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Memorial Day - May 30

WHY NOT PLAN ON DINING OUT THIS WEEK-END!

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman



It's a Long Weekend

Anytime you have a holiday on a Friday it makes for one of those long ones and an excellent time to spend visiting some of our eating spots around the Southland. In fact, you might even make a gourmet weekend out of it. Why not!

And for a starter why not a short trip to Redondo Beach and Millie Riera's Seafood Grotto at 1700 Esplanade.

Millie only recently received the "Critic's Choice" award from Venture Magazine which included an attractive plaque. This you'll now see displayed at the entrance of the Seafood Grotto.

This isn't the only award this fine dinner house has received in recent months. The Restaurant Writers' Association last year also honored The Grotto with their first annual award.

With this kind of recognition, you know the food has got to be supreme, as it has been for the past 22 years. They specialize in seafood as well as steaks and pasta.

Open daily for cocktails, luncheon and dinner, the Seafood Grotto is located at the corner of Avenue I and the Esplanade, overlooking the ocean. A most quieting spot in which to dine.

Still another nice spot in our general area of course is the Proud Bird on Aviation Boulevard near the airport. In fact, it's practically on the landing strip to International Airport.

All manner of good things to eat are available here plus good cocktails and millions of parking spaces.

This is probably one of the most interesting dinner houses to be opened in some time around here. Almost castle-like in its decor. One sometimes gets the feeling that at any moment Anne Boleyn will come singing down the corridor with "er ead tucked underneath er arm." Yeah, and with King Henry in hot pursuit!

Good spot to go this weekend, though so give it a try.

And of course over on West Pico there's always the ever-popular Matador Restaurant for your dining pleasure. Here owner-host Bill Fremont prides himself in his authentic and delicious foods-of-Spain which come out of the kitchen cooked

and prepared in the true Spanish style.

And this is Spanish — not Mexican cuisine. There is a difference! That is not to take anything away from Mexican cooking, by any means. We indulge in both and with equal gusto. But if you are set for Spanish food, that's what you want just as, if your taste buds are all whetted for Mexican food, then that's what the inner man demands.

You'll find things on the Spanish menu at The Matador that you'll never find on a menu at our fine Mexican restaurants. And by the same token, don't go looking for Enchiladas on a Spanish menu 'cause they're just not to be had.

Good food is not the only thing available at The Matador. You'll also be regaled by some of the finest Flamenco entertainment in town. Pedro Tirado and his troupe of sensational Flamenco dancers have returned to the Matador Restaurant by popular demand.

And one of the few Flamenco pianists in the world may also be seen and heard here. He is Professor George Matos who truly swings a fine piano in the Flamenco fashion. Heck, let's face it! He's a fine pianist in anything he puts his fingers to at that piano!

Additional performers in the brilliant cast include guitarist Juan Perrin along with strolling-singing-guitarist Maria del Rey and others to entertain you nightly.

Dean Martin proudly presents Dean Martin! Wha-a! Well that's the way the guy's billing himself at the Hotel Riviera, according to the "Copy From Zoppi" we received recently.

Of course all this doesn't come to pass 'till the middle of next month but thought you'd like to make your plans accordingly. You know it's going to be a pack-jammed opening so get busy with your reservations now. In fact the opening date is set for June 17 but it's doubtful that Dino will have to practice or rehearse too much to get "up in the part."

Well sir, it looks like Clint Eastwood Day over at the Roadium Drive-In Theatre this week. And he's out for the bucks, too.

Y'see, the first on the bill is "A Fistful of Dollars" with the companion film — "For A Few Dollars More." Now just how greedy can you get! And Clint Baby stars in both of 'em.

That Bud and Mary Peterson (sen?) are certainly booking 'em these days. When the "Dollars" things close June 3, the following day you'll find "Candy" and "Pendulum" opening the next day for a week so all this should take care of your plans for the next couple of weeks.

Got some new swingin' stuff for you over at Bart Earle's Red Onion on Hawthorne Boulevard in Torrance.

By that it isn't meant he's new to the entertainment world — just new to the Red Onion and his name's Baldo Ochoa. Plays up a storm.

Baldo's appearing every night, Tuesday through Saturday for your enjoyment and the amount of music this guy puts out you wouldn't believe. Not unless you hear him, that is. So swing on down and be convinced.

And that's not all they've got going for you over there at the Red Onion. Every Tuesday and Thursday Darlene's girls come in and present a fabulous style show for your enjoyment and convenience. You'll note elsewhere on this page a shot of one of the lovelies that appears there for this gig. Her name's "Fern" and with her face and figure, she doesn't need a last name.

Everyone eventually finds his way to the Red Onion Restaurants. While partaking of a noon-time snack one day last week up in the Peninsula Center store, happened to spot Arthur Lyman doing the same thing there. Fulfilling his desire for some of that fine Sonora style cookery.

Now this may seem like a pretty sneaky way to get into this next item if it does



MAKING THE WINNER . . . And the winner is the Golden Wave, here being concocted by Jose Yatco of the China Trader over in the Valley. Jose won all the marbles in the recent shake-off of the California Bartenders Guild at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

the job, who's to care. So it's sneaky!

That's the current attraction at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 Super Club on Pacific Coast Highway — Arthur Lyman and his exotic jazz group.

Once before they cut a hi-fi album at the Latitude 20 and because of the terrific acoustics available at this popular Torrance spot, they've decided to cut another one. And it'll be another live recording right from the stand.

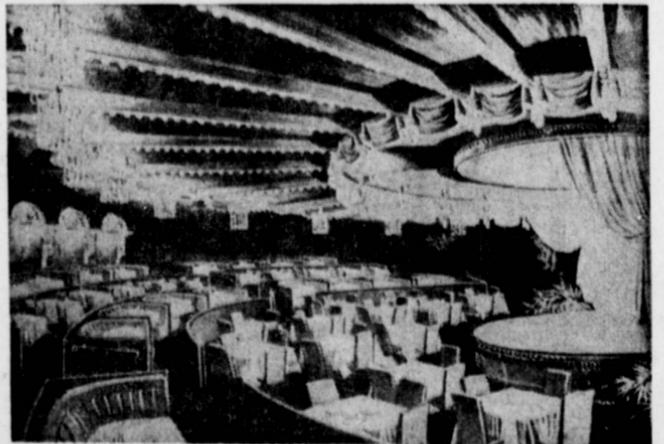
Incidentally, the Latitude 20 was the scene Monday of a banquet honoring Mayor Albert Isen for his 14 years of service as mayor of the city of Torrance. The testimonial banquet was emceed by Dick Fitzgerald, former manager of Torrance and Redondo Beach

Chambers of Commerce. 'Twas a gala gala!

Well, "Montana" Ike, "Prune Picker" Ruthie and "Kansas City" Joey are still hard at it with their Gemini-Cancer birthday party thing they've got coming up this Sunday.

The gimmick is—if you're a Gemini or Cancer born native you'll be highly honored down a Shipwreck Joey's in Wilmington. There'll be all kinds of fun, food and games in honor of these two zodiac signs.

Carl Cody'll be on hand with



NEW SPOT . . . It's directly across the street from Melodyland Theater in Anaheim — Off Broadway West and according to all reports will indeed be a lavish cabaret theater with a cocktail lounge in the rear for viewing the action on the circular stage.

his all star western swing band to add to the festivities. Jimmy Lynn'll be on bass, Gene Fields on steel, and Frank Pringle on drums to round out the group.

But don't forget that other goodie they have down there at Figueroa and B Street that goes on every Thursday nite. That's Spaghetti Nite, y'know, from 8 'till 10 when you can have all the spaghetti you can eat for a quarter. That's right! A quarter!

Stopped in to see that new Turtle Club at the Pen and Quill Hotel one nite last week and you've got to believe, here is one unusual room. Most attractive and carries out the motif most elegantly with turtles all over the place. Not live ones, you understand but replicas of them. Some in red lighted shadow-box type niches in the walls in various positions. Even have one shadow-box there with a whole family of turtles in single file.

So if you're a turtle, be sure to swing by this unique room. Even if you're not a turtle per se, go by anyway and you'll be most welcome. They might even make you a turtle while you're there. But be sure you answer all the questions cor-



POLKA-DOTS AND MOONBEAMS . . . That's not really her name. It's "Fern," glamorous model appearing every Tuesday and Thursday at the fashion show presented by Darlene's at the Red Onion Restaurant in Torrance.

rectly. And they've got a swingin' little sandwich bar there, too, in case you feel like having a small snack along with your highball. Or perhaps after it.

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