

# In person

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and so confident about her singing talent that she didn't worry about the hazards of being out alone at night, walking in and out of strange bars where the customers were mostly men. "I never gave a thought to the possibility of being mugged or raped," she said. "I wasn't afraid of anybody. I needed all the money I could get for myself and my baby. I guess I was lucky. I made enough in tips so I could get by until I found a regular job."

Some nights, Carrie's tips were pretty good. Her listeners gave her 50 cents or a dollar, sometimes more. Once in a while, her performance brought her a \$5 tip. She worked as a strolling troubador for three weeks. Then came the break she'd been hoping for. The Gold Mint was so pleased with the crowds she collected that the owner hired her to work there nightly on salary.

Carrie entertained at the Gold Mint for many weeks. Then she was hired by other bars and restaurants. Among them were the Oliver Twist No. 1 in El Segundo, the Oliver Twist No. 2 in Santa Monica, the Gold Key, Torrance, Fred Anthony's in Santa Monica, the Water Hole and Cascades in Long Beach and many others. Only once did she ever run into any real trouble involving personal danger.

It happened one night in a Long Beach bar. As she left the place after work, she was followed outside by one of the customers, a man, who tried to get fresh and made a pass at her. Left-handed Carrie reacted instinctively. She swung her fist as hard as she could and socked him on the jaw. Bone hit bone. The blow was so hard that the man — amazed and hurt — walked away, holding his jaw and cursing. It was a disaster for Carrie. She broke the bones in two fingers and also a hand bone. Her hand was in a cast for three months — and she couldn't play her guitar or earn her living during that time.

Born in El Paso, Carrie — whose formal first name is Carolina — showed her musical ability at an early age. When she was 6, she could play *Jingle Bells* and other tunes so well on a toy piano that her parents bought her a full-sized upright. Within a year or two, Carrie taught herself to play it. She also sang such Mexican songs as *Tu Solo Tu* and *La Burrita*.

"I think I was a terrible singer in those days," Carrie recalled. "I sang off key. My father often told me to stop playing the piano and to stop singing. He really complained about it. He was very strong-willed. But I was just as strong-willed as he was. Whenever he told me NOT to do something, I did just the opposite. So I always played the piano and sang whenever he was in the house, just to make him mad."

Carrie decided later that her father was using psychology on her. "He secretly hoped that I would become an entertainer some day," she said. "By telling me NOT to practice, his reverse psychology made me practice all the harder. Just before he died, about three years ago, he made me very happy by telling me that he was very glad that I had developed my talent and become a professional."

The Carrie Plus Two trio has been attracting large crowds to Lechuga's for the past six months. The restaurant's entertainment lounge is large with many tables. Like Carrie, the other members of the trio are self-taught musicians with natural talent. Jerry Archuleta, who plays guitar and sings with Carrie, was born in Roswell, N.M. He grew up with eight brothers and sisters, all of whom were self-taught guitarists. Jerry became a professional about four years ago, performing with Manny Franco's trio at the Monarch Room and with another trio at the Melody Cove on Santa Fe Avenue.

The trio's drummer is Jerry's nephew, Armando Archuleta, who lives in Wilmington and is a graduate of Banning High. Armando is 22 years old and handles those sticks masterfully. He's so good he has performed regularly with such recording bands as Mex Tex and the Preludes. The audiences at Lechuga's give him practically an ovation whenever he does his spectacular drum solo which continues — without accompaniment — for nearly two minutes. He also wins big applause for his drum specialities during such numbers as *Cachita*, *La Bola*, *Brazil* and *Carnaval*. Despite his youth, Armando has 10 years experience as a drummer. He started playing at age 12 and turned pro two years later.

Jerry's romantic voice is featured on *Red Top* and such Latin movers as *Perdido*, *Volvere* and *Lloraras*. Carrie's powerful show voice — with effortless range — is wonderful on a variety including Al Jolson's *Swanee* and *Rocka Bye Your Baby*, *Proud Mary*, *Honky Tonk*, *Bad Leroy Brown* and *Staggerly*. Everything she does is impressive, but the crowds at Lechuga's particularly enjoy dancing to her Latin specialities, such as *La Mula Branca*, *Cumbria de La Media Noche*, *Solamente Una Vez* and many more.

Owned for many years by Charles Lechuga, the restaurant features outstanding gold tequila margaritas and moderately priced steak and Mexican dinners. Charles buys his supplies in large quantities to keep his prices down and fight inflation. Generous dinners — such as two chili rellenos with soup or salad, beans and rice — are as low as \$2.45. Top sirloin and porterhouse steaks, with soup or salad, baked potato and vegetable, are \$4.35. The foods are delicious and always high quality. The restaurant, which has seating for 275, has two lighted parking lots.



Lechuga  
WHERE TO FIND THEM: Kam's restaurant in

## Dancing beauties at Kam's

The Tiare Dancers entertain Friday and Saturday nights in the Polynesian floor shows at Kam's Chinese restaurant in Corona Del Mar. They perform with the Barefoot Adventure musical group. For more details, see Where to Find Them section of In Person.



Corona Del Mar — one of the Southland's most beautiful Chinese establishments — has special tropical floor shows and entertainment Friday and Saturday nights. Featured are the gorgeous, shapely TIARE DANCERS, in exotic Polynesian costumes, and the music of the BAREFOOT ADVENTURE group. The dancers have appeared in top restaurants in Hollywood and L.A. and made guest performances on TV. The shows are booked through Jan. 25. Kam's, owned by John Kam Yee, has a lot to offer, include teriyaki steaks, the finest oriental cuisine, Polynesian cocktails, Ginner dancing and friendly hospitality. It is located at 2121 E. Coast Hwy.

artists. Tom is featured in the 3636 cocktail lounge Thursday through Sunday nights.

John Apostle has done it again. The president of the Golden Sails Inn complex has signed another top group for his superpopular Adagio music lounge: HAMILTON, JOE FRANK AND REYNOLDS — whose hit records have sold in the millions — play for dancing and put on their musical shows nightly. They are famed for their album hits, *Don't Pull Your Love Out*, *On Me Baby* and *Annabella*, which reached the top 20 on the charts and stayed there 10 weeks in 1971. The group's stars are DANNY HAMILTON, JOE FRANK CAROLLO and ALAN DENNISON, who studied advanced music at El Camino College and UCLA. They've been signed for a lengthy engagement at the Golden Sails, 6285 E. Pacific Coast Hwy.



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