

Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

Good Old Summertime...

It all begins this Friday when June 21st heralds in the first day of Summer and gets us one and all to thinking of good spots to visit by way of 'getting away from it all' if for only one evening now and then.

As you know, most dinner houses these days are air conditioned for your dining pleasure and comfort and there's no exception at the International Hotel.

The director of banquet and catering department, Weaver Swanson, has also gone all out to arrange tasty tid-bits for warm weather dining, conferring with his executive chef, Lino Berlonighi at regular intervals to present just the right items to tickle your palate.

Incidentally, these two gents with the know-how were recently singled out for awards at the Los Angeles Culinary Arts Exhibits, walking away with the Gold Angie and Blue Ribbon for the "Most Distinctive Hotel Exhibit." You think maybe this is an easy trick? Try it sometime!

Another spot along the Beach Beat would be the utterly attractive Galley West Restaurant on the tip of Palos Verdes Peninsula, where both the food and cooling ocean breezes greatly enhance one's visit to this well known dine-outery.

Entertainment here is furnished nightly for your dancing and listening pleasure by The Footnotes.

Hey now, you ballet buffs had better plan on enjoying an early dinner like on the 27th, about a week away, if you're planning on taking in the Bolshoi Ballet opening on that night at Shrine Auditorium.

There's also good news for you: due to the tremendous public response to this forthcoming engagement, a sixth performance has just been added. There were to be only five but there'll be the 6th on Sunday evening, June 30, so better hurry.

Heading this troupe of some fifty top dancers from the Moscow Company will be the reigning prima ballerina, Maya Plisetskaya (pronounced My-a Plee-SET-ski-ya Ernie runs the place and Evie... there, how ya like that!)

The Bolshoi first visited North America nine years ago and Plisetskaya drew immediate public adulation. As Odette-Odile in "Swan Lake," as the Mistress of the Copper Mountain in "The Stone Flowers," as the Dying Swan and, when the Bolshoi performed here two years ago, as Kitri in "Don Quixote" she generated electric response.

Director S. Hurok presents "The Stars of the Bolshoi" here by arrangement with the Southern California Symphony-Hollywood Bowl Association.

Just a reminder here... don't go stomping on into Wray's Restaurant now and start bugging Bob Mumey for that prime rib bit—you know, used to be the Tuesday special—'cause that particular special is off for the present.

But wowiee! Look at the replacement! Boiled brochette of beef with that fine rice Pilaf plus a choice of soup, salad or tomato juice, hot roll and butter! The whole shot goes for one forty-nine. How about that!

This new bill at The Roadium Drive-In may be your "cup-o-tea" but it's sure Truman's. It's "In Cold Blood" which opens tonight over there on Redondo Beach Blvd. at Crenshaw, featuring Robert Blake, Scott Wilson and John Forsythe.

Then for a companion film Bud's bringing you Dean Martin in "How To Save Your Marriage..." and "Ruin Your Life!" This bill'll be on thru next Tuesday, y'know. And it will be followed on the 26th with another thriller.

There's a swingin' fun house in the Inglewood area known as Dirty Ernie's, at 11429 S. Crenshaw Blvd., so if you're sort of fun-bent, here's a wonderful store.

Creating the fun at Dirty Ernie's is Evie King and her Trio nightly. (Y-see, Ernie and Evie are Mama and Papa. Ernie runs the place and Evie... handles the entertainment—

never the twin shall infringe on the other's duties.)

Evie plays piano, and great, along with handling the vocals, Norm Douglas is on jazz bass while Pat Rico makes with the drums and vocals. A truly swinging bar with some great sounds. Some people even referring to Dirty Ernie's as the "Las Vegas in Inglewood."

There're some exciting new innovations in the Flamingo Specialty department at the Beverly Comstock Hotel in West Los Angeles.

In the Terrace Room there's now the petite filet mignon with lobster at a mere five-fifty, a tenderloin of beef, marinated on a skewer for four and a quarter, plus the pepper steak at a dollar more.

This is a seven-day-a-week special offering at the Beverly Comstock during the dinner hour.

But, whoa! Maybe you'd like a sip as well as a sup and in this case, you might plan on visiting the Pen and Quill Restaurant in Manhattan Beach.

They call this the Daily Double which consists of a king-size libation although you'll have to offer this treat Monday thru Friday as that's when it's in force.

According to General Manager Chales Filipic, this cocktail hour bit has attained such popularity that he's extended the whole thing to include complimentary hors d'oeuvres featuring a different selection each day to tie in with the beverage of the day.

By the way, that Daily Double thing will run you a neat one-ten and worth it!

Say, perhaps you're thinking of a short trip or two soon and in the event you find yourself in the Palm Springs area you might try

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INSTANT RECALL... That's what you get when you request a tune from the above lads, currently appearing at The Tea House in Torrance. Left to right they are Make Fujishige on bass; Shigeo Maeda, piano, and Steve Kawagishi, guitar and drums.

the Biltmore Hotel and Golf Course down there. And they have got a new vacation policy there.

Works like this; you can stay at the Hotel four nights and pay for only three in deluxe bungalow accommodations. In addition to all this, the guests not only get one free round of golf each day but may also take advantage of the tennis courts, hot therapeutic pool, olympic size swimming pool, shuffle board and ping pong.

The beautiful Garden Room will be open for dining, dancing and entertainment nightly. Suggest, however, you grab yourself a reservation by calling (714) 324-1211 and make a week-end of it.

Or, you might want to make the Las Vegas jaunt.

Well, to mention some of the action up there you might start off with the Hotel Tropicans where the Roger Williams Show featuring the

Arbors opens a two-week stand on Friday in the Blue Room.

We all know Mr. Piano of course from his "Autumn Leaves" and more recently his "Born Free" recording. Following Williams in the Blue Room will be the Dukes of Dixieland on June 28.

Then, of course, the ever-lovin' Folies Bergere '68 continues to roll along in the big theatre restaurant, and over in La Fontaine Lounge, it's still Judy West enjoying a record-breaking engagement.

Down the Strip a piece at the Riviera Hotel, Phyllis Diller along with Vincent and Patrice opened in the Versailles Room last Tuesday for a four week stand.

And in the Starlite Theatre it's Steve Logan with The Mob and Mafalda & Lou thru July 2.

Back home now, and in the

off with a Pousse Cafe and you'll have a ball.

Like to make a bet in the pizza department? And if you bet against the Pizza Palace you've got to be out of your ever-lovin'.

When the owners here say "America's No. 1 Pizza Showplace" they're not kidding. Naturally the big attraction is the quality of the pizzas which come in a wide variety of sizes and with a wide variety of ingredients added there to, depending on the individual taste buds.

Then of course there's the fine beers available at the Pizza Palace, not to mention the almost constant round of entertainment with good old ricky-ticky piano and some of the plunkiest banjo pickin' you'll hear anywhere around.

Also featured at the Pizza Palace are periodical amateur shows where the contestants walk off with some pretty fine prizes. Like bunches of savings bonds and all that kind of good stuff.

There are now three Pizza Palaces in the area — The Del Amo Annex store at 3848 Sepulveda, the Carson Center spot at 1157 W. Carson and the third at 4850 W. 190th St., in Torrance Center.

Drop by one of these wonderful spots some time soon and enjoy pizza at its best and see some old movies.

So while we're in the movie mood, don't pass up the current bill at the United Artists Theatre at the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw.

They've got Charlton Heston in the "Planet of the Apes" playing on a continuous show program — 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 and with

a late late for your enjoyment on Saturdays and Sundays starting at 11:15.

Haven't seen this one yet but according to the trailers we've caught on it, should be quite a thriller — and different!

Say now, just around the corner from there on Crenshaw you'll find The Tea House and you talk about a musician! This one's really it! He's Shigeo Maeda, the guy with instant recall when it comes to tunes you want to hear. Seems to pull 'em out of thin air and if he doesn't quite remember all the notes, he does such a beautiful job of ad lib that you don't hardly notice any difference.

And just by watching Shig's hands you know instinctively he's had considerable background in concert music. Not only does he play piano but he's also an accomplished composer and arranger. He's got a style you don't run into every day. It's new and refreshing and according to Rose and Louis Song, owners-operators of the restaurant and cocktail lounge, is a crowd pleaser at The Tea House.

Backing Shigeo is still another accomplished musician on guitar and drums, Steve Kawagishi, along with the third member of the talented trio, Mako Fütishige on bass. Really should catch this interesting group first chance you get.

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