

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman



No Platitudes at Latitude 20

Yes sir, and according to Mr. Webster, 'platitude' means trite, dull, flat and insipid, but you can bet your bottom 'clacker' there's nothing like that at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 on Pacific Coast Highway in Torrance.

The pre-opening party last Thursday night was dotted with many of the VIP's (don't HOW WE happened to get in) including his honor Mayor Al Ison along with various councilmen from the area as well as Torrance Chief of Police Walter Koenig. All the charming Mrs.'s were present, too, which

helped to round out the soiree, no end. Owner, operator, greeter, seater Hop Louie, who seemed to be everywhere at once, got his fine newly-decorated dine-outery off in grand style, christening the whole affair and the Latitude 20 with much bubbly and many eating goodies.

Rene Paulo Sextet at Latitude 20

Rene Paulo, rated no lower down the scale than No. 2 in Hawaii and its environs, is out to show local buffs that even that rating isn't good enough for him in his current engagement at the newly opened Latitude 20 Restaurant at Pacific Coast Highway and Ocean just west of Hawthorne Boulevard in the Welteria area of Torrance.

Yes, here now is a wonderful new luncheon-dinner spot in our area that will feature (in fact, ARE featuring) cause the official opening was last Friday) Cantonese and American food, exotic cocktails as well as the conventional variety and in a warm and friendly atmosphere that smacks of the South Seas. It's Polynesian from the word go. (By no mean 'ah go-go!')

Well what would you order when going to a restaurant called The Lobster House other than lobster?!?! And that's what we did! Although the item on the menu didn't exactly say that in the initial title... it's called Abalone Gourmet.

This fantastic delicacy is found about halfway down the menu, over to one side and in a box. (The entree—not the actual dinner!) And

it consists of abalone, naturally, lobster, and beautiful chunks of crab meat, all stuffed and served with a special sauce that is out of this world. Truly, a gourmet's delight.

This, of course, is all at Mario Castagnola's Lobster House at the Marina in Redondo Beach, where the background and decor are deliciously authentic as is the cuisine. And the service here leaves nothing to be desired.

Now speaking of service... no one could ask for a better little waitress than the one we had last time we visited the Lobster House. She's "Rozanna," (none of these dedicated souls have last names!) one of the most helpful, comely, attentive lasses in the culinary business. Here is one that anticipates your every desire (NO, guys, not that!) be it coffee, water, butter or what have you.

When Charley Bray, genial manager for Castagnola's enterprises, hired people like her... and maitre'd's like "Marshall," he not only did himself and the organization a favor... he did a great service to the general public. Service is the 'number one' commodity in every restaurant! Closely followed, of

course, by good food. So the Lobster House is one that should definitely be put on your 'must' list.

Y'know it's not only The Luna Bros. plus Oscar McLollie that are appearing at Sam Failla's San Franciscoan Restaurant. There's also some pretty good food to be had there. And especially good prices. Like, for instance, that prime rib for \$1.95 makes for an enjoyable repast, and at the same price, the top sirloin can't be topped, if you excuse the double exposure.

Sam's also got a new luncheon menu from which you can choose a whole bunch of stuff. He's got sandwiches, both hot and cold that range in price from sixty-five cents to a buck forty-five. That last is the Monte Cristo delight.

Then for your ladies... in fact, all females... don't forget the Monday night happy-hours! It's "gifts for the lucky ladies time" y'know.

They get better and better down there at Galley West. That's the general opinion of the Dave Howard Trio who appear nitely out there on the tip of the Peninsula.

As if all this wasn't enough, they also present a dinner down there that is something else again! And for you Sunday brunch bunch, the Captain's Table Buffet, served from 9 in the aye 'till noon every Sunday will please the most discriminating of eat-outers at one-seventy-five. It's the Las Vegas Style serving.

Like groovie movvies? So they've got something good on the bill for you this week at The Roadium. Peter Sellers and Elke Sommer are the leads in "Shot In The Dark," co-starring that fine meanie of meanies, George Sanders. The companion feature is David Niven and (again) Peter Sellers in "The Pink Panther." These two go off on Wednesday and carry on through Saturday.

Then picking up on Sunday and running through Tuesday it's Paul Newman and "Harper," co-starring Lauren Bacall and Julie Harris. The co-feature with this one is "The Face of Fu Manchu." So how's all this grab you for groovie-movvies!

There's a new little spot

down there in Long Beach (at Beach Blvd. and Willow. It's a fine steak house called Duffy's Tavern, on Long and cocktail bar that'll seat



HIP HORSEMEN . . . An entertaining trio is the Jack Russell group appearing nitely at the popular Plush Horse Restaurant in Redondo Beach. They play nitely for your dancing, dining and listening pleasure.



HAPPY GO CONNIE . . . And you'll go a long way to find a happier or more efficient waitress in the South Bay area than little Connie at the Tea House in Torrance. She serves nitely.

approximately 75 persons at a time and is now under new management.

"Vic's" the guy that'll greet and seat you for luncheon or dinner and at extremely reasonable prices. Make the short jaunt down soon.

Colonel Sander's Kentucky Fried Chicken house had a swinging special for all ye chicken lovers last week when he presented that 88c sale

over the week-end. But when you get fare like this, the regular price of \$1.10 a box isn't bad either and there's two big addresses. One at 24201 S. Hawthorne in Torrance and the other at 4055 Gaffey in San Pedro. Then watch for still another brand new Kentucky Fried Chicken spot at Carson and the Harbor Freeway. They'll hold their grand opening soon.

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THIS SEXTET is no 'charlie-chie' to the show biz field around our Southland, having played spots, to name one, like the Melody Room on the Sunset Strip in Hollywood. The group consists of four guys and two gals with Rene himself doing the honors on the keyboard.

Rene goes for classic, boogie, cha-cha, you name it... he's got it. And when he cuts out with such tunes as "Slaughter on 10th Avenue," "Fire Dance," "Hava Nagilah," "Mack The Knife" or any one of a number of your pop or standard numbers... believe it from here... you've had it! Entertainment, that is!

BEAR IN MIND, The Latitude 20 is open six nights a week, closing on Mondays. At least this is the plan at the moment. Hop Louie and Company is ready, willing and able to handle your banquets and luau parties with aplomb and dispatch.

You're sure to be highly entertained, both food-wise as well as entertainment-wise when next you visit The Latitude 20.



GALLEY BY GOLLY . . . He's that smoothie of pianomen appearing nitely at the Galley West for your "dinner time dining" in the salon... Bill Cooper, talent personified.

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