

Spoo Checking
 Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
 By Bill Whitman



Ramada Inn Favorites

Actually the current entertainers at the Torrance Ramada Inn are not only favorites here but pretty much over the Southland area but particularly in Torrance.

It's the Johnny Hoover Trio, featuring that sexy singer of songs, Pat Henry regaling the crowds nightly at 4111 Pacific Coast Hwy. for either dancing or listening, or both if you so desire.

The group who've played, among other popular spots, The San Franciscan on Sepulveda Boulevard in Torrance many times, and recently closed a successful run at That John's in Palms Springs, have been booked into the Ramada Inn for an indefinite run.

They do anything from ballads to rock, to swing and just plain fine old standards and all equally well. If you haven't heard 'em, make it by the Torrance Ramada Inn next time you're pleasure bent and out on the town.

Still another excellent spot for good clean fun and great entertainment is the Jet Room Lounge on La Cienega at Centinela.

He's Bill Fulkerson who turns in a single hit here Tuesday through Saturday nights with some of the finest pianoing anywhere in the area.

Bill's got the kind of a gig where everyone joins in and has a barrel of fun. You know most of us, after we've had one or two, become terribly enthralled with the sound of our own voice and it's no different at the Jet Room.



REGALING . . . And that's just what he does nightly Tuesday through Saturday at the Jet Room Lounge. Bill Fulkerson's shown above bursting into song as "lead" for his many sing-a-long patrons of this popular spot.

You simply go on in, take a seat at the huge piano bar that Nick Cicciarelli has thoughtfully furnished, wait your turn at the traveling mike, and then just go ahead and sing your lungs out while Bill travels along behind you—musically, that is—for accompaniment. And why not? Everybody else does it so you don't need to feel embarrassed. There'll be some worse sounds there than what you put out you can be assured but nobody

cares. You're all there for fun anyway so go ahead on!

Don't know if you happened to catch the television show one day recently called "Good Morning, L.A." which comes on at 7 a.m. (7 a.m. ???) Who's up at that hour! but speaking of Continental cuisine, M. Robert Robaire of the original Robaire's Restaurant at 348 S. La Brea, appeared as a guest on the show.

Well his choice for a Gallic delight that morning was a fine mess of escargots and prepare them he did, much to the enjoyment of the stagehands who, despite the early hour, completely devoured them almost before the viewing audience had time to appreciate the feat. Incidentally, escargots and some three dozen other favorites are offered at Robaire's Tuesday through Sunday nites from 5 o'clock on.

And over in Manhattan Beach at the Pen and Quill Restaurant, the newly appointed executive chef, Benton (Sam) Sanders, has some wonderful recipes for you to try.

Such unusual chef's daily specials as London Broil; beef tenderloin sauteed with fresh mushrooms and served in wine sauce. Or Pepper Steak, a ten ounce New York steak, marinated in herbs and wine, and topped with fresh ground peppercorns.

Then there's the Tournedos of Beef; two tournedos served on a bed of mashed potatoes and topped with chicken livers. None of these specialties may be found on the regular menu but just ask the waitress about Chef Sam's specialty of the day and be surprised.

It's luncheon and dinner daily at the Pen and Quill with entertainment and dancing in the evening.

If you're an aficionado of Flamenco type entertainment, the one spot where you'll be sure to find it in Los Angeles is at Bill Fremont's Matador Restaurant on West Fico Boulevard in West L.A.

In addition to the three lovely Spanish dancers, Bill features two headliners in Genare Gomez, the singing Flamenco dancer and guitarist Gino Dauri.

The three lovelies are Nuri Perez, Carmen Chevere, and Carla Lina so make it by this exciting foods-of-Spain spot one nite soon and have a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Done the Vegas bit lately?

Well beginning Oct. 25 it's that explosive comic Louis Nye with his "Man on the Street" bit along with the ever popular Helen O'Connell doing all the songs for which she's become so popular over the years, like "Green Eyes," "Tangerine," "Amapola" and a whole slew of others, in the Blue Room of the Hotel Tropicana.

Backing this fine array of talent musically will be the big swinging beat of St. Zentner and his ork.

Meanwhile, in the Theatre Restaurant it's still the Folies Bergere doing a turn-away business nite. And in La Fontaine Lounge, singer-pianist Judy West, while Julian Forman remains in the sumptuous Gourmet Room of the same hotel.

Then down the road a piece at the Riviera you'll find Allen and Rossi along with Phyllis McGuire in the Versailles Room through Oct. 28. Carol Lawrence and Peter Nero will follow this bill in there on the 29th.

And over in the Starlite Theatre until Nov. 12 it's Shecky Greene. The number one man of baseball's pitching staff, Denny McLain and his Detroit Tigers will be in through the 27th. Denny plays beautiful organ and whether this or baseball is his number one love is hard to tell, he does both with such gusto.

Meanwhile, back at the International Hotel's Trophy Lounge (how's THAT for a

fast jump!) the Lee Kenniston Trio along with The System (and let's face it — you can't beat the system!) are bringing listeners and dancers a rich new sound of musical depth you don't often hear with a group as young as these cats.

Their range romps through bossa nova, jazz, swing, waltz, blues — just name it — and touches on feelings from Ellington to Bacharach. (no, that's not Bach!)

You know, it's actually a quartet—not a trio—'cause there are four guys in all. The System consists of a trio and then Lee Kenniston comes in with his pleasant and talented warmth, thereby drawing their appreciative audiences into the sphere of their musical styling.

In addition, of course, to Lee Kenniston, there's Arte Johnson on guitar, Ed Schaffer on drums, and Dick Conde on the various percussive instruments.

So it's a swingin' group in the Trophy Lounge of the International Hotel.



LILTING LEPRECHAUN . . . Ernie Menehune enjoys his triumphant return to the Latitude 20 Supper Club in Torrance following too long an absence from the scene. He's again brought his Hawaiian Revue with him.

NITE NOTES: You never know that's going to happen when you visit the Nut-house (this one in particular) at 412 "B" St. in Wilmington! But to outline it all here would only spoil your fun so guess you better go check it out for yourself. And it is a ball. . . . If you're a music buff anywhere from boogie to classic you'll find it at its finest when you visit the Portofino Inn at 260 Portofino Way in the Redondo Beach Marina area. Mr. and Mrs. "88" furnish the musical interludes nite with their slogan of "Four feet and twenty fingers." They're Nora and Barney Brooks. . . . The Hawaiian leprechaun hasn't lost any of his touch for entertaining the customers these nites at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 Supper Club. He's Ernie Menehune, as if he needed any introduction from this corner, with his r-really big shoo, featuring Tahina, the Walkiki Twins and Kay Kalani Catch 'em!

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