

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman



Love's Labor (day) Lost

Yep, it's lost by now. Long gone and very possibly Labor Day can be the slowest season of the year in the restaurant business, forming as it does, a three-day weekend and everyone is saving his pennies for the week previous for one last final fling at old summertime. Then it probably takes them a week after to recoup before venturing out "among 'em" again.

There's one exception, however, and that is the happening at the 187th Birthday Fiesta all this week at the Port of Los Angeles where the 6,000-ton floating restaurant is moored at Terminal Island, the S.S. Princess Louise.

Climax to the citywide festivities will be "Happiness Is a Parade" which will begin at 10 o'clock Saturday morning on the 7th, originating at 12th Street and Pacific Avenue and wind up on the Main Channel of the Port of Los Angeles.

This event will consist of elaborately decorated floats, animated displays, international beauty queens, bands, clowns, fun, and glitter and glamour galore.

But to the fact that the block-long, seven-deck high Princess Louise can't make the turns at the corners of the parade route, she'll not be an actual float in the parade, but then, she's "a float" 12 months a year in her majestic dockside setting and will participate by offering stem-to-stern open-house tours to the public. No, it won't be necessary to purchase a dinner or even a wee libation. But what else is new! Owner Jerry Suttton always welcomes anyone aboard just for a look-around-see.

However, should you decide on making The Princess your dinner stop, you're certain not to be disappointed. The food, service, drinks and nautical decor is supreme, and is open seven days a week for tours, lunch, dinner, banquets, shopping and entertainment from 11 in the ayem.

In our rundown a couple weeks ago we completely overlooked two of the lovelies aboard the Princess Louise and it was certainly not intentional as they are two of our favorites.

But blondekin Karen, to whom every eye is turned as she sashayes down the deck or gangway, it's a true winner. That's not all! She sings, too.

And her brunette counterpart, Laura, of medium height is one of the real sharpies in those boots of hers. And her avocation? Well she likes dancing. Maybe these two should form a partnership and do a sister act.

So anyway, don't forget

the "happening" down there all this week. And you shutterbug buffs can have a field day as all those lovely hostess will be ready to pose any time you aim your camera at them during the Fiesta. (Say, come to think of it, why not call those dolls "Princesses" since they're aboard the Princess Louise, instead of hostesses? That's okay, Jack Black, you can have that suggestion for free.)

Stopped by Love's Wood-pit Barbecue Restaurant in Gardena for lunch the other noon and looking over the side orders available there makes the mouth water. Why a guy could make a meal on those alone!

Good stuff like sourdough garlic bread, all baked by Love's at 55 cents an order. Or, if you don't feel like a whole order, you can get a half for 30 cents. But watch that! Count up and you'll see it's a nicker cheaper to get the big one. Right?

Then there's those golden brown onion rings at half a dollar, barbecued beans for 35 cents, coleslaw salad, crisp and cool at the same price, French fried potatoes or a baked potato, and still at 35 cents a copy.

Truly a delightful adventure, dining or lunching at Love's Barbecue Restaurant.

The Del Prado Room of the Matador Restaurant on West Pico was the locale the other nite for recently decorated Marine Captain Jack Simmons when he was feted to a dinner by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hughes of Westwood.

The captain is winner of the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in Vietnam.

This beautiful Del Prado Room has been the setting for many such dinner parties, according to owner-host Bill Fremont.

Well now, that new dinner menu being offered at the Torrance Ramanda Inn is really something. One of the finest offered diners in Southern California and with such mouth-watering goodies—you wouldn't believe.

Roll some of these over your tongue and pallet: BBQ spare ribs for three dollars, Long Island duckling a'orange for 50 cent more, fillet of sole a la Madrid stuffed with shrimp and crab at three and a quarter, or how about beef Stroganoff with fresh mushrooms and rice plaff at the same ridiculous price. A most delicious menu, both for food as well as price.

It's a seven-day-a-week operation the Torrance Ramanda Inn for luncheon or dinner, and then of course, the coffee shop opens

daily for breakfast at 6 o'clock in the morning. Should you wish to phone for reservations, call 378-8511.

Lots of water has passed over the dam since the first time we met the upcoming attraction at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 on Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance.

About a thousand years ago we caught Poncie Ponce's act at the old Gondolier on Prairie Avenue at Imperial and at that time he couldn't have been in show biz too long 'cause he was only a kid then—but he's sure gone a long way since.

And a very clever guy he is, too. Most people remember Poncie from his stint as Kim on the now defunct Hawaiian Eye series on TV when he portrayed the jazz-talking cab driver. What many do not know is that Poncie is quite an all-round entertainer with a beautiful singing voice. And his impersonations are awesome.

Poncie Ponce's progressed long way since those early days, having played at such notable spots as Sparks Nugget Casino in Nevada, the Shamrock-Hilton in Houston, Palmer House in Chicago as well as guest spots here and there with people like Red Skelton, Mike Douglas, etc., and recently completed a film for MGM with Elvis Presley.

Hop Louie should have a winner here and no doubt about it. He opens Tuesday, Sept. 10, following Buddy Fo's closing on Sunday the 8th.

We-e-e, it's a birthday party thing at Shipwreck Joey's in Wilmington Wednesday, Sept. 11, and here's a goodie for you guys and gals who happen to be either Virgos or Libras 'cause on that nite you're to be a special guest! Now what d'ya think that means?

Just why like, Ruth, and Joey selected those two signs of the zodiac is hard to tell unless it's just due to the fact that those signs are along in here somewhere.



GIANT . . . And though Poncie Ponce is not a big man in stature, in the world of entertainment he is a giant. Poncie opens Tuesday nite, Sept. 10, at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 on Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance.

Anyway, Carl Cody and his Western swing music'll be on hand for your dancing and listening pleasure so don't miss it.

Then Shipwreck Joey's announcing still another nite of the best in the County-Western music. Now it's going to be going for five nites a week—Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday — and there's never a cover charge.

They've got a thing lined up for you bull fight buffs from the Red Onion on Sept. 15 in case you don't know it!

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Incidentally, don't know who it was that made the remark up at the Red Onion on The Hills the other nite when Bart Earle held his fifth anniversary party but for anyone who's ever been to certain sections of Mexico, it's a very funny line. He said, "Wow! This Red Onion food looks and tastes so authentic I'm afraid to trust the water!"

And hey, speaking of bull fights and such, maybe you will believe Sam Falla when he tells you it'll be a swing-in' time.

The San Franciscan Restaurant pitched one of those things couple of week back and according to all reports a grand time was had by all. A very full day, so to speak!

And that's a swinging group Sam has at his popular Torrance emporium — The Playmates. Very talented, these guys and then on weekends it's Sex on the Sax again, Ivy Black along with them. Come early, why



KIBBITZING . . . Don't know who that big guy in the middle is kibbitzing over the shoulders of Tom Whalley, owner of King's X Restaurant, and Chef Casey as they study the daily menu but he looks formidable enough to be able to put in his two cents worth. King's X is on La Tijera at Centinela.

not, and enjoy some of the specials Sam and Frank offer at \$1.95. Like the prime rib of beef, top sir-

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