

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE OF THE STARS

THE VEGAS BAG

by Mark Tan



STRIP NOTES TO YOU.....Male singers and singing teams are tripping over themselves trying to get an audition with producer FREDERIC APCAR since word got out that singing stars BUDDY VEST & STERLING CLARK would be leaving "Vive Les Girls" shortly to tour with JOAN RIVERS. The popular duo's replacement(s) hasn't been announced yet, but among the many many contenders are: GARY COSTER (last here with The Establishment and most recently star of Line Renaud's "Flesh" at King's Castle), BARRY MONROE (here in "Pzazz", and as a solo act at the Frontier Circle F), JEB STUART (who was with Edie Adams, and earlier of the Lido), DAVID WALKER (featured in the last edition of "Wonderful World of Burlesque"), CRAIG GARDNER (last here as one of Connie Stevens' "Magnificent Seven"), THE BROTHERS KEEP (who recently closed at the Stardust Lounge), JIM HODGE (who starred in a previous edition of "VLG"), WAYNE ALBRITTON (currently in the Lido, formerly in "Pzazz", "Hello America", etc.), RICHARD RYDER (originally with The Establishment, and last featured with both Juliet Prowse & Marty Allen), and several others. Whoever gets the choice showcase spot will have a doubly difficult task of following Vest & Clark who are both tremendously popular with other showfolk, and absolute dynamite with the Persian Room audiences!! Good luck to all!.....Perky, talented MONICA MYERS joins The Al Bello Revue as the featured singer opening this month at Sahara Tahoe, and making her full fledged Vegas debut with the Bello show at the Sahara Casbar Theater in June.....The beautiful TUDERA SISTERS - now starring in the Thunderbird's "Geisha-Rella" - being talent scouted for both the Merv Griffin "Salute to Las Vegas" tapings and for a brand new high rise hotel in Honolulu. The trio - who are REALLY sisters - leave the show in May for other bookings; "Geisha-Rella" goes on to Montreal and will be back at the T-Bird in January.....Looking tanned and terrific, sexy JACQUELINE DOUGUET back from a smash engagement at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Waikiki.....Always a Vegas favorite, sexy thrush RENEE LEE just back from a stint on the Princess cruise circuit, and hoping to snag a summer Vegas date. Renee is about set to showcase her talents at the new Club John in L.A.

HAVE YOU HEARD.....that the LANDMARK plans a complete changeover in its entertainment policy - from

name star attractions to a long running 'spectacle-type' revue in the mainroom??.....that musical director JOE GUERCIO is or will be the new Entertainment Director at the INTERNATIONAL??.....that BARRY ASHTON'S "London Playgirl Revue" now at the SANDS Celebrity Theater will be closing in June???.that the new FLAMINGO eatery (in place of the recently closed Sky Room) will be decked out as "early gangster"; one rumor says it'll be called "Bugsy's Place" in keeping with the current trend of nostalgia.....that the DESERT INN plans to close its Skillet Room to make it into a small, intimate lounge, and change its Lady Luck Lounge into a bingo-card room??.....it will be JEWEL BROWN in the featured singing spot of the new ALAN LEE production incoming at the Sahara Casbar when "Hot Flashes" closes. JERRY JACKSON is in town to stage & choreograph the six new production numbers.....

STRIP HIGHLIGHTS.....The comedy-magic of Australian star BERRI LEE now in the "Folies Bergere" at the Tropicana.....And the more serious, magical appearances & disappearances of SIEGFRIED & ROY in the "Lido de Paris" at the Stardust.....The sexy six-girl striptease - all at once - in Barry Ashton's "London Playgirls" at the Sands....."Frankie & Johnny" Kabuki-style by T. Keigo and statuesque Su-San in "Geisha-Rella" at the Thunderbird.....And, marvelous MITZI GAYNOR anytime, doing anything now at the Riviera!!.....

CHIT & CHAT.....The new BUCK RAM PLATTERS - who return here to the Flamingo in the fall - have applied for visas to visit Communist China. The popular group would like to be the first musical artists to kick off a cultural exchange program with the Red Chinese government.....BRECK WALL, JAN SUTTON, DAVID HARRIS, DEEDA HYMES, ROB BARRON, COOPER NEAL, BETTY WALDRON, ALICIA IRWIN, VIKKI ANTHONY, BONNIE BAKER & MARY WEINTRAUB breaking all attendance records at the International Casino Theater in the latest Breck Wall-Joe Peterson edition of "BOTTOMS UP" will also be stars of a new record album of the show. The cast will be taping live from the Int'l this weekend.....Riotous RIP TAYLOR - starring in the Aladdin's "Funny Farm" - has been signed for the BOBBY SHERMAN SPECIAL taping next week in L.A. Rip's developing a new slogan - "Taylor Tapes Thursdays" (his one day off) by jetting to L.A. for guestshots with STEVE ALLEN, VIRGINIA GRAHAM, MERV GRIFFIN, etc. Rip also has a new Scope television commercial coming up for airplay; Rip plays Cupid (as he would say "Not a Pretty Picture!!!!").....VIPs from Epic Records in for the debut of TAMMY WYNETTE, "The Edith Piaf of Country America" at the Landmark Hotel. Tammy and her husband, co-star

FLAMINGO FUN ROOM

Work has already begun toward converting the Flamingo Hotel Sky Room to one of the most unique restaurants in America, according to hotel president, Burton M. Cohen.

The Sky Room, a popular upstairs discotheque for the past three years, was closed permanently Sunday night.

Cohen said that the room will be completely remodeled for the new restaurant, which has a tentative opening date of June 22. "The restaurant will not be a gourmet dining room, in the usual sense of the term," Cohen pointed out. "But I guarantee that it will be one of the finest, most unusual restaurants you'll ever see. The motif for the room will make it the talk of the town. In fact, we expect the restaurant to be a little controversial."

Cohen said the room will be designed as a gathering place or "hangout" for locals as well as visitors to Las Vegas.

"The atmosphere will be conducive to 'dropping in' for dinner or a drink with friends," he said. "It will definitely be a 'fun' place to go."

The Flamingo Sky Room has long been acknowledged as one of the most beautiful rooms in Las Vegas. Glass enclosed on three sides, it affords a magnificent view of the Las Vegas Strip. The marble and gold staircase leading to the room has been one of the hotel's most attractive showpieces.

The new restaurant will give the Flamingo a total of four dining rooms. The others are the Flamingo Room or main showroom, the Candlelight Room for gourmet dining and the Appian Inn.

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