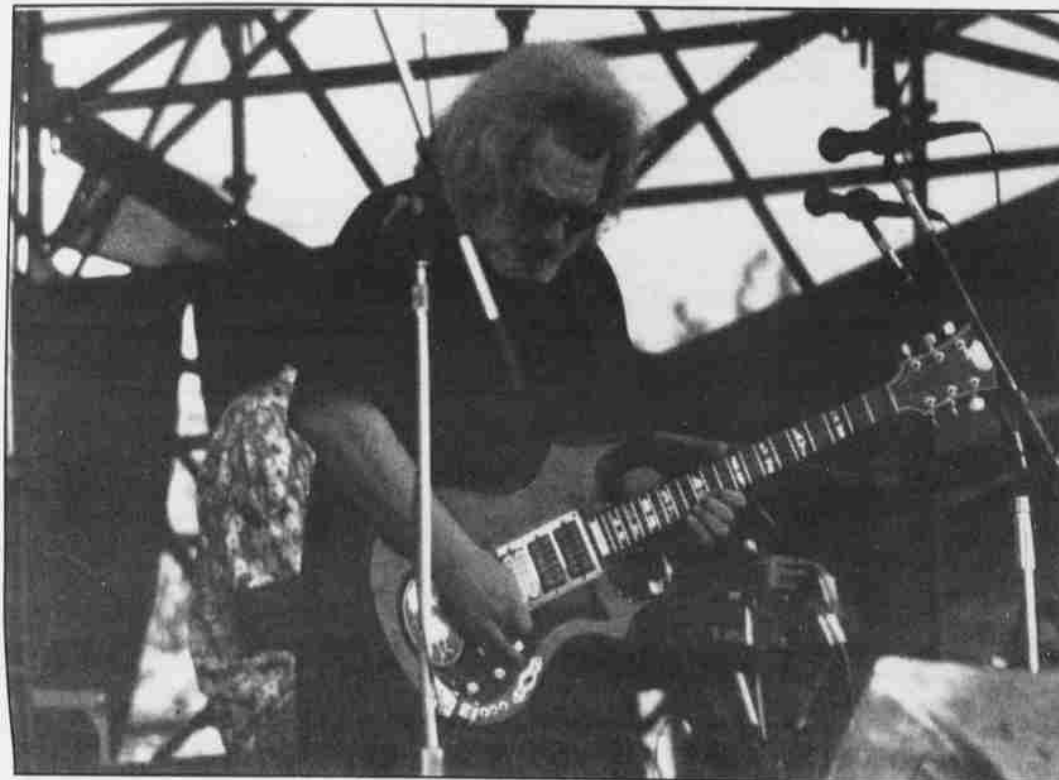


Phil Lesh on six-string bass. photo by Rick Nielsen



Jerry Garcia on guitar and vocals. photo by Rick Nielsen

## Grateful Dead and Santana play the Silver Bowl

by Bret Skiba

Playing a two-day series of shows on Saturday and Sunday, the Grateful Dead and their loyal following brought a whole new lifestyle to Las Vegas. The Saturday show was less spectacular than the next day's but was still very exciting. The Dead opened with their first commercial hit "Touch of Grey" with Bob Weir and Jerry Garcia trading riffs and vocals. The show really didn't get going until later when they opened with a three-song jam which tied together "Playin' in the Band," "Scarlet Begonias" and "Fire on the Mountain" which lasted 35 minutes.

The concert proceeded to get bizarre as drummers Billy Krutzman and Mickey Hart embarked on one of their 20-minute space jams. It was during the second set that the Dead Heads got excited and everyone started dancing through the crowd and arena having fun

and partying. The show ended after three and a half hours and, considering how old these guys are, they played an impressive first set in the heat and wind. The band returned the next day which had far better weather conditions and included many new tricks. The Sunday show was much more exciting than the previous show including more activity on stage. The first set of the day opened with "Jack Straw" and came to an end 90 minutes later with a guest appearance by guitarist Carlos Santana (from the opening act) accompanying on the song "Snow and Rain."

The intermission was even a festive occasion

as the crowd danced and sang to the playing of a Frank Sinatra

*"The Dead will be around and playing as long as the music is around and as long as it remains fun."*  
- Dennis McNally  
Dead Publicist

dise prior to the second set. This set included another space jam,

different from the day before. Also during this set the band played around and had fun with the song "Wang Dang Doodle." However, the real excitement of the day came near the end of the set as bassist Phil Lesh took the vocals on the song "Box of Rain," and then the band played its trademark "Truckin'." On both days the keyboard duties were taken by the newest Dead member Vince Welnick who is replaced the late Brent Mydland. Bruce Hornsby was a special guest on piano. According to the band's publicist Dennis McNally, "Bruce is a welcome member whenever his schedule permits," which will attract many more people

to these shows. This weekend's shows are the biggest concert event to ever take place in Vegas, and could lead to many more Dead shows and more large, outdoor concerts at the Silver Bowl. The Grateful Dead first played in Las Vegas in 1969 at the Ice Palace and three shows at the Aladdin Theatre from 1981 through 1983. The two shows this past weekend attracted almost 80,000 concert goers and another 10,000 plus parking lot people; 75 percent of which came from as far away as Canada, Maine and Florida.

The Dead have been playing for over 25 years and McNally feels "The Dead will be around and playing as long as the music is around and as long as it remains fun," so more shows should be expected to follow these. It was an incredible series of shows and to those people who waited while they sold out, you missed two very good shows.



Yellin' Rebel reporter Bret Skiba with rock promoter Bill Graham. photo by Rick Nielsen



Back stage line for beer with the American Beauty rose emblem in the background. photo by Rick Nielsen

# The Grateful Dead & Santana



## in Las Vegas

by Bret Skiba

## Grateful Dead Show provides sunshine and daydreams

by Rick Nielsen

They may be known as the Grateful Dead, but for two days last weekend this one-of-a-kind band pumped Las Vegas' music scene and economy full of life.

The band that epitomized the hippie movement of the Haight-Ashbury district in San Francisco in the late '60s and early '70s brought its dynamic show to the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. Throngs of modern-day "Gypsies" known as "Dead Heads" followed the band to a history-making event and the largest outdoor concert in Nevada history.

If two completely sold-out shows are any indication of the band's ability to withstand the evolution of the music business, then perhaps they should change their name to "Thankfully Alive." The total gross from the 79,000 ticket sales stands at \$1,856,500.

For any first-time Dead concert-goer, the initial impression was probably part shock and part amazement. But based on local ticket sales it is doubtful that there were many newcomers to this music phenomena.

Longtime legendary promoter Bill Graham reported Friday that approximately 20 percent of ticket sales were to the local market. That means the people buying the majority of

the tickets were from all across the country (the conglomeration of buses, Volkswagon minivans, and cars in the parking lot with out-of-state license plates attest to that), which usually doesn't happen unless the fans know what to expect. That's

Both Saturday and Sunday



Dedicated Dead Heads follow the band as they travel the nation. photo by Rick Nielsen

where the term "Dead Head" the entire parking lot resembled something of a Middle Eastern bazaar. Thanks to gale force winds that created a great amount of dust, people were cruising around with turbans and rags covering their bodies, including their faces. It looked

like "tye-dyed mummies on parade." The isles between cars were filled with vendors selling every form of tye-dye-T-shirts, scarfs, headbands, togas, sandals and jewelry. There were juggling sticks, grilled cheese and tofu sandwiches, cream cheese and bean sprout pitas, and even a few unmentionable things for sale.

The flood of people came from as far away as Florida, Vermont, Oregon, and even New Zealand. Once assembled for the show, they melded together like the scents of different incenses that waffed through the air.

Dead Heads range from professional career people, to the occasional concertgoing fan, to band-following vagabonds whose main goal in life is to just make it to the next show. The diversity of attendees at the event left out nothing in the realm of potential problems.

There were virtually no altercations and a minimal amount of trash left thanks to the self-policing of the fans. Police Chief David Hollenbeck reported a total of

nine arrests for both shows, none of which were drug-related. "The two concerts were more trouble free than anticipated," he said. "I would prefer to do Grateful Dead shows over many of the rap and rock concerts."

Daren Libonati, events coordinator for the Silver Bowl, said, "the phenomenal outcome of the shows was hard to put into words, and it was hard to believe that for a first-time event, the coordination of staffs and positive reception of the crowds could be so perfect."

Stadium officials said they were very pleased with every aspect of the shows and plans are already in the works for an annual Grateful Dead date as well as other possible major stadium concerts.



View of the crowd near the stage. photo by Rick Nielsen

## Santana opens for The Dead

Picked by Bill Graham as the opening act for the Grateful Dead, Carlos Santana, a long-time friend of the band, started off the festivities at the Silver Bowl over the weekend. Promoting his newest album, *Spirits—Dancing in the Flesh*, Santana elected to play

more of his newer songs and by-passed timeless classics such as "Evil Ways" and "Black Magic Woman." His set was the same on both days which was strange because he knows the Dead don't play the same sets.

Santana's sound was so clean and spotless it was a shame that he only played two 75-minute sets before leaving the stage, but he is still one of the all-

time guitar legends. He opened his set on Saturday clad in a Jimi Hendrix shirt and dedicated his show to Hendrix and John Coltrane.

The Latin beat of Santana's music could be felt throughout both days but was most evident during the songs "Mother Earth" and "Spirits," both political awareness songs, and during the extended jams and

instrumentals he played.

Carlos Santana has been in the business for many years and has influenced a great number of stars such as Neal Schon of Journey fame and Chaka Kahn. He was the perfect complement to the Grateful Dead over the weekend and played exquisitely as their opening act. He plays Vegas once a year at the Aladdin and so chances are he'll be here again.



Bongo musician plays along with the music. photo by Rick Nielsen