

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

Gong Hay Fot Choy

... and to you, too! 'Cause it's a very happy 4667th anniversary we'd like to offer you — especially if you happen to be Oriental or even of Oriental descent.

Ah so-o-o... Chinese New Year starts on the 17th but due to technical problems east of the Rockies we'll have to bring you the observance of the "Year of the Rooster" on the 22nd, in which happens to be Saturday,

the twenty-tooth, also which coincidentally happens to be Birington's Washday so we'll observe the whole shot all in one swell foop (with apologies to Herbert Hoover).

But to get back into the thing of a Happy New Year for the Orientals, and us, too, might add, Rose and Louis Song have set aside the 22nd as the day to observe this august occasion at their Tea House Restaurant in Torrance.

Ever had the pleasure of listening to Nami Donal who plays at another bistro down there on Western in the Gardena area? Well here's a delovely chick that plays a way-out piano and has one of the sexiest voices we've heard in some time. Really delivers!

So she's a regular at the Tea House and sincerely hope we're not going to get her in trouble with "that other" spot by mentioning this. But Nami Donal is one of the pretties that you'll always see at the Tea House.



FAMILY STYLE... And it is just that at Amigos Family Restaurant. Shown here is the newest Amigos, this one located in the Del Amo Shopping area of Torrance, serving Mexican-American cuisine.



BOARD MEETING... At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Royal Giraffe Restaurant, co-owners, shown above, left to right, John Gregory, Morton Kuret and Martin Ostrow got their heads together for a rather spotty session over the new menu. The new restaurant will be located at 4111 Pacific Coast Hwy in Torrance and should be head and shoulders above the rest.

But it's not only Nami you'll meet here — you'll also run into such good people as Sue with Tony, Glinda with Jack, Casey with Dave, and if you're lucky you might even run into that hot-shot cosmetic peddler, Bridgett Bannan up there at the drug store at Lomita and Narbonne, and very likely she'll have in tow good old Clark!

Then if you keep your eyes peeled real good Vicki and Kay will probably stroll in.

Now wait a minute! Are you going to buy this? (And especially from this column!) But really — we got this line from a most reliable source and it seems owner-operator of Amigos Family Restaurant in Marina del Rey has been moonlighting.

He's out in the cold and wet, however, it seems 'cause Union Oil sacked him when he "poured oil on troubled waters." ... well, sorry about this but that's the way we heard it!

Speaking of the Amigos (and we were!) both here in the Marina del Rey as well as the Del Amo Center (the latest of the Amigos facilities), found out that Inglewood police chief Bill Kennedy (s'pose he's any relation to that wild cat columnist downtown?) stopped in to Amigos at a recent A.M. following his strenuous workout at the Forum. But let's face it — they all

make it by one or the other Amogis, sooner or later! Even those tall strong and handsome crewmen (whoosh!) Who sent in that line!) from Loyola U stop in to the Amigos for the ham and eggs bit. Buen Appetito.

Well the plans, blueprints and sketches are well on their way toward the new Royal Giraffe Restaurant at John Gregory's Torrance Ramada Inn.

According to what we've heard around the area, this Royal Giraffe will bring something completely different to the Torrance dining scene. Should be ready for your inspection sometime along toward the latter part of February.

How about this, by the way! John's presenting what he calls a special Drinkers' Lunch at \$1.45 including food, which has been in effect only about a week now but is catching on in fine style.

But by way of scotching any rumors that may have arisen, you don't have to be thirsty to enjoy lunch at the Torrance Ramada Inn 'cause the same special Chef's Plate of the Day is served to the non-thirsty for \$1.25. So there, too!

Well, just how much farther the S.S. Princess Louise can expand without getting in the

drink is anyone's guess but owner-skipper, Jerry Sutton's doing it again.

Because of the tremendous overload of banquets in the six major rooms on board the floating restaurant, the port side Boat Deck is being converted to an additional banquet facility which will accommodate 100 more people.

With this expansion it'll bring the total banquet capacity to 900 in addition to the regular public dining room on the Promenade Deck.

She's open every day from 11:30 in the ayem for luncheon, banquets, cocktails, and dinner. Easy to find, too 'cause she's berthed at No. 236, Port of Los Angeles, Terminal Island, a mile south of the Vincent Thomas Bridge.

On Sepulveda Boulevard in Manhattan Beach, the Pen and Quill Hotel and Restaurant has established a new department catering to industry dining programs and has proven an instant success.

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is the Western Stewardess Training Program, the IBM Training Program as well as other nationally known organizations.

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Been wondering what happened to Julie London? Just heard she opened this week-end just past in the Tropicana Hotel's Blue Room for a three-week stand after a three-month tour in the East so if you're heading Las Vegas way, you'll catch her there.

Hey, stopped by La Fonda one afternoon last week and the current owners have done great things with their fine Mexican-American dinner house.

Been all redecorated and refurbished, moved the entrance around to the parking lot side of the building and just in general have brought out a most attractive spot.

Doris and George Kerrick are the owners of La Fonda, Step-



PROUDLY PRESENT... The new Harborlight Restaurant in San Pedro is proud to present the new Executive Chef, David Watt who is internationally known for his culinary dishes.

hanie Aguilar is chef and Tess Garcia along with Doris, takes care of your needs at the tables and counter.

Then as an extra added attraction, beginning Monday, the 24th, they're adding pizza to their already ample menu to be served and available Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This is a take-out or dine-in spot, y'know.

You've got to believe the food at La Fonda is good when 41 fathers brought their Boy Scout sons in for dinner last Thursday.

You may remember, the La

Fonda Restaurant opened in January, 1968, closed in August of the same year, then following their extensive redecorating operations, opened again this January so you can see they've had their trials and tribulations but now, under the new management they're on their way.

For your information, La Fonda's open at 11 a.m. 'til 9 in the evening, Monday through Thursday, Friday and Saturday, they remain open 'til 10 p.m. and on Sunday the hours are from 2 'til 9 in the evening. Yeah, a fella could learn to grow quite fond — a La Fonda!

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