

# Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Whitman

## Food Is Fascinating

Not only is it fascinating but the preparation of same. In fact, this is even more fascinating than the actual food itself. And there must be hundreds of different ways to prepare, for example, a good cut of beef.

Upon reading The Gourmet Cookbook over the weekend, was amazed to note the things you can do with a little old hunk of cow. The different methods that are used in various kitchens. Like the searing method for example, and the even temperature method for fine roasts. In these two volumes there's probably every known gourmet method going, so if you have any questions on the subject, fire away!

Rather fortunate, however, isn't it that we don't have to rely on ourselves for all these goodies that we take so for granted when you stop and think of the hundreds of fine restaurants available to us in our Southland? And all at the hands of some of the most exacting chefs in the country.

Want to take a look, for instance at the Matador Restaurant in West Los Angeles? Now although Bill Fremont's spot is famous for the quality foods of Spain for which they've built an enviable reputation, it's probably equally well known for its fine steaks.

The chef at The Matador insists on eastern prime and owner-host Fremont personally selects all meats. Bill, as you may have known, is from Argentina and qualifies as an expert in this field.

Let's look at a smattering: there's the Matador special steak that goes for the modest price of \$2.95. Then there's the top sirloin at two dollars more.

The New York cut runs \$5.85, and at a dime more it's the filet mignon. And for the aristocrat of steaks, you'll go far to top the cutlet for \$6.25.

All dinners come with assorted relishes, choice of soup or salad, and baked potato or rice.

Now y'see? And that's only one restaurant in Southern California where quality meats

treated with TLC may be had, and at extremely reasonable prices. You don't believe this? Okay, swing by there to The Matador on West Pico Boulevard one nite soon and prove it for yourself.

That was Spain. Now let's try France and what better spot to select than Maison Gerard at 224 S. Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills.

Gerard Uzan came out winner in an unusual election bet recently. He layed a wager with businessman Glenn Warner and the prize was a gourmet dinner for himself and 21 friends in his own restaurant. Now, y'see, here's a gentleman that has conviction in his own spot. How could he lose!

Get this for an elaborate menu; five types of wine plus champagne, and featuring seven courses topped by filet de boeuf braise a la Prince Albert.

Then by way of giving it just that added touch, Gerard fixed his own special dessert for the occasion — French "crow" ice cream. So how's all that grab you for holding the winning ticket!

It's a six-day-a-week operation at Maison Gerard for dining and banquets. They close on Sundays. They're also open for luncheon during the week. You might call CR 3-5430 for reservations if you have some future dining plans.

Well since we're doing the League of Nations bit let's move on to the Italian side of the ledger and visit with Millie Riera at her Seafood Grotto in Redondo Beach.

For truly delectable Sicilian seafood dishes you'll find The Grotto hard to beat. Cioppino highlights the 32 fish dinner offerings here plus you'll find Italian pasta and sizzling steaks prepared just to your specifications.

And if you happen by there some noon hour for lunch, by all means try that special luncheon salad. A meal in itself and delicious, further enhancing your noon time lunch break

with a breath-taking view of the beautiful Pacific.

Then here's a little something more for you weekend diners. Millie just recently signed Ricky Angelos for Friday and Saturday in the dining room with his great musical stylings on the accordion.

You'll find this fine musician a delight as he runs from the old favorites to latest hit tunes and beautifully performed on his squeeze box.

For reservations at Millie's Seafood Grotto, call 375-1483 daily for luncheon or dinner.

Moving on up the coast a hop-skip-and-jump to Manhattan Beach there's the Pen and Quill Restaurant at 3421 S. Sepulveda Blvd. for some more adventurous dining.

Where else may you have chateaubriand, all beautifully served with champagne at \$6.95.

And now hey — that's not a piece! That's for TWO! So like before these good people at the Pen and Quill regain their senses, better hie on over there and glom onto some of those goodies! "Cause surely they're going to realize pretty soon that you can't put out two orders of chateaubriand for six ninety-five with champagne and still come out!

Like to visit still another spot where the food is of high quality and inexpensive? Try the New Harborlight Restaurant at 900 N. Western Ave., San Pedro.

With the view-side of the Harborlight lined with huge picture windows your visit here will be even more enjoyable with the panoramic scene spread before you of the new Vincent Thomas Bridge and the busy Los Angeles Harbor.

And the fact that the prices here start at \$2.95 should make your stay an even happier occasion. There's entertainment and dancing nightly and the Harborlight features fine facilities for a complete banquet, should you be planning such an outing soon.

They're open from four in the afternoon 'til two in the aye-m. There's a cute little dish that turns up at many functions in and around the Torrance area and she's getting the exposure she needs in this business called "show biz." Her name's Celeste Brunner but you'll probably recognize her as "Kalea."

Specializing in Hawaiian, Tahitian, Polynesian dancing, Kalea's one of the hardest working gals we've run into in a long time and with this kind of ambition she's bound to go places in this roughest of dodges.

First time we ever caught her was at Rose and Louie Song's Tea House Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge in Torrance.

And currently you can catch this lovely little thing's action at the service station at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Neptune Avenue in Wilmington Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 6 o'clock.

Now if she hasn't as yet appeared at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 Supper Club on Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance, then Hop Louie should swing by down there in



**WIKI-WIKI HULA . . .** She's a girl with a purpose in life — "Kalea" otherwise known as Celeste Brunner of Long Beach appearing at various clubs in and around the area. This exciting little lady may be currently seen at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Neptune Ave. in Wilmington doing her stuff for a service station there. No, no, no! She's not pumping gas! That'd be a great waste of a wonderful talent.

Topper's Restaurants, Sizzler Restaurants, the Christmas Afloat Parade in the Port of Los Angeles—just name it and Kalea's been there in some capacity.

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**TILLIE THE TOILER . . .** Wouldn't you know that gal on the right would be "Tillie?" And she's a secretary shown luncheon with co-executive secretary of the Shell Chemical Company at the Torrance Ramada Inn. Shown here are Jean Richards (left) and Tillie Jacobson.

Wilmington one nite soon and, while his brother Vicente strums the guitar as he sings and strolls up on Silver Spur Road.

While we're on the subject of Latitude 20—here now would be still another spot to include on your gourmet drive.

Hop presents some exceptional Polynesian foods and in ample portions plus some exciting entertainment from the Islands.

Incidentally, this coming weekend marks the final week for the current feature here—The Martin Denny Show so better hurry and catch it. He's received the highest of praises from critics with this new revue, featuring not only Martin's great sounds but one of the loveliest of lovelies in the business.

Meanwhile, Ernie Menehune continues to please the crowds nightly at Hop's other spot in Oxnard—The Trade Winds.

Now let's not skip over our South-of-the-border friends in Mexico on our rounds and one of the top spots in the area has got to be The Red Onion Restaurants.

There are three different locations in the area where you may avail yourself of this superb Sonora style cuisine. There's one at 23305 S. Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance, another at 27736 Silver Spur Road at Peninsula Center in Palos Verdes and still another at 11623 So. Hawthorne Blvd. in Hawthorne.

In addition to the excellent food offers, you'll also find the entertainment in Peninsula Center and Torrance truly authentic Mexico.

Arturo Hernandez carries on in the Torrance store with his one-man band type entertain-

ment, while his brother Vicente strums the guitar as he sings and strolls up on Silver Spur Road.

For good solid American cookery, you might try The Red Balloon at 17544 Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance.

Such good old stand-bys as that porterhouse steak dinner special, for instance. Comes with all the goodies and at a price you wouldn't believe unless you saw it here! Dollar ninety-nine! That's how much—or rather, how little.

Then you may also have chicken on an all-you-can-eat basis at the Red Balloon for \$1.19. And here's a spot you'll never have to worry about when you bring the kiddies. They love 'em here!

You can eat pretty high off the hog when you visit Pucci's Wall St. West for luncheon Monday through Friday. Huge salads with equally huge sandwiches all prepared right there in Len and Mike's kitchen. Price is right here, too.

And for those of you who enjoy a small "tiddie" before lunch, this, too, is available at the intimate little cocktail bar where you may pick up on the latest "Puccisims" which are rare indeed! Not rare in quantity but rare in quality, just like their food and drink!

Here's kind of an aside but day mixmaster at Sam's Cafe on Sepulveda in Torrance, Dick Rowe, swears it happened. As the hostess announces over the p.a. system, "Mr. So and So, party of two! Mr. Such and Such, party of six," and so on, Well Dick says he all but lost

his cool when he heard "Sirhan-Sirhan—party of 13!" Oh come on now Dick, the jury hasn't even been selected, yet!

This month could be a swing-roonie down at Shipwreck Joe's spot in Wilmington! It's Birthdays' Month and y'know why? Well the sensational country-western recording star, Carl Cody, is observing his arrival into this world all this month.

Carl's birth anniversary happened Jan. 3 and because of this, he'd like to run into all his co-Januarrians anytime or all-the-time at Shipwreck Joe's for a good old get-together. Sounds like it might be a bunch of fun!

Featured, of course with Cody is Jimmie Lynn on bass, Gene Fields on the steel and on drums it's Danny Baker every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night for some of the greatest western swing music you'll hear in a long time. And one of the beautiful features of the whole thing is—there's no admission charge!

Then, in the event you happen to happen by on a Thursday night, you might keep in mind that it's "Spaghetti Nite" from eight 'til ten when, for two bits you can eat all the spaghetti you can hold. Tossed salad and garlic bread goes with this deal, too.

So let's all swing by there at Figueroa and "B" streets where "Figueroa ends and fun begins" any time this month and have ourselves a ball. Come to think of it, Carl didn't say he'd pick up the tab, though, so guess we'd better not plan on that. Let's just go on down there and join the guy.

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**SHIPWRECK JOE'S**  
January 'Birthday' Party  
ALL THIS MONTH  
**CARL CODY**  
observed his birthday on Jan. 3rd and would like to see all fellow (and gal) Januarrians at SHIPWRECK JOE'S all this month just for fun!

**NO ADMISSION COST**

**Spaghetti Nite: Thursday—8 'til 10**  
ALL YOU CAN EAT 25c  
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