

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman



New Group in Trophy Lounge

At least it's new to the International Hotel's Trophy Lounge and a swingin' little combo it is, too.

Known as the New Dimensions they feature Carl Hunter's rhythmic set of drums, the altogether great piano sounds of Dave Jones, the exciting bass thumping of Denis Miner, and rounding out the group it's vocalist Claudia Soelberg whom the boys like to refer to as The Fourth Dimension.

They're appearing nightly in the attractive nite spot for your entertainment and dancing. Very toe-tappy!

Had a short line from owner-host of the Raifles Restaurant and the Thistle

Inn restaurant, Warren Ward one day last week.

Warren was outlining some of the problems he's encountered with his new deal at the Thistle Inn—those Louisiana River Road Dinners—and it seems the whole idea is highly successful.

One of the problems was that these Sunday diners insisted on one other item on the menu and that was Louisiana Grenovilles Sautes. So Warren has added this entrée to the already ample bill of fare. Incidentally, in case you didn't know, that's Frog Legs and goes off at a mere three ninety-five.

The entire menu is most exciting on this Sunday Only

special with nothing going higher than \$4.95 and with all manner of good things to whet your appetite in the way of cocktails and appetizers.

Then you can top the whole meal off with some of the exotic after dinner drinks like Pousse Cafe or Anisette Frappe or Calypso Cafe or just about anything your little heart desires. Truly an interesting and most satisfying way to spend a quiet Sunday.

Swung by Tom Whalley's King's X one nite last week and listened to the new group he's got in there.

It's a trio known as Richard Vale and The Gems, a completely electronic group that can turn out any kind of music that appeals to your ears. Or your mood, for that matter.

The Gems opened over there on La Tijera at Centinela about a week ago and are already being hailed as one of the better groups to hit the King's X or any other spot for some time.

That, of course is not to take away from the group that just closed there a couple of weeks ago, but after all, as everyone knows, groups must be changed every once in a while as they're prone to go stale as is the audience. That's show biz, like the fella said!

Then, of course, to add to your enjoyment while visiting the King's X you still have bar-manager-tender Eddie in the day time and nite man Vince, along with "swinger" Ramon.

Well, they're all doing it so why should comic Jan Murray be any different! He showed up for his triumphant return to the Riviera Hotel's Starlite Theatre over the big 4th holiday, resplendent in a powder blue Nehru outfit, gold medallion and all and did 15 minutes of solid boffus. And what was the object of his 15 minute onslaught? Why on the violent switch in men's attire, that's what.

Among some of the well-knowns of showdom to cheer Murray on were Tony Bennett, Don Rickles, Pat Henry, Hanna Aroni, and John Weissmiller, to name a few of the sparkling audience.

Jan'll be there through July 30 in case you want to make plans. After that it'll be Shecky Greene and Earl Wilson Jr.

And of course in the Versailles Room it's Ed Ames, doing SRO business for a four-week stand. There's al-

ways something doing at The Riviera.

You may think of The Matador Restaurant as being strictly Spanish and true, it is noted mostly for this cuisine but owner-host Bill Fremont likes to brag a bit on his fine steaks, all eastern prime grade beef. Bill himself is a native of Argentina which is noted for its fine cattle is an authority on the grading of beef so "don esk!"

And the prices here should delight you as should the flavor. They range from the Matador special eight-ounce top sirloin at \$2.95, through the New York at \$5.85, to the choice and delicious filet Mignon at one dime more. Then in the middle there you'll also find the top sirloin for four ninety-five. Each comes with the full course dinner bit.

But while we're on the subject of fine dining, you

know there's nothing that'll enhance a dinner more than to start things off with some appetizer.

Well Bill has a couple that shouldn't be passed up. One is Camarones Diablo at one seventy-five and another is Caracoles ala Criolla for ten cents additional.

The Diablo is shrimp sauteed in fresh tomatoes, garlic (just enough—not so as to make you a social pariah), and dry sauterie.

The Caracoles ala Criolla are a half dozen imported Spanish snails sauteed in sherry and spiced with ham and chorizos... and deeeelicious!

If so desired, the foregoing may be ordered as the main entree for the dinner.

That's quite a do they've got going over there at the Indian Village on Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance these days.



MIKEROYMETER... But Mike Roy doesn't need any meter to adjudge the picture shown above with owner-host of The Matador Restaurant Bill Fremont any more than he needs a meter to judge the quality of the cuisine at the famed Spanish dinner house. The title of the painting? "Gossiping Women" is the title. Mike as you know is the well known cooking expert. On TV, at least!

It's called "The Daily Pow-Wows" and it swings! But why shouldn't it with Bill Bailey entertaining there in the Firewater Lounge from four 'til eight.

Something else that might attract you and your purse is the double-sized libations available. Waddya say we meet there one nite soon! Also, should you have any questions bothering you regarding the Dodgers or the Angels, there's a couple learned gents tending bar at the Indian Village that can probably clear anything up that may be bothering you. Just put your questions to John or Dave and let 'em run them up the flag pole one time.

"Wouldn'tchu" like to receive a reward for something? Well now you can! That is provided you're an early diner. By early we mean to say from 5 'til 8:30 daily.

At Ray Oliphant's Wooden Shoe Restaurant on Carson and Normandie and here's your reward, you lucky people!

On the complete dinners including soup or salad you get a steak dinner for one fifty-five, for a dime less it's roast beef, then scaling down still another dime you get the baked chicken and then on the daily dinner specials which entails a different entree every evening it's one-twenty. All this and the kids get away for six-bits. So how's that grab you!

This is the final week for The King's IV at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 and then, coming up on Tuesday, July 23, it'll be The Buddy Fo Show which should be a gas.

Buddy Fo, as you know, has often been likened to a man with somewhat the same sounding name—Don Ho—both quite big in the Islands.

And according to KMPC's Ira Cook this guy is 'way up there. "Simply great—Don't miss it!" So says Ira, and if you happen to be a KMPC buff you know that Cook is a strong booster for the Islands.



TOP NEW DIMENSIONS... Top in more ways than one are the New Dimensions as they get in a little rehearsal time atop the International Hotel. Appearing nightly in the Trophy Lounge are (left to right) Dave Jones, Denis Miner, Claudia Soelberg, and Carl Hunter.

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