

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

Spring Springs; About Time

The sprig, the sprig, the beautiful sprig.
The trees, the flowers and everything.

I'd gladly sig although by dose Buch faster than by lyric flows.

I'd gladly sig by verbal tude . . .
But I chaged by udderwear to sood!

And that should take care of that for this year, but keep in mind that Thursday's the first day of spring and a whale of a good time to start thinking of good spots to dine out with the family and friends.

For starters, why not the **Matador Restaurant** on West Pico Boulevard. In honor of one of the year's most glorious holidays, which is Easter Sunday, April 6, owner-operator Bill Fremont is offering a special Spanish entree named **Corderito Asado**, Casa Botin for your taste-tempting enjoyment.

This dish is broiled rack of lamb and is served with cold sauce originated at this famous 18th Century Madrid landmark. It comes served with assorted relishes and a choice of soup or salad. The price? \$4.95.

Of course the regular menu will also be in effect, as will the spectacular Flamenco floor-show.

Boy-of-boy, they sure can come up with the way out names for these musical groups, can't they? So how about the **Brooklyn Bridge**? This's the new 11-piece vocal-instrumental ensemble that opened last week at the **Riviera Hotel** along with **Carol Channing**.

It's Miss Channing's first appearance at the **Riviera** since her solid smash a year ago, bringing both the old and a bunch of new stuff, highlight of which will be a delicious spoof version of "Hello Dolly" — in Russian, no less!

And as for the **Brooklyn Bridge**, according to the New York notices, this group is really something.

There's a brand new general manager at **Ben Brown's Motor Hotel and Restaurant** at Laguna Beach Country Club. He's Dan Rose, formerly associated with the National Golf Club chain, headquartered in Honolulu, Diabolo Country Club in the South of France and Lake Willardness Lodge in Seattle, Wash.

He's been a busy man, too, since he took over. For one thing, he started the new fabulous **Only on Wednesday** buffet with more than 80 items available to customers at only \$5 per person.

Then in the near future there's to be a Sunday brunch for early diners and in addition, Rose has designed some new special menus for groups up to 200 who are using the hotel facilities for their meetings.

Song stylist Ken Colman has recently been signed into the **Garden Room of the Biltmore Hotel** in Palm Springs, in case you were wondering who's playing down there currently. Such a style this guy has! He puts out a song with great feeling, dramatizing his material.

Colman's no Charlie-come-lately to the business of entertainment, having played in leading nite clubs throughout the country as well as on many television shows. Fine entertainer.

M-Day is almost here for Warren Ward's new **Raffles Restaurant**. This Saturday will be the final day in Leimert Park and many of the old Raffles patrons will sorely miss their favorite dining spot for the past 25 years.

However, they may be interested in knowing that it's just a short shot to the new place in



MADCAPS . . . And the Gaylord and Holiday Show is every inch just that—madcap! They opened March 25 at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 Supper Club in Torrance.

Downey. About 25 or 30 minutes, to be exact, and an easy ride.

Ward took over the old **Silver Saddle** down there and has remodeled it completely with plans for re-opening the **New Raffles** as an old English Inn featuring tremendous parking facilities, banquet rooms, cocktails, and entertainment. The new spot will be even larger than the old Raffles. Should be ready for your inspection along about the first week in April.

A testimonial as to what kind of a guy Warren Ward is comes in the fact that his entire staff from Leimert Park will move with him to the new spot. Some of his people have been with him as long as 17 years. Good show, Ward!

Hey, by the way, just heard from Bud Peterson over at the **Roadium Drive-In**, and he wants you to know about the change of time coming up soon.

Now it won't be this week but the following week, due to the days dragging out longer, the starting time will be \$:45. But for the current show, "Swiss Family Robinson" and "Charlie, The Lonesome Cougar," it'll be the same old time so keep this all in mind.

Next goodie coming up will be "The Brotherhood" with Kirk Douglas and Alex Cord, plus "The Wrecking Crew." Sounds like a swingin' couple of weeks at the **Roadium** on Redondo Beach Boulevard at Crenshaw.

Well you've got just a few days left in which to catch the **Ernie Menehune Revue** at Hop Louie's **Latitude 20** cause opening next Tuesday it's the **Gaylord and Holiday Show**, booked in for a limited run.

Hop has gone to a bit of trouble to get this show — a bit of scratch, too, might add! Do you realize this is a \$10,000 a week Las Vegas type show? Well, it is and a more madcap show you'll go a long way to watch. Wild ones, these! Suggest you make a reservation though for this one. The number to call is 378-8368.

And down the street and around the corner at **The Tea House** they've got something waiting for you. It's the **Elvis Presley of Hong Kong** in the name of **Helen Sun Moon**! Now hold it a minute, **Ronnie-Elvis** is a guy and **Helen** is a girl! What goes on? Besides the hips, that is!

So anyway, she's at the **Tea House** Tuesday and Wednesday



RELAXING . . . World famed Spanish dancer, Jose Greco enjoys a moment of relaxation with Nana Lorca, prima ballerina while dining at the Torrance Ramada Inn in the newly decorated Safari Lounge.

a breakfast or luncheon (depending on what time you get up, any day during your stay and the total cost is just \$49 for two.

This package is good from September through May 30, excluding, of course, all major holidays. Then for an extra nite's stay the room'll cost you \$16.

Might suggest a reservation on this one. Try 966-2285.

Oh, getting back to that oil thing for a minute — Mr. Shustin has been bombarded with some of the most unusual letters regarding this. Things like "the lobby being covered with the oil" and such like.

He wants to dispell any thoughts you have along that line. There's no oil in the lobby and the beaches are rapidly being brought under control so that the guests can not only enjoy the luxury of **The Inn** but can still stroll on the beach and enjoy the beauty of Santa Barbara.

Hey you bachelors and bachelorettes, now you've got a spot that is highly attractive for your meetings and gatherings. It's at the **Torrance Ramada Inn** where bachelor John Gregory, owner-host of **The Inn** has put together a group of people to form a club known as the **Royal Giraffe Bachelors and Bachelorettes**. How about that!

All singles in the area (over 21, naturally) are eligible and your dues tab is five bucks a year. The initial get-together was held Wednesday the 19th in the **Tower Room of The Inn** and a great time was had by all. Get in on this fun thing!

That was quite a luncheon we survived down at **Sam's Cafe** one noon last week when the **California Bartenders Guild** threw their pre-competitive feast for all and sundry. In fact, the thing dragged out a bit longer than we had figured.

Guild Prexy Phil Cormier was on hand making with his customary legal and official announcements such as when the

next competition would be held and where. This year it's to be held April 28 and, once again, at the **Beverly-Hilton**. Should be a bash.

Bill Ryan and his boss, **Sam Willys** of the **488 Keys** locked out and sat at our table putting in their two cents worth along the line, as was **Al Siska** of the **Lobster House**.

Ran into just about every mixologist in town that day. At least the ones who belong to **The Guild**. Even **Kenny Decker**, "The Solvang Hippie," put in an appearance spreading happiness and sunshine wherever he went. Seated at the same table was **Jose "Soucio" Ancona** and newly elected to **The Guild**, **Jose "Limpio" Ruiseco**, both of **The Red Onion**.

Renewed old acquaintances with **International Hotel** bar-men, **Victor and Dick** while we were at it.

The fare that day was excellent. Don't know if owner of **Sam's Cafe**, **Wally Botello** had anything to do with it but rather imagine it was due mostly to the efforts of genial manager, **Bob Koen**. And of course **Dick Rowe** along with **Don and Stan** kept the libations moving pretty well along. And why not! It was a **Bartender's Guild** luncheon, y'know.

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RIGGED FOR ACTION . . . The Outriggers, shown above, are a regular feature at the Tea House Thursday, Friday and Saturday nites. Left to right, they are Calvin, Brien, Walt and (in the rear) Paul. Helen Sun Moon entertains Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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