

# Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Whitman



## Entertainers Follow Entertainers

This is true just as success follows success and money follows money, and hackneyed though it may be, it seems to ring true in every walk of life and even more so in the entertainment field.

Let's take for example that Miss Ruthie Thomas who is currently making such a spectacular hit at the Jet Room Lounge on La Cienega at Centinela.

This gal has a greater following than the Pied Piper of Hamelin and that isn't to say she attracts rats. Her following is of the real people-like type and it seems wherever she appears, she "packs 'em in," to borrow an old cliché.

But this is the truth in Ruthie's case. Since she opened at the Jet Room a few weeks ago, they've been enjoying SRO business every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, much to the delight of owner-host Nick Cicciardi. There's only one thing Nick likes more than the sound of Ruthie at the gigantic piano-bar and that's the sound of the cash register ringing. And it is ringing these nites!

A real swinger, is this Ruthie Thomas and with a beautiful knack for handling people who are out on the town and are pleasure-bent. She'll almost defy you to not have a good time when you move into her circle at the piano-bar. You're highly entertained in spite of yourself: You may be a grouch when you go in but after a few hours of this kind of talented entertaining you emerge a happy and wiser guy—or gal—whichever the case may be.

With Proprietario Bill Fremont officiating in the front and Jefe De Cocina Luigi Giorchino overseeing things in the kitchen, The Matador Restaurant in West L.A. finally got their new Del Prado Room opened last Wednesday nite.

The feature of the opening was a grand Spanish gourmet dinner that started with Caracoles a la Criolla (that's snails, friend!) followed by Gazpacho, (Vichyssoise, to all you French cuisine buffs) Migonettes de la Casa which are small filet mignons, the whole ball of wax and including a different wine with each course. Truly a gourmet's delight from start to finish.

Bill came up with the name Del Prado after the famous Museo del Prado of Madrid, retaining all the original charm and warmth. It's not only designed to take care of the traditional

Matador overflow on their busier nites but it will also serve as a cozy and comfortable room for small private parties of 15 to 50 persons.

Hey, y'got any bad habits? Tsk, tsk, tsk, such a question! Don't we all? Like chewing gum, carrying matches in your pockets and things like that.

Well Pete and Anne Petroff are dispensers of habits but if you read their advertising real closely you'll notice they talk about BBQ Pete being habit-forming and this is a good habit to acquire.

They present some goodies, dainties and delicacies to offer you, over there at the BBQ Pete Restaurant on Hawthorne Boulevard in Inglewood if you'd but avail yourself of their ample menu of "barbecued stuff" like ribs, chicken or shortribs. And while you're at it, order some of their tacos. Excellent!

Always lots of parking available at BBQ Pete and usually seating space is available but just to be on the safe side for the latter, perhaps you should give 'em a call at 678-9957 and nail down some eating space so you won't be disappointed.

In the event you haven't dined high on the hog, so to speak lately, by all means don't overlook The Marquis Restaurant on the Sunset Strip.

And if you're planning a meeting or any kind of a prestige banquet in the near future, you might keep in mind the facilities they'll provide for you at 8240 Sunset Strip. They're equipped to handle large or small groups, whichever the case and furnish a private bar.

To be sure, we all hear both pro and con when it comes to good places to dine out. This is understandable 'cause we all are prone to have our favorites, especially in a town the size of Los Angeles but we got to discussing good spots to dine one nite last week and the subject of Abalone came up.

Well one mentioned this spotspot and so on like that, then the name King's X Restaurant came up. Now bear in mind, this whole conversation took place in the South

Bay area and the King's X is located at 6853 La Tijera right there near Centinela.

So it turned out to be unanimous that the Abalone at this spot was of the finest. Ever tried it? By all means, do!

They're open every day for lunch and dinner, ten in the ayem 'til two in the peyem and it's not only food that's excellent at the King's X.

Entertainment is still another feature at Tom and Lois Whalley's friendly spot up there on the hill. Currently it's lovely and talented singer Sue Stevens co-featured with The Hi-Hats and their hilarious antics at the piano bar nite. Don't miss this spot!

Took a short swing down to the Galley West Restaurant on the tip of Palos Verdes Peninsula one nite last week for a listen and look in on The Wilder Brothers "and Girl" but couldn't find anything wrong with them—still! They're pure entertainment, this group!

When Linda Wright, the only female of the group, cuts out with her rendition of "Sonny" the show stops as does everyone in the house.

It's quite amazing to notice how this lovely little gal can get up and do serious stuff with all the antics The Wild Ones go through but nothing seems to throw her. She just hangs in there and boils it through. Why even genial manager maitre'd Steve Lee stops whatever he's doing and lends an ear when she pulls out the stops. 'Tis a sight and sound to behold.

And when Walt, Warner and George put their respective heads together for some close harmony, you'll go a long way to hear anything better.

While there, guitar man Johnny Zoro took a lick by himself and wrung out some really fine sounds with the tune "Apache." Kind of way out in a sense but not too far. This one seems to know just where is the happy medium.



THE SPOILERS... But "these ain't them!" These are The Smilers and if you don't believe it, just take a closer look at the faces of the De Fuentes Brothers as they appear above and as they appear nite at Rose and Louis Song's Tea House Restaurant in Torrance. A most versatile group of guys.

Sheer enjoyment to listen to Zoro.

Now there are comics and then there are comics but Allen has his own brand of that kind of stuff with a high-pitched voice. (Bet it's put on, at that!) But he gets his lines across, anyway. And most of his remarks seem to come right off the cuff of his head: Allen does a funny bit all during the set and when he makes with "the window - washing" t h i n g. That's GOT to be the cleanest window in the South Bay Area. Only trouble, Allen doesn't spread out with this talent. Just wipes the spot in back of him and his drums.

Speaking of drums, it's been a long time since you've seen a whole mess or drums piled up on a stand, betcha! Believe in the old days this was called "trap drums." That seems to be the name that comes back, at least. Well, whatever the name, this Allen lad does a masterful job with his particular talent back of those skins.

Acts may come and acts may go but one'll go far to beat the entertainment the Wilders put out when they combine the whole band into sounds from "the swingin' years" with the big band

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So it's a one-nite stand for Jerry Wallace, on Thursday with two separate shows. One at 10:30 and another at 12:30. Incidentally, everything is to be set up on a first-come, first-served basis. In other words — no reservations! So if you want to catch this artist, get there the firstest with the mostest.

How do you like that? Got a call from Bob Mumey at Wray's Restaurant this morning (Monday) and Bob says some lady called last week and wanted to know "what happened" to the chilled green salad on his last week special — that's the spaghetti — all you can eat!

So we checked the ad and sure enough, it had been inadvertently omitted. How? Who knows! Those things can happen, y'know. At any rate, the salad is still on for that Wednesday-Thursday deal, only now it's been set back from 5 p.m. to 3 p.m. 'til 9. See? That's a better break for you, the consumer!

When you go by Wray's, don't forget, they make their own onion rings right there at the restaurant. Oh, and also, if you haven't wrapped yourself around one of their hot fudge sundaes with real

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Acquainted with Los Nortenos from Mexico City? Well, this is the group you'll meet — or that'll meet you when next you visit The Tea House Restaurant.

The "De Fuentes Brothers" is one of the most linguistic groups to come into our area in some time wherein they include vocal styling in Italian, French, Spanish and, of course, English.

All this comes under the head of versatile, which we mentioned last week in regards to this group 'cause De

Fuentes Brothers'll put you away with their solos and group harmony numbers.

Now it's not strictly vocals, you must remember—so bear in mind there are also such things in the outfit as three (3) guitars, fender bass, drums, piano, bongos and a whole flock of other percussion instruments that produce the sounds that'll emanate from "Rose and Louis Song's Tea House Restaurant."

They've got a whole bunch of credits to them, De Fuentes Bros., including movies, TV, nite club, and ectetra so don't pass up this chance for good entertainment at The Tea House.

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