

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman



'..Suffer the Slings and Arrows'

"...of outrageous Fortune." But what's so outrageous about this kind of Fortune? 'Cause that's the name of the game when it comes to the highly successful operation of the Fortune Steak House in Gardena.

The old Fortune which Jean Ravelle and Company operated for some years was, as many recall, located on Western. But now, due to leases, rents, and

all stuff like that there, they've built a brand new Fortune at 1435 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. that is a thing to behold. And they built it from the ground up. No second-hand building, this.

The new spot boasts an all new modern kitchen with all the latest facilities with the entire 200-place restaurant located most functionally to the kitchen area. The former Fortune

was nowhere near as functional as this beautiful new "cook-your-own steak" dinner house.

The same quality meats as before are still to be had in the new spot and the prices will still be on the reasonable side and will include all those other little side goodies that go along with a good steak.

Jean's (that's pronounced "zjaun") wife, Lee, wasn't standing behind the door when they passed out the know-how in the decorating field. She hasn't missed a trick decor-wise to bring to you one of the most attractively designed restaurants we've seen in the area — that's the entire area!

For example, in the banquet room, couldn't figure out for a moment exactly what the umbrella-type arrangement was hanging from the ceiling. Then quite suddenly, you realize that it's just that — umbrellas. Lee has taken six of those patio umbrellas, removed the pole that normally goes through the hole in the patio table and then suspended them from the ceiling. (The covers, not the

poles!) creating a most unusual effect as well as building an excellent baffle for just the correct acoustical quality needed in the room.

And in the main dining room, the regularly placed shadow boxes displaying their wares of brick-a-brack couldn't be more tastefully presented.

All in all, this new Fortune Steak House offers all the comforts of home away from home. A truly delightful dinner house and featuring an ample cocktail bar and lounge, where that fine piano-vocal artist, Q. Williams performs nightly, Tuesday through Sunday for the diners entertainment.

"Q" (now don't ask what the Q stands for 'cause we don't know!) is a well-known entertainer all around the country, having played in the Count Basie organization for some time and more recently aboard the S.S. Princess Louise at Terminal Island, Port of Los Angeles. Have enjoyed this fine musician's talents many evenings aboard the Princess and can sing nothing but the highest of praises for his ability. He can be heard those six nights from 9 p.m. And gobs of free parking!

Well now how's that grab you! All this long time apparently we've been away out in left field waiting for a pop-fly without a glove.

Nick Cicciarelli's Jet Room Lounge, we thought, was just that. Now what do we find out? It's the Jet SET Room! Well guess perhaps Nick and Nell are gearing for the swift action.

But no mind — be it Jet Room or Jet Set Room, you're not going to change it that much. It'll always be just one of those dandy little spots in which you can relax to your heart's content. Especially with that guy, Bill Fulkerson noodling away at the piano bar nightly. 'E's a real swinger himself and all patrons who visit the Jet Set Room are most high on his talents. Especially his sing-a-long type shows. Pleases all kinds, young, old or just right smack dab in the middle.

So like, make the scene one nite soon at 6815 La Cienega Blvd. and have some fun. That's right there near Centinela, y'know.

Now that must have been quite a swingin' month that head bartender Kiki Garnica of the Matador Restaurant just finished.

Seems Kiki spent a good portion of his vacation trip to Spain visiting other restaurants and bars testing the accepted native drink of Spain, sangria. Kiki claims that this zesty concoction is far better right here at The Matador in West Los Angeles. Guess he should be in a position to know, too. He paid a call to some 70 different spots, tasting in each one.

In case you didn't know, sangria is made of different fresh fruits marinated for 24 hours in red wine and served with ice, soda water and brandy. Good, too. But woosh! After forty of these! How could he tell one taste from the other! Or for that matter, one restaurant from the other!

Another thing that amazed Kiki was the fact that apparently the ever-popular cocktail in California, the Marguerita, is almost as popular in Spain as it is here at home. It was practically unknown over there a few years ago. Probably some wisenheimer from Southern California went over there and sold them a bill of goods on what we're doing here. Did the Spanish people a big favor, though, no matter how they found out.

If you're not already a turtle you can plan on soon joining this august group 'cause the official Turtle Club has now finished completion at the Pen and Quill Hotel in Manhattan Beach.

According to general manager, Pete Peterson, the club facilities are now ready following their May 15th opening and he wants all turtles, both current and prospective, to feel welcome to visit this unusual fun club.

The club will be open to the public seven days a week, offering the finest in bar service, unusual sandwich bar and top entertainment. Him-m-m, wonder what they mean by "unusual" sandwich bar. 'S'pose you can get a turtle sandwich there? Now THAT would be unusual!

By way of keeping yourself posted on the activities going on over there at the Pen and Quill, give 'em a call at 372-1101 and they will fill you in on the happening.

Well the annual Home Show is now in full swing at the Pacific Auditorium so if you're contemplating taking it in y'better hurry 'cause it closes this Sunday. It was an eleven-day stand.

It goes on daily at 7600 Beverly Blvd. from 12:30 'til 11:30 at nite, when all manner of new things will be on display for your interest. There are well over 300 manufacturers from all parts of the nation represented with every conceivable home construction and home furnishing product. Many of these are brand new and displayed for the first time this year. Admission is \$1.80 for adults and 75 cents for kids.

Okay, so here we go again with that swingin' stuff over at Jerry Fabbich's Zebra Room on Hawthorne Boulevard in Torrance.

It's a three-part harmony group that can and will play just about anything nite Tuesday through Saturday. There's Johnny Preston on lead guitar, Rick Macklin on bass and Don Eagar with drums. One hellava group, if you want to know! They go with the standards, the new numbers, country-western, just name it and it's very likely among their repertoire.

Meanwhile, you've still got good old Roger taking care of your needs at the bar, along with Frank Flannagan and Gino. Also aiding and abetting the whole shot is the always faithful, Bob Murphy, a fine Italian boy! And on rare occasions they allow owner, Jerry to "practice" a little on the plank.

Then if you happen to be a sit-down-type customer (as opposed to sit-up) sweetie-ple Helen will be ever on hand to tend to your every whim. And on Tuesdays, Judy Elder comes in on the relief shift.

So don't pass up this action at the Zebra Room if you can possibly help it. They're a fine group.

Well now Ike's coming up with something for the first part of next month called Birthday Party Week for all Gemini and Cancer natives, and if you think this isn't a wild bunch, you should get to know a few of these stalwarts. Really something!

All this takes place down at Shipwreck Joey's in Wilmington and right at the moment haven't the full details on it. Ike just called to alert us as to his plans and we'll be in touch with him tomorrow with some add-to copy for his ad. Which is already on this page so you know about it anyway so why all this frenzied typing!

But there'll probably be prizes, goodies, and such like so keep your ear-balls peeled for the information.

By hitting it this early, it gives you and them at Joey's time to make your plans accordingly.



CHEERS! ... Owner-host of the Red Onion Restaurants, Bart Earle, is shown above amid "people" during the recent California Bartenders Guild Competition at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. 'T'was a be-o-eg nite.

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