

# Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Williams

## It's Very Disconcerting

Ever sit comfortably back in your chair awaiting take-off and suddenly look across the aisle at a headline screaming "United Liner Crashes!" Yep, that can certainly be disconcerting. And then by way of adding to your misgivings, have to be moved from one airliner to another "due to some malfunction." Not in the least reassuring!

And that's the way the weekend went. However, it wasn't all bad! Made a buck or two (for a change) in Las Vegas this time and that Tropicana Hotel on the strip has got to be one of the finest spots in that town to spend a few days. The accommodations are excellent, the food superb and the service unmatchable.

And when Maynard Sloate and Harvey Diederich say of the new Folies Bergere, "The Folies Bergere you haven't seen," they really mean just that. They've truly outdone themselves with this one, so don't miss it.

Then down the street at the Rivers — that Phyllis Diller doll is a dilly! How this gal can stand up there for 45 minutes to an hour and keep her audience in stitches with her material and delivery is a mystery. An exceptionally bright and colorful show.

While we're in the area, might mention that in the event you find yourself in Vegas and no spot to lay your head, directly across the street you'll find one of the most delightful motels in the Westward Ho. Clean, comfortable, reasonable and so centrally located.

Back a bit closer to home now and to the International Hotel we find Mel Erickson, song stylist and pianist up in the crystal walled domed Penthouse Lounge with his trio, performing niftily at the piano plus his stand-up style of entertainment.

Mel has a vast repertoire of American pop and Broadway show-tunes as well as his songs in French, Spanish and Italian which delights his audiences nite after nite. By all means, make this scene.

And down in "wet Torrance" (as of Monday, at least) there's John Gregory, owner-host of the Torrance Ramada Inn, pleasing the gals with his new Business Gal's Luncheon that goes off for a mere \$1.45. What a buy! Where else can you buy a lunch that reasonable and have a cocktail of your choice included? On the food side, you'll find a different chef's selection each



**TOGETHERNESS . . .** T'would seem as you note the continental singing rage Enrico Macias (right), with Robert Robaire at Robaire's French Restaurant. Mr. Macias is a regular here when he arrives in town for concerts and TV appearances.

day to tickle your sweet little palate, gals. So why not take advantage of Mr. Gregory's sincere hospitality?

Had a wonderful dinner last Friday nite over at the Pen & Quill Restaurant in Manhattan Beach that was unsurpassed. Both the food and the service were perfect.

They've got some delightful hot and cold hors d'oeuvres there every afternoon from 5 'til 7 during your cocktail hour; then it's always a treat to stick around for dinner, continental style and all at popular prices.

There's also entertainment furnished here niftily by the Monty Oliver Duo for dancing and listening.

Find yourself down Laguna Beach way some one of these mornings between the hours of 7 and 12 noon and want a good spot to enjoy some breakfast, try Ben Brown's fabulous new restaurant with its beautiful scenic view. Priced right, too.

Here's some action for you sport buffs at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds in Pomona.

There's a wide variety of attractions including reptile, rabbit and dog shows for the hobbyists and the finals of the National Hot Rod Association's Winter Nationals roar on the drag strip Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1 and 2. Not too far off, you know. Time sneaks up on you and you may want to make arrangements ahead of time for that eventful weekend.

On the 9th, 16th and 23rd the

Pomona Valley Rod and Gun Club will hold its regular Sunday skeet and trap shooting events.

A two-day rabbit show will come around on the 8th and 9th followed by a dog show on Sunday, the 16th. Then how about a swap meet on the same day with the Horseless Carriage Club. Like that?

Then writing serpents of all descriptions will slither in for their day in court, so to speak, on Saturday and Sunday, the 22nd and 23rd.

Yep, it's quite a full month at the Pomona Fairground.

Now this might be a swing thingy when Jimmy Dean brings his all-new show to Melodyland the first week in February featuring some fresh new acts.

A new gospel quartet, The Imperials, will be featured as soloists and as accompanists to Dean. They list the swinging Clinger Sisters as special guest stars during the weekend only.

This group consists of 21-year-old Melody, 19-year-old Peggy, then there's Patsy at 18 and the youngest of the group, Deborah, 16.

These are no charlie-come-latties to the world of show business, having been featured with such outstanding entertainers as Glen Campbell, the Smothers Brothers, Andy Williams, and Danny Kaye, to name-drop a few.

There'll be eight performances of this new Jimmy Dean show. They bow in on Tuesday, Feb. 4. Then just prior to that it's to be the Johnny Carson Show, set for Feb. 1-3. Tickets



**SAN PEDRO TRIO . . .** Here's the new group playing niftily at the Harborlight Restaurant in San Pedro. It's the Denny Martin Trio, who are playing their peppy, modern sound ranges from rock, country-western and pop tunes for your entertainment and dancing pleasure every nite.

for both these attractions are available now at Melodyland boxoffice, by mail and at all agencies.

Don't miss the boat on this one that's coming up at the Long Beach Civic Light Opera.

It's the Rogers and Hammerstein classic musical "Oklahoma" which opens Feb. 6 and runs through the 15th. There'll be matinees on Feb. 9 and 16.

This all happens at the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. And the prices are reasonable.

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So hurry and get your reserved seats now. Call HE. 2-7926 or try things on at 518 E. Fourth St. in Long Beach.

Hey, got an extra \$1.95 in your pocket you don't know what to do with and would like to spend it on a good cause — the cause being yourself — take a short jaunt to Santa Barbara and enjoy the delightful buffet luncheon available there at that price. It all happens at the Santa Barbara Inn and includes an array of salads, two hot entrees, dessert, and beverage.

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## Assignment TV

By TERENCE O'FLAHERTY

We have all heard the public man's creed: "Who cares what they say about you as long as they spell the name right?" If there is any truth to that, television is a smashing success. It has always been a subject of criticism at the office water cooler but today it has moved in many new directions — even upward to Capitol Hill.

In the recent exchange between Congressman Hale Boggs and Frank Stanton before the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, Boggs asked the President of CBS why Presidential campaigners spent so much money on TV commercials last year.

"Because it's an effective medium to reach people," replied Stanton. "WELL NOW," asked Boggs, "why is television effective in reaching people and advertising politicians but it is not effective when it shows sadism, masochism, murder, mayhem and rape?"

In light of the fact that television appearances hold the key to every Congressman's re-election, the current hearings are either a surprising act of political bravery or an attempt to forestall action behind 100,000 yards of testimony.

It is odd that the most noise being made over news coverage which is one area TV seems the most comfortable in. Yet, as a result of the coverage of the Chicago convention at least eight investigations are planned and news executives feel the threat

of governmental censorship is stronger now than ever before.

NBC NEWS chief Reuben Frank believes that what the viewer has seen on TV has shaken him: "The world as reported by television threatens him. It is a short and understandable step to conclude that TV threatens him. It is what psychologists call 'transference.'"

Recently, a scholar who has studied the discontent that is reflected in the headlines reached the conclusion that it is not the result of youth losing faith in democracy: "Militant young people, far from being disillusioned with democratic processes, are totally unacquainted with them, since they are rarely shown on television. The arduous, day-to-day debates, fact finding, and arguments by which social decisions are arrived at by every democratic body in the land, from town councils to the Congress of the United States, are never shown."

ALTHOUGH he didn't know it at the time, the man who made that observation was destined to observe the results of TV's shortcomings at closer hand than he expected. He is now the acting president of besieged San Francisco State College, Dr. S. I. Hayakawa.

A. William Bleum, a professor of broadcast journalism at Syracuse University blames the public's nervous state on an exposure to too much reality through television: "Some people believe it's already in the air."

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