

# LAS VEGAS SHOWGAST

## THE VEGAS BAG

by Mark Tan



EVERYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT...the dazzling new ANN-MARGRET SHOW called "A.M./P.M." now at the International Hotel. The lavish spectacular is one of the most unique, original and refreshingly different & entertaining musical revues ever presented at a Las Vegas hotel. Tony Award winning director-choreographer RON FIELD is the creative, talented genius behind the "A.M./P.M." concept. Producers ROGER SMITH & ALLAN CARR have spared no expense to bring together the best talents in all departments - choreography, music, special material, costumes, sets, lighting, etc. - to showcase the talented, versatile and beautiful singer-dancer-actress. ANN-MARGRET looks sensational! Her appearances here - much too rare - have established her as one of the most exciting and top drawing attractions and her show is always a full scale musical production rather than just an "act". "A.M./P.M." opened last night at the International Hotel; the first night audience was left stunned, captivated and raving for more. DON'T MISS ANN-MARGRET and COMPANY - it's an absolutely brilliant performance by all concerned and an unforgettable entertainment experience!!!

STRIP CHAT & CHATTER...Speaking of ANN-MARGRET - and who isn't since the exciting superstar arrived on the scene - there are a couple of familiar faces in the "A.M./P.M." cast. LILLIAN D'HONAU, featured here in both editions of "Pzazz" (remember Lillian's showstopping "Born A Star"??) at the Desert Inn is one of the dancers...RON DEXTER, formerly with THE ESTABLISHMENT and last here with

that group at the Riviera, is one of AM's featured cast...JOEL CRAIG & JOE BENNETT, who were with Mrs. Smith in her recent Puerto Rico engagement are also part of the Las Vegas troupe...BOB STREET, formerly with Mitzi Gaynor, SHEILA TESSLER, TOM AVERA & LARRY MERRITT are also in the dancer-singer ensemble.

LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE...Despite a flurry of press agent announcements that a show called "HOGAN'S HEROES REVUE" is going to open at the Desert Inn on June 1, the D.I. says, AGAIN, the show was NEVER signed and is NOT opening. Period!... "Bedtime Riot" the current D.I. lounge attraction has been held over for another four weeks...ALLAN CARR, RON FIELD, JAN MURRAY, STEVE LAWRENCE & EYDIE GORME, JOHN ROWLES, RIP TAYLOR, THE McGUIRE SISTERS (CHRISTINE & DOROTHY), TESSIE O'SHEA, AND "Vive Les Girls" girls PAT GILL & JUDY RITSKO in to see English superstar TOMMY STEELE, and PHYLLIS McGUIRE & BOB MELVIN, in his Caesars Palace bow (his world nightclub debut)...PHYLLIS DILLER, THE KIDS NEXT DOOR, RON FIELD with Ann-Margret's "dance-in" ROBERTA HAZE, and singer GARY COSTER (formerly with The Establishment and now doing his own act with DIANNE HARTSELL) in for a late show of "Vive Les Girls" at the Dunes...Songstress LEE MEZA's first single record for the Happy Tiger label is out and moving up the charts steadily. It's Lee's rendition of "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight" backed by "Rolling Stone"...Riviera star JAN MURRAY spends his month off from the Starlite Theater moviemaking in Arizona. Versatile Murray plays the mastermind of a criminal gang in the new flick "DAY OF THE WOLVES" co-starring MARTHA HYER & RICK JASON...Choreographer AL GOSSAN, who moved here from Chicago, is now giving dance classes. Gossan staged the sexy rock dances and bare bottom frolics for the last Halloween Ball and is working now on an original revue for a summer debut...Breck Wall-Joe Peterson's "BOTTOMS UP" returns to the International Casino Theater on April 16...JACK MORGAN & THE RUSS MORGAN ORCHESTRA opening a 9-week stand at the Dunes' Top of the Strip, have the distinction of being one of the very few

orchestras on the scene today that move, travel and play together all year long. Most name bands retain the leader's name but use pick up musicians in different locales. Jack Morgan was with his father's orchestra for more than 10 years as both a trombone player and singer. Jack also does the vocal arrangements....

'ROUND TOWN...Lovely and supertalented young songstress KAREN WYMAN is back for her second appearance at the Sands with Laugh In stars DAN ROWAN & DICK MARTIN. Karen is one of the first singers to choose Mary Magdalene's lament from the new rock musical "JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR" for her latest single recording...And speaking of the Sands, have you been in to see beautiful TRISHA NOBLE starring in the "London Playgirl Revue"??? In the same show, New Zealand singer FRANKIE STEVENS - who is a good pal of the Flamingo's "sexiest star of the seventies" JOHN ROWLES - and British fave TESSIE O'SHEA...Manager and music publishing company prexy BILL LOWERY in to see his singer-composer BILLY JOE ROYAL at the Flamingo. Lowery also has JOE SOUTH, TOMMY ROE and B.J. THOMAS under his Atlanta-based banner...Comedian LARRY WILDE joins the DEBBIE REYNOLDS SHOW opening next at the Desert Inn. Apparently Debbie decided to drop the singing group, THE UNUSUAL WE, from her Vegas date. The group toured with her for a couple of months while she was breaking in her new cafe revue...LEE HENRIKSEN, RICK STOCK, JET KANANI & SPUD IVENS, known professionally as THE LELAND FOUR and currently appearing at the Frontier Circle F Theater, are celebrating their seventh year together....

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