



The Eyes of Kami Warner

The eyes of Kami Warner are full upon those of the passengers during an evening's pleasure cruise nightly except Sunday in Capt. Tom Chevoor's Mariner lounge (2450 Pacific Coast Hwy.)

It is quite an experience for a man to look into the eyes of Kami Warner, for

they are eloquent indeed. The experience never quite seems to be the same. It depends upon the mood which possesses Kami as she sings.

The Quality

When she thrusts her vibrant face eagerly to the microphone, the quality is challenging, electric, demanding. When Kami cradles the microphone in her hands, gently pulling it to her, it is soft, dreamy and inviting.

In the first, emotion flows from Kami; in the second, it ebbs back to her.

As she sings, Kami passes her eyes over the room. When they lock with the eyes of another, there is an instant of intimate communication, a feeling of being alone with her, a tingling.

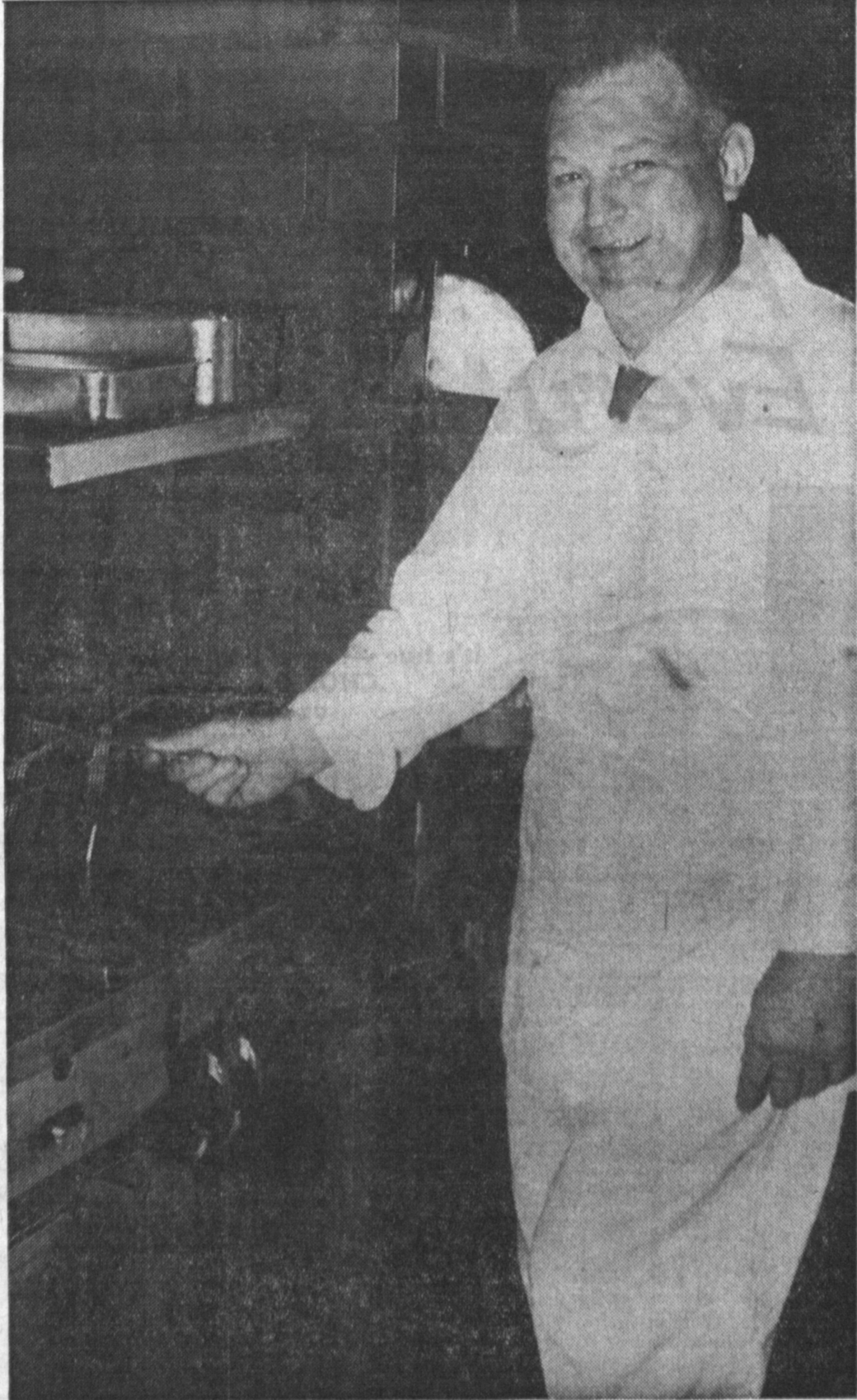
... Emptiness comes as the eyes of Kami Warner go, a void which fills quickly with a hunger for more, a yearning for them to come back to chase again the loneliness away.

The Presence

The presence of Kami Warner at the Mariner is accentuated by the pulsing intensity of blues as sung by Bill Norvas, who often will ad lib his own special lyrics as he sings.

Sometimes as listener will catch in surprise a message sent with his own name wrapped around it from out of the depths of Bill.

Then weave through this haunting softness of the lure of Lori Mattis singing such songs as "Summer-time," and some idea can be gained as to why a goodly crowd was there.



Ray Bell at the Palms

Meet Your Host . . .

Ray Bell Builds a Life Upon Hours of Boyhood

Editor's Note: The following is the first in a series of articles devoted to the men and women who own, operate, or manage, the many excellent restaurants to be found in the Torrance area.

BY RED LOCKWOOD

In the twinkly-eyed smile of a man named Ray Bell there is a glimpse of a teen-age boy who once worked 12 hours each day to make a living, then invested three hours without pay so that he could gain some learning.

As a boy, Ray Bell's first experience in the kitchen of a restaurant was washing dishes from six in the morning until six in the evening.

Then, he put on a clean white apron to work until nine at night to become a fry cook under the eyes and guidance of a man wise in the art of preparing good food for the enjoyment of others.

Ray Bell's heart has been in the kitchen ever since.

The Dividends

The investment of his time as a boy has paid dividends to him as a man by bringing him along the way to become the head chef of the Palms Restaurant (1925 W. Carson St.), which, with his wife, Hazel, he owns and operates in central Torrance.

As a man, Ray Bell in turn passes on to youngsters who come to work for him the knowledge he has gained through the years.

However, today it is not necessary for boys to put in such a rigorous apprenticeship as the one in which Ray Bell invested his time back in those dark depression days.

One such youngster is now a man who has been with Ray Bell for 10 years, almost since the day that Ray opened the Palms on Sept. 19, back in the year of 1953. Another has been with Ray for four years.

And so the knowledge which was passed down to Ray Bell by an old German cook back in Kansas City and enriched by Ray's own years in the kitchen is being passed on in turn to a younger generation of men who wish to express themselves through the art of preparing good food for the enjoyment of others.

Ray Comes West

Four years after he began washing dishes and learning the art of cooking, Ray Bell followed the historical pattern of adventurous and ambitious American boys and came west — to Los Angeles.

April 2, 1946, when the Persian Room opened in Wilmington, found Ray there as chef. Later, he became one of the owners.

In May of 1953, seven years after he started in the Persian Room, Ray sold his equity to establish the Palms in Torrance on Sept. 19 of that same year.

Today, Ray Bell heads an organization which employs 34 people and can serve more than 400 people at one time, efficiently and in comfort.

Some idea of the magnitude of the operation of the Palms can be gained by the fact that five service organizations of Torrance are served each week in addition to the regular guests for luncheon and dinner.

The Five Clubs

In alphabetical order, they are: the Exchange, Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist, and Rotary Clubs.

Weekdays, Mondays through Fridays, the Palms opens at 11 in the morning and closes at 2 a.m.

Saturdays, it opens at five in the afternoon and closes at two in the morning.

Sundays, it opens at 4 p.m. and closes at midnight.

Friday and Saturday nights food is served until 11 p.m., with entertainment in the lounge until the 2 a.m. closing time.

The banquet rooms can seat 300, 25 can be served in the Konya Room (dedicated to Konya, Turkey, the sister city of Torrance), 80 in the main dining room.

In addition, there is a 10-stool piano bar which provides entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights, there are 22 places at the main bar, and room for 20 plus a settee in the lounge.

The Purpose

What is the purpose behind this tightly-knit organization?

"To give people," answered Ray Bell, "good food."

Standing with Ray in the quiet of the spacious and cool main dining room on a Saturday afternoon before it opens, or watching him bustle through the preparations for luncheon on a weekday morning, it is apparent that there is a tremendous amount of work and attention to minute detail involved in those simply-stated words.

There are steaks to cut, vast amounts of food to prepare.

There are tables to set, with silverware, napkins, all neatly in their places.

There is the endless work in keeping things ship-shape and clean.

There are dishes to wash.

A Reminder

Which again reminds us of a boy who can be glimpsed in the twinkly-eyed smile of Ray Bell, a boy who was willing to invest an extra three hours each day to learn after spending 12 long hours washing dishes to make a living.

It also is a gentle reminder that opportunities are found in the hearts and minds of men rather than in the way they employ their hands.

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Coasting on South Coast

Danny Kaye Fans

For those many fans of the Danny Kaye television program, one of the featured personalities of that program can currently be enjoyed at Little Caesar's at 13945 Van Ness in Gardena.

He is Jerry Antes who also has appeared on such television productions as the Judy Garland and Debbie Reynolds shows.

By day, Little Caesar's is open for lunch.

Steaks are a specialty. Diners choose their own entree. Host is Jack Rosen.

And Stabilemates Dave and Tiny are also there.

Round the Clock

The Tower Drive-In at 17420 S. Western Ave in

Gardena offers swift and efficient car service from 11 in the morning until three, also in the morning, which is just about all around the clock.

Going even further around the clock is the coffee shop which doesn't close at all.

The dining room is open each day from noon to 9 p.m. except Mondays when the dining room is closed.

Daily specials — six days per week — are breakfast, 70 cents; lunch, 90 cents, and dinner, \$1.25.

Tommy Carlough is featured at the piano in the Sands Lounge at 4721 Torrance Blvd., with dancing nightly. The Sands is located at 4721 Torrance Blvd.

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