



# Perspective

By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

## Musicana

Culture, by definition, is the act of developing intellectual and moral faculties combined with excellence of taste. In music, that can range all the way from Mozart to Carrie Jacobs-Bond to Issac Stern. But in this hurry-up world of screaming, incomprehensible noise masquerading as music, it is hard to find. Especially since we've raised a generation of people who think Rogers and Hammerstein are asphalt contractors and Beethoven is a German motorcycle.

In most places you have to look for culture — or travel out of town to find it. Not so in Vero Beach. It has come to us in the delightful form of Jack Lascha's supper club, Musicana.

In May, 1975, Jack closed out his enterprises on Cape Cod and opened the doors of his first supper club in Vero Beach. His dream was to present the best of Broadway combined with nostalgia songs from yesteryear. He enlisted top student musicians from around the nation to

sing and serve tables in a family atmosphere. The club flourished and Jack sold out to open other clubs in the state.

Things didn't go well and Musicana in Vero Beach finally shut down. Jack bought it back, and once again it is in full swing.

Wanting to check it out myself, Jackie and I took in an evening. It was one of the most delightful occasions of the year. Lascha travels the nation seeking out the finest musical students from top universities and graduate schools. Last year he auditioned more than 3,000 musicians to fill the spots at Musicana. Once the 12 musicians are chosen they give a full semester. Jack provides living quarters. They practice their music and dance steps during the day and give three performances each night — as well as wait on tables. Music from Oklahoma, Fiddler on the Roof, Camelot and My Fair Lady are great favorites. And the kids who sing . . . well, they are really

something else. I only wish I had brought my own children along to hear them.

The Musicana Foundation has raised more than \$1 million, which provides each student with a \$1,000 tax-free scholarship which they receive at the end of their term.

The other night at the salad bar (which is one of the finest I've ever gorged at), I spotted an old friend. Knowing then I wanted to write this column to encourage other folks to take advantage of Musicana — I asked him why he was there. "Because it's one of the few 'nice places' I can bring my wife and family."

And he wasn't alone in his comments. Musicana is indeed a "nice place."

Jack Lascha is to Vero Beach entertainment what Steve Garvey is to the Dodgers. A solid Christian. A decent guy. A team player. Who also leads the musical league in RBIs.

If you want a great evening, try Musicana.