvd. in Beverly Hills and at this time of year it's even more beautiful, what with the gaily decorated walls and ceilings in preparation for the Mexican celebration that started last Saturday night and will continue on through Dec. 24. And the kids will knock the stuffing out of the Pinata and gather in the goodies for some Christmas cheer.



DENNY AT THE "TWENNY"... The ever popular entertainer Martin Denny is currently regaling patrons of Hop Louie's Latitude 20 every night but Monday.

The walls of La Ronda are done in red tapestry and the floors are covered in deep red carpeting. Red and white chandeliers offer just the right contrast needed in the big, comfortable restaurant. The cocktail lounge sports one of the most lavish, hand-carved back bars we've ever seen and they whip up Margaritas by the pitcher full.

And when you order a drink at the bar you don't need to go the "call" route 'cause what they pour is excellent fare. Such as Old Crow bourbon, Pete Dawson Scotch, Gilby gin and Popov vodka, so how high off the hog do you want to go!

It's a Mariachi Fiesta every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday night at La Ronda while the rest of the week it's your singing host, Ben Cruz, accompanied by Eugene and Armando Corral. They also boast the largest and most intricately carved Marimba at La Ronda and do you know how one of those things are tuned? Well, unlike any other instrument, they must carve and hack away on those wooden doodads they strike in order to get just the right tonal quality. Quite an instrument.

Suggest you call Ben at 652-0774 and nail down a reservation some time in the next couple of days and have a ball during Las Posadas.

Here's another goodie coming your way Dec. 21, 22, and 23. It's the San Francisco Ballet premiere of their new production of "Nutmcracker" danced to the music of Tchaikovsky and it's to be presented at the Shrine Auditorium.

By special arrangements with the New York City Ballet, Melissa Hayden, Jacques D'Amboise, and Conrad Ludlow will appear with the company for five performances, three evenings and two matinees.

Melissa Hayden is one of America's first dancers, having gained distinction with



TOOTH PASTE... These two guys, members of the Johnny Hoover Trio, aren't really the "tooth paste" type regardless of the picture, but they ARE great entertainers! They're appearing nightly at Sam Falla's San Franciscan in Torrance.

nounced many new innovations due for this Torrance hostelry, including dinner in the elegant Champagne Room at prices as low as \$2.95, which includes a serving of the sparkling bubbly.

This room has been renamed in honor of Lawrence Welk and plans are under way, according to Miss Bernay, to fete the famous bandleader in the near future.

Still another innovation is a Captain's Table for men and women executives at both luncheon and dinner. Executives, dining alone, may be seated at the exclusive table to enjoy the conversation and company of other business leaders of the community, if they choose.

Congressman Alphonso Bell incidentally is to be hosted at the Ramada Inn this coming Monday at a community-wide open reception to which you, Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public, are cordially invited.

Here's something more on "Fashions." It's the Holiday Fashions of Inglewood and they are furnishing fashions and models for upcoming shows in our various dining establishments, including one at the Ramada Inn on Dec. 13 at 9620 Airport Blvd.

Holiday Inn presents one on the 12th, The Cavalier on West Manchester will have one on the 14th, while Dec. 15th has been set aside for a presentation at the Bar of Melody on South Sepulveda.

Participating as model coordinator at all the shows being presented during the holiday season will be combination model and owner of Holiday Fashions, Margie Carlson, and as Miss Carlson puts it, "the shows are for the convenience of those wishing to make their holiday gift purchases—clothing at a reasonable price."

Oops! Hold it! As you may or may not know, this Saturday is the scheduled date for the arrival of the Queen Mary in Long Beach. Well, according to a recently received release, its royal neighbor on Terminal Island, the S. S. Princess Louise, will be fully staffed in anticipation of a large number of diners on hand to welcome the Queen.

The Princess will be open daily at 11 in the ayem to serve luncheon, dinner, and

cocktails as well as host a number of private parties in its new Captain's Ballroom, the largest floating ballroom in America.

The Formula IV, starring Cari Scot, will be on hand for dancing and listening from 9 in the evening every night except Sunday with no cover—no minimum policy.

The Captain's Ballroom, a 4,000-foot segment which took nearly a year to construct at a cost of almost \$100,000, held its opening last Friday night, December 1. It has its own private gangway entrance, wall-to-wall plush red carpeting, and individual wood paneled bar, crystal wall fixtures, and a series of picture windows overlooking the harbor. Quite a sizeable and elegant spot.

So guess you know by this time that Martin Denny is back at the Latitude 20. He's now appearing with a completely all-new show at Hop Louie's fine spot over there on Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance.

Always popular at Latitude 20, Martin Denny has spellbound audiences at Las Vegas, a submarine crew under the North Pole, college students from Texas to Indiana, a former president of the United States, and a host of motion picture people vacation-

ing in Hawaii. All members of the Martin Denny Fan Club.

This musician runs the gamut when it comes to music. Concert type, pop, jazz, Afro-Cuban, bossa nova, and naturally the type that brought him such fame. The kind audiences demand at Latitude 20—Hawaiian!

Keep in mind, Hop Louie has no cover charge or even a minimum charge at his spacious dining and pleasure shop. It's Mandarin, Canton-

ese, and American cuisine at the Latitude 20. And the ample drinks at the equally ample bar run all the way from the lowly bourbon and water to the most exotic of tropical cocktails.

Reservations may be made for private parties and luau for the holiday season in the heated tropical patio. Monday nite is their only dark nite.

Met with Bob Lydon of the (Continued on C-15)

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