



ONE MAN BAND . . . And if you don't believe it, just slip on down by there to the Royal Giraffe of the Torrance Ramada Inn and listen in one time to Phil Porreca when he performs on his accordovox nightly Tuesday through Saturday. Plays up a bunch of storms, and he's only one guy . . . but fine!

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman

Are You a Turtle?

If this should be the case, you'll soon have your own facilities right here in the Los Angeles area when the elaborate Turtle Club will open some time along about the 5th of May.

The International Turtle Club will be located at the Pen and Quill Restaurant in Manhattan Beach, through the joint efforts of president Gerry Morton and Pacific Hosts, Inc., president, John Mangini.

This unique fun club will serve as headquarters for Turtles from all over the country and will be open seven days a week with continuous top musical entertainment.

And here's a new switch to be offered. The patrons will make their own sandwiches from opening to closing time from an array of dozens of various selections. Meanwhile, the bar will serve exotic concoctions from recipes throughout the world that the Turtles have collected through the years.

There's to be a series of major social events during the year that will include costume parties, trips to the bullfights, and many other exciting events.

There's to be a seating capacity of 200 persons and will be located on the second floor of the Pen & Quill Hotel. Now should you require any further information regarding this organization, simply call 372-1101 and let them fill you in.

Should you miss one of your favorite mixologists when next you enter Bill Fremont's Matador Restaurant, don't jump to conclusions that they have dispensed with his services. Kiki Garnica took off recently for a three-week trip to Spain.

There he'll enjoy the opening of the bullfight season as well as keep an eye out for some new Flamenco entertainment for the popular West Los Angeles bistro.

Y'know, Kiki was a matador himself for some time before switching to the somewhat less demanding (and certainly not as dangerous) business of tending bar for Bill Fremont. However, he'll surely renew old friendships with many of his old matador cronies. Then, of course, by way of return lend lease, they'll visit with him at The Matador this summer when the season opens in Tia Juana.

Also on his itinerary will be Granada where there are some of the finest gypsy Flamenco dancers to be found. It's here that Kiki hopes to hire some new talent for your entertainment in the cozy little Flamenco Room in the downstairs area of the Matador Restaurant.

The month of April marks the 7th anniversary for the original Robaire's French Restaurant at 348 S. La Brea, where Robert Robaire opened his spot in 1952 as a 30-seat luncheonette.

This fine dine-outery has enjoyed growing pains four different times since then and yet, still retains the charm of a Parisian sidewalk cafe. A large and varied menu is presented at Robaire's with a nightly specialty running from rabbit on Tuesday to bouillabaisse on Friday.

There are superb banquet facilities here and dinner is served Tuesday through Sunday. Call Webster 1-1246, should you wish to make some reservations.

Haven't had the opportunity to talk with owner-host Warren Ward of The Raffles Restaurant as yet but he finally got his New Raffles opened last weekend in Downey. Will have to contact him to know just what kind of a turnout there was during the three-day event. FLASH: Just got word that business for the three days was fabulous. Friday they served 300 on Saturday 400 and on Sunday 300 again.

But as Warren said in a recent communique, he feels "that the great buying public would rather have smaller portions of high quality food, be able to comfortably eat it all and pay somewhat lesser prices, than to have a large portion (and price) and have to carry some of it home in a doggie bag." And that would seem from here to be pretty good thinking.

The aim at the New Raffles is to provide some interesting entrees for the guests that'll be different from the regular run of dinner houses.

He, of course, is referring to goodies such as Steak Wellington, Jugged Hare and Toad in a Hole, just to mention a couple or three. There's to be the Sunday brunch menu as well as the Sunday family dinner menu and then the regular menu.

Have high hopes of making it by there at 7339 E. Florence Ave., one nite next week and

then will be able to give you a more complete picture on Ward's new spot in Downey. And it's not too far from the old locale in Leimert Park or from the Torrance area.

Say, in case you're planning a short shot down the coast in the near future and are somewhat of a golf nut, the course is now about ready at Ben Brown's.

General manager Don Rose reports that damage at the Laguna Beach Country Club during the recent storms has been repaired and reseeded so that everything'll open for play within a few weeks so make your plans.

In addition to the good news regarding the greens and fairways, Rose also mentioned the enthusiasm with which the new menu is being received. And you'll find the new musical group, The Naturals, highly entertaining.

Compounding all this, Ben Brown's will inaugurate a deluxe Sunday brunch at \$3.50 beginning this week.

You might make a call to (714) 499-2663, though, should you like to check further on this golfing thing.

Oops! Wasn't Jose "Soucio" Ancona's fault! Seems he did mention something one day not too long ago regarding all four addresses of the Red Onion Chain but alas — in one ear and out the other!

So just to put the records straight, the popular Red Onions are all over the city with that good Sonora style Mexican cuisine (better go there for lunch today). And the one we'll visit right now is at 2336 S. Hawthorne Blvd. in Torrance.

Then if you happen to be up on the hill in Peninsula Center you'll find another at 27736 Silver Spur Road in Palos Verdes.

Now back down on Hawthorne Boulevard again and this time in Hawthorne at 11625 Hawthorne Blvd. Finally to Inglewood and 4253 W. Century Blvd. And that should clean that up.

Incidentally, in addition to the fine foods offered at the Red Onion spots, it's also a handy place to pick up your tickets for the annual mix-off of the California Bartenders Guild swinger coming up soon (April 28) at the Beverly Hilton.

Bart Earle employs at least three members of The Guild in his restaurants. Jose Ancona, for one whom you can find in almost any of the spots. Then his running mates, Jose "Limpio" Whatizface and Stephanie-half Sam Mayes up on the hill.

Boy-o-boy, it sure must have been amateur hour one nite

last week down at the San Franciscan! Never heard such caterwauling!

But don't let that stop you from visiting this spot. Must have been just a bunch of fun-loving guys that nite who were enthralled with the sound of their own voices as can very often happen with some of this Polish Pop. The entertainment here is usually great. As a matter of act, the regular entertainers came in shortly thereafter and chased 'em off the stand.

It's The Playmates at the San Franciscan and a swifter trio you'll go far to find. And while on the subject, don't forget Torrance Nite at the San Fran, Monday, April 21 when the whole gang will take in the Dodgers-Giants game. It's \$4.50 per each and you'll have a wee of a time. Yes, even if those amateurs we spoke about happen to come along.

This upcoming Sunday will begin the weekly Sunday Champagne Brunch for your enjoyment at The Royal Giraffe Restaurant of the Torrance Ramada Inn. It'll be an "all the champagne you can drink" type thing and your choice from the buffet table. The whole schmere? An even \$2.50, that's how much for the whole schmere! Runs from 11 in the ayem 'til 3 in the afternoon with a wide variety of breakfast and brunch goodies.

Located at 4111 Pacific Coast Hwy., the Royal Giraffe suggests you call 37 plus GIRAF and get some reservations. Yep, that's the number to call. Just dialed it to make sure and the answer was immediate.

Swingin' spot for banquets and parties, too with facilities for up to 200 persons at one seating. Great for business meetings, luncheons, banquets, wedding receptions, just name it — they can provide it.

Well the Sun-tanned Irishman is back at Hop Louie's Latitude 20 Supper Club for his last stand prior to taking off for an extended engagement at Harrah's Tahoe so his ye hense and be entertained as only Ernie Menehune can do it.

During this current engagement at Latitude 20, Ernie will do three shows nightly except Mondays. There'll be a special early family show on Sundays starting at 6:30.

Now along the same general idea — let's take a look at the Tea House Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge.

Y'know Monday nite is Polynesian nite at the Tea House and it kicks things off with a bang!

Featured on this nite is such a guy as Mike Fonoti with his trio. How about that! Then to add to this Monday bit you've got Fiso Afo and "Taupou" — (Top-o — in case you were wondering how to pronounce it.).

Now don't back off 'cause there's something a little bit else being offered to you for your listening enjoyment and that's the lovely girl vocalist, Keauinui. She's a member of



GUEST STAR . . . In this case it's Peter Nero, who will be special guest starring for a one-week engagement with the Ed Ames Show at Melodyland in Anaheim. Fine piano man!

the Ernie Menehune group, come to think of it!

But this lovely little thing known as Helen Sun Moon — You've got to feel sorry about this one with all those names — Helen-Sun-Moon! So how's about "Mars," "Jupiter," "Pluto," "Mercury," or even "Earth."

Got an idea! Why doesn't Helen Sun Moon re-name herself and just put a "Star" on the front of her name!?! 'Cause she really IS a kind of a star when you stop and think of

her — and then think about her after you've listened to her. This one's lovely!

So from here on out, she'll be "Star Helen Sun Moon" for the billing in this department! And believe it to be sincere — she IS a star. Catch her soon! Now if you don't buy this bit, simply ask lounge manager Ronnie Ivamoto and he'll bring you up to date as far as entertainment is concerned 'cause here's a guy that knows entertainers!

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Owner

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