

# Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Whitman

## Si, Señor!!

That's the way the little taco tumbles! But nothing crumbled last Monday morning when all of Torrance officialdom showed up for the opening of the newest Amigo Family Restaurant in Del Amo Center.

A true gala, too, for so early in the day. Mayor Albert Isen officiated at the pinata-breaking for this grandest of openings at 21210 Hawthorne Blvd. along with Chamber of Commerce President George Ebert just to name-drop a couple of the aforementioned officialdom. Oh, there were others there, too! In fact, too numerous to mention.

This makes the sixth Amigos to open in the Southland during the past nine months and plans are on the drawing boards (or perhaps even further long than that) to break out with 11 more before 1969 comes to a screeching halt.

The only other Amigos we've visited so far is the one located in Marina del Rey, but if President Philip Holland says there'll be 11 more such charming spots, you bet your bottom peso there will be.

And they seem to run along about the same, decor-wise, with their curved arches, beamed ceilings and warm lighting, all of which tends to stimulate your taste-buds, even before you smell the wonderful aromas emanating from the ample kitchen.

Always have maintained "there's always room for one more" and especially when you can partake of those great South-of-the-border treats like the tacos, tamales, enchiladas and the Mexican hot-dog, the burrito.

Then, of course for you non-Mexican type food buffs, there's also such goodies as sirloin steak and those delightful Amigos twinburgers. The weight-watchers haven't been overlooked, either. There's a low-calorie plate for them.

Food to go? You bet. All dolled up in special keep-hot containers so if you're one of those "eat at home" aficionados, you've got it made at Amigos Family Restaurants.

And the prices you'll run into will stagger you and your imagination. Lunches start at ninety-five cents and dinners get the starter of a dollar and a half.

Now here's a little something to fool around with — it's the Amigos "secret" wine cocktails.



**LAST CHANCE . . .** And that's just about it, if you hope to catch the Ernie Menehune Revue at the Latitude 20. Pictured above is Ernie surrounded by the Waikiki Twins (left and right), and (above) the lovely Tahina. Ernie closes shortly for a trip to Tahoe, Reno and Las Vegas.

The Amigrita (get it?) and the Bloody Maria. Then there's the Apple Ole, made with pure apple juice and slightly fizzed. Pretty tricky with those names, huh? But all delicious! Try 'em. You can have lunch from 11 a.m. 'til 4 in the afternoon. From Sunday through Thursday the Amigos will be open 'til 10 in the evening and Fridays and Saturdays 'til 11 p.m.

Getting back to the Marina del Rey area for a minute, just heard from old chum Margorie Walker and she tells us there's been a major change at the Marina del Rey Hotel over there. Everyone knows Jim Ferris — well NEARLY everyone — and he's just been named food and beverage manager of the Golden Galleon Restaurant of that hotel, overlooking the beautiful, pack-jammed yacht harbor between Santa Monica and the International Airport.

Jim was formerly with the Last Frontier in Las Vegas and also managed Dick Whittinghill's spot over in the Valley. Guess you know this's the

year 4667 for all you with the Hong Kong flu so a Gong Hay Fot Choy to you, too!

And last Thursday nite, the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce put on a New Year's whing-ding to end 'em all at the Golden Palace down there and when the parade started, you fully expected to see some "fowl play" it being the year of the rooster but they still had the same old snake, writhing through the crowds for the amusement of the large press gathering.

Everybody seemed to have turned out for the event. Even ran into an old quaffing buddy, Allen Lum, cutting up with his usual antics.

Back out to other side of town for a second, now and let's visit a spot in the Wilmington area. At 803 Figueroa there's a charming spot known as La Fonda which was closed for a short time but which is now reopened and loaded with lots of new policies and practices, not to mention features.

For example, the wine and



**HERE'S A SWITCH . . .** Usually it's the ribbon-cutting bit with the scissors and all that, but this week at the Amigos Restaurant opening we pulled a switch on the 'ole opening thing and decided to make it with the Pinata-Breaking in keeping with Mexican tradition. Shown above (left to right), wielding stick, is Mayor Albert Isen, Glenn Foster, Amigos manager; Philip C. Holland, Amigos president; Robert Orr, owner.

beer bit is now available at La Fonda and the luncheon specials from 11 in the morning are really something.

The evening hours close at 9 p.m. at La Fonda and it's easy to reach. Just take the Harbor Freeway and get off at Anaheim, cross over under the Freeway, make a sharp ferper to the left at Fig and you're there — right on the left.

Can't button this up without first throwing in a couple of cents regarding the new musical in Long Beach, "Oklahoma" which the Civic Light Opera Association is presenting.

In several seasons of viewing the CLO productions, have got to say that this has got to be away up there among the tops, not only for production, set designing and lighting but for straight out talent.

The terrific blend of those two great voices flowing from the throats of the two leads is a thing to remember. In productions of this nature you'll often times find one trying to outdo the other — but not so with the CLO's "Oklahoma."

Marti Rolph, as Laurey, and Stephen McAndrew, as Curly, not only try for the perfect voice-blend — but they achieve it! And in spades!

McAndrew's been in other shows with CLO but this is Miss Rolph's initial appearance and more beautiful, clear, firm tones, you'll go a long time to hear, be it here or elsewhere. Shades of Eddy and McDonald!

The entire show was "a thing of beauty and a joy forever," to borrow an old cliché.

But alas, can't urge you to

"hurry up and get your seat — 'cause just had a 'phone call from CLO announcing they have hung out the SRO sign for this show. Too bad! But now you'll think sooner for the next shows.

And speaking of next shows, keep in mind the one immediately following this one and that's "Camelot" which is

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scheduled for May 1. So make your 'phone calls now!

Should be another swinger down there at Shipwreck Joey's in Wilmington! Especially for all you transplanted Missourites 'cause it's a real old Missouri Picnic, featuring ham hocks, blackeyed peas, cornbread, poke salad and hominy and all for the

fancy price of two bits a plate. It all happens this Sunday at 7 in the evening.

Recording star Carl Cody'll be on hand to dispense with this own inimitable style of country-western music, featuring Jimmy Lenye on bass, Gene Fields on steel and Frank Prinkle on drums. So what do you think! It'll be a swingin' time? You bet. Get there on time, y'hear!

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