

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

Jet Room Has Real Swinger

Had the distinct privilege and pleasure last Thursday nite of witnessing opening nite for Ruthie Thomas at The Jet Room Lounge on La Cienega near Centinela and to merely say this is entertainment would be putting it mildly.

Not having been exposed to this young lady prior to last week, didn't know exactly what to expect so was beautifully surprised when this wonderful and talented personality took over the huge piano bar at the Jet Room.

Not only does this gal thoroughly regale the existing audience from the neighborhood and it's environs, but she brings along with her, her own cheering section which consists of numerous fans that seem to follow her from place to place, irrespective of what spot she's playing or in which section of town.

Understandable, too, this following. Miss Thomas "goes with the crowd" so to speak, accommodating all with their many requests. Working with the traveling "mike" up and down the piano bar, she watches as each individual takes the mike and if he or she doesn't happen to know the full lyric, Ruthie mouths the words for them to sing.

Following a couple of "bites of the grape," guess we are all guilty of being in love with the sound of our own voices but Ruthie seems to instill great confidence in her people and they sing their lungs out, be it bad or good. This, too, doesn't matter. The important thing is that you're having a good time and Ruthie Thomas is on hand to help things along.

Another thing that Miss Thomas does to a fare ye well and that is she makes use of that fabulous "side-man" that Nick had installed at his bar which gives the piano a "bigger sound" somehow.

So next time you're pleasure-bent, keep in mind the fine entertainment value awaiting you at the Jet Room Lounge. You'll have a ball, whether you sing yourself or just sit back and listen to the voice and pianoing of Ruthie Thomas.

Tsk, tsk, tsk! This shame, tis shame, tis pity, tis shame! After eight faithful years of devoted service a guy has to suffer the ignominious sensation of being completely ignored by such as we!

But this is exactly what happened in the case of one Eddie Avakian, day man and bar-manager for Tom and Lois Whalley's King's X Restaurant. But would you like to know the truth? Well we did it on purpose! So you see, Eddie, it wasn't an oversight at all. Just wanted to hear you beef, squawk, and caterwaul.

But seriously, here indeed, is a true artist of his craft. One seldom sees Eddie lose patience with his customers (and in his business there ARE a great many 'patients'),



NOT SO NEW, TOO . . . The New Two are definitely not so new to the Torrance audiences, having played these parts for some time. Matter of fact, this is their "second offense" at The Zebra Room on Hawthorne Blvd. They played here about 18 months ago and met with such great response owner Jerry Babbich has brought them back with their big trio sound even tho they are only a duo. Hear 'em!

always giving of himself to the fullest and with his own innate good nature. This is sometimes quite a trick in these trying times!

Eddie Avakian is probably one of the oldest (in time employed) members of the staff at King's X and for the past eight years has carried out his duties with the dispatch and alacrity that only an Avakian can do, according to owner-host and hostess, Tom and Lois.

So you see, Eddie, we were saving this spot so you'd have an exclusive! Okay? But it's not only Eddie for which the King's X is known. The food, also speaks for itself as does the entertainment over there nite. It's still Sue Stevens and The Hi-Hats pleasing the customers at 6853 La Tijera.

That's an outstanding group they've got at the Pen and Quill Restaurant in Manhattan Beach. It's The Dave Howard Trio and a most capable group they are, too.

Dave is drummer-leader of the trio and also does vocals who has quite a background in the recording field as well as nite-club, having appeared with such luminaries as Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton and Louis Armstrong.

His pianist-vocalist is Dub Frazier who also triples on a

trumpet. Then rounding out the trio it's bassist-trumpeter John Duke. Not only is this group danceable but listenable as well and appear Tuesday through Saturday at the Pen and Quill Restaurant for your enjoyment.

Sa-a-a-y, now the average layman may think there's nothing to it to become an accomplished bar tender but don't you believe it. Takes long years of practice and know-how to achieve this fine art. Y'know you don't just wake up in the morning and you're a bar tender!

And there are degrees of bar tenders, too. Take the American Society of Bar Masters, for example. You must truly know your business to be included in this august group.

Coming up here April 24 there's to be the annual Early Times Mixed Drink Competition at the Beverly Hills Hotel wherein all Bar Masters the country over are eligible to compete with many attractive prizes for the top connections selected at the finals.

Regular day man and bar manager Angus Anguerossa at Warren Ward's Raffles Restaurant in Leimert Park was discussing this one nite recently while we were in for a sip 'n' sup. To give you a



IMPROMPTU SONGFEST . . . Strains of Hawaiian melodies filled the Torrance City Council Chambers last week through the courtesy of Hop Louie (left) and Minnie Woo, proprietors of the Latitude 20 Restaurant. Shown with Hop Louie are Mayor Albert Isen, (right), and Ernie Menehune, the "Hawaiian Sun-tan Irishman." The miniature concert was held in honor of Supervisor Burton W. Chace, who was commended at the meeting for his leadership. Mayor Isen proclaimed Feb. 14 as "Torrance Likes Chace" day, announcing that Supervisor and Mrs. Chace will be honored that afternoon with a reception at Latitude 20 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. (Press-Herald Photo)

rough idea of just how comparative these affairs are, Angus, himself a Bar Master for some years and one of the originators of the California Bar Tenders Guild, was outlining some of the coveted prizes to be awarded.

For instance, the winner for top honors will receive a week's all-expense paid trip for two in Nassau, PLUS, 500 bucks in cash! Then the follow-up prizes range from color TV sets to portable radios and stereos. In addition, all 75 regional winners will receive a set of custom-made Bar Master Glasses, the official glass of the Mixed Drink Competition.

This should develop into quite an exciting evening and during our sojourn at The Raffles Restaurant we had a sample of Angus' entry and from what we tasted, he oughta be a winner! Angus wouldn't divulge the name of his entry nor would he hint at what was in it but you can

take it from this corner, it was delicious.

If Angus should win, though, don't know just how owner Warren Ward and manager Julius Jackson will get along at The Raffles without him for a week but expect likely nite man Myron could handle things for the occasion.

Now lookit—just can't tell exactly if there's any difference between "battered spaghetti" and just plain old spaghetti but you've got to admit it sure SOUNDS a whole lot more exciting!

Well this's the fare Bob Mummy's offering over there, in Gardena at his Wray's Restaurant. And it's an "all you can eat" thing, too! Comes betcha!

with Italian meat sauce, that good grated Parmesan cheese and toasted garlic bread. And all for the handsome sum of ninety-nine cents. Ample portions, too, so if you really feel like seconds and thirds, "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din!"

This is a Wednesday and Thursday special, by the way from five in the afternoon 'til nine in the evening.

They've always got some kind of special waiting for you at Wray's. Like for instance that Tuesday special of roast prime rib of beef with a choice of soup, salad or juice at a dollar eighty-nine, in Gardena at his Wray's Restaurant. And it's an "all you can eat" quality, quantity or price, can eat" thing, too! Comes betcha!

Sam Failla's back in there swingin' with both feet again on those daily specials. It's the choice prime rib of beef or top sirloin steak, all beautifully charbroiled for a buck ninety-five. Oh of course there'er other items on the menu! What do you think The San Francisco Restaurant is a hot dog stand?! There's fillet mignons, New York cuts, all those kind of goodies plus that soup that Chef "FCC" Frank whips up (different every day) can't be beat, hardly.

Meanwhile, it's the Al Apodaca Trio taking over the stand there nites for your listening enjoyment, Tuesday through Sunday. Al also swings with the flute as well as takes over on the vocals.

Bud Peters (that 'E' is a private joke!) dropped by the office one day last week and was saying that since you've all been bugging him and

Mary to extend those Swap Meets on the parking lot of their Roadium Drive-In Theatre, they finally dood it!

You may now drop on by there on Friday as well as Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. So how's that grab you! Buy, sell, trade, swap! (hey, doesn't that mean the same thing, come to think of it?) Now of course all this happens during the daylight hours, y'know.

Then when you finish with your horse-trading or whatever it is you're trading, hang around and take in the movie. This week it's the Presley lad in "Clambake" along with "Way . . . Way Out" with Jerry Lewis. This one's way, way out in anything!

The Sunday through Tuesday bit for next week'll be "Those Magnificent Men etc., etc., etc. . . ." with the companion offering of "Wild on the Beach." Have a ball, y'all!

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