

# LAS VEGAS SHOWGAS

## THE VEGAS BAG

by Mark Tan



**THE GOOD NEWS...** DAVE VICTORSON, a gentleman and a scholar, and one of Las Vegas' most astute entertainment directors (he was instrumental in building the galaxy of stars that made Caesars Palace "the" hotel) is the newly appointed E.D. at the Las Vegas Hilton (International) Hotel. Mr. Victorson — like his predecessor BILL MILLER (now at the Flamingo) — is enormously popular, well liked, respected, and both his and Miller's talent for talent is internationally known. The Hilton Hotels could not be in better hands than these two men who have contributed so consistently to making Las Vegas the entertainment capital of the world. Welcome back Dave!

**STRIP TRIPPING...** RUSTY WARREN, queen of the party records, returned to the Flamingo Casino Theater July 22. The rowdy redhead — who, offstage, is a quiet, articulate and gracious lady — is one of the Flamingo's hottest draws. Looks like JOEY HEATHERTON won't be on the bill with PAUL ANKA after all when Anka and The Unusual We open at Caesars Palace on August 12. Miss Heatherton has had to postpone her Vegas return because of tv and movie commitments. Two "brother" groups of the recently closed CALLIOPE (Phoenix-based musical group which debuted at the International) are making Vegas ventures. SOUP and LEADFATHER are both under the aegis of Charlie Thompson and both from the San Francisco area. Soup is currently at the Las Vegas Hilton (International) Hotel's Crown Room disco, and Leadfather will be on hand for the Winter Wonderland anniversary festivities at Caesars Palace this weekend. DEBBIE SMITH, who used to be the Fourteen in popular song and dance trio BLACK, WHITE & FOURTEEN, is now one of the Ron Lewis Dancers featured

at "Vive Les Girls" at the Dunes... A former Hawaiian fire and sword dancer, TOMMY MEARS, celebrating his birthday "round town in to see Dick Jensen's "Aloha Hawaii" at the Landmark, Rip Taylor's "Funny Farm" etc. Mears is now one of the top hair stylists in Los Angeles at the very posh HOUSE OF DANISE in Beverly Hills. Danise is skedded to be the first air borne salon on Western Air Lines 747 flights. Dancer-choreographer SAL ANGELICA back from several months in Argentina where he started in that country's largest dance spectacular... Comedienne FAYE DI WITT, currently co-starring in "Funny Farm" at the Aladdin, is back after several weeks illness. Faye, still under doctor's care, has been told to go slow and rest-rest-rest! Also ailing, lead dancer-co-producer and one of the stars of "Latin Fire '72" at the Thunderbird, FREDDY MANJON, Freddy, who has been hospitalized here for several weeks, will be out of the show for at least three more weeks....

**BITS & PIECES...** Regardless of what the CBS press releases would have you believe, it's IMPOSSIBLE to take seriously the claim that the new tv series THE NEWCOMERS is anywhere near the best of all amateur, semi pro, or professional talent available in these United States! Supposedly one of those "nationwide talent searches" the producers of the show obviously bypassed all the talents on display in Las Vegas that might have made the show a true "showcase" of new faces. THE GOOD HUMOR COMPANY are the resident kooks of the show, and so far, have held their own against at-odds direction, staging, and etc. etc. TGHC is one of the show's only glimmers of talent judgement and even they have been better in their appearances here at the Thunderbird... Dancer ("Minsky's Burlesque)-choreographer RICK HAMILTON, who will be assisting BOB TURK with the new Lido show in Paris this fall has added another achievement to his credits. Rick just won the State Senior Lightweight Karate Championship, and took home first place trophies in two karate categories — kata (form/dance) and kumite (fighting)... THE BROTHERS KEEP — last here at the Stardust — back from their Midwest cafe dates, open next at the Frontier Circle F on July 29. The Brothers are big favorites here, having played almost continuously at either the Fremont or Stardust Hotels. Their last engagement started out as four weeks and ended up being more like TWENTY SIX!!... Popular LOU GREY, who was in show biz

## L.V. INTERNATIONAL NOW L.V. HILTON

One of the Nation's best known hotels, the Las Vegas International, underwent a change of name this week, henceforth being designated as the Las Vegas Hilton. The new designation was announced by Alex J. Shoofey, the hotel's president, following acquisition by the Hilton Hotel Corporation of just over 70% of the stock in International Leisure Corp., the

International's parent corporation. Only two years old, the International was built and opened on July 2, 1969 by financier Kirk Kerkorian. It inevitably established itself as the world's largest resort hotel, remaining so to date. According to Shoofey, no management or supervisory changes are anticipated as a result of the new ownership.

for years with his Latin orchestras, showbands, and various revues on both coasts, is now Maitre 'd at the Flamingo Casino Theater for the Breck Wall-Joe Peterson afternoon frolic. "BOTTOMS UP" Lou, a native New Yorker, has been a Vegan for about nine years now, and was major domo at the popular Flamingo Skyroom (which is now the site of the delightful — and delicious — SPEAKEASY restaurant & saloon)... Singer GARY COSTER (now in "Vive Les Girls") is starting a bit of a fashion fad with his original designs in natural chamois cloth. Gary had his costume made in the soft chamois and liked it so well he had an entire wardrobe made up. If he can ever find time, Gary may open a small shop here specializing exclusively in the new fabric... THE RUMOR MILL: "Tower Sweets Revue" (or a new edition of the long running Landmark revue) will open at the Stardust Lounge this month... "Vive Les Girls" closes (or moves??) in September... The long-shuttered BONANZA HOTEL will be sold for a reopening in September....

**WEEKEND WANDERERS...** RIP TAYLOR in "Funny Farm" at the Aladdin, JACKIE GAYLE at the Sahara Casbar, MAL Z. LAWRENCE at the Sands, MYRON COHEN at the Flamingo, and "BOTTOMS UP" (afternoons) at the Flamingo are the town's top laugh getters... The genuine super-star PERRY COMO at the Las Vegas Hilton (International)... STEVE LAWRENCE & EYDIE GORME in their full fledged Caesars Palace premiere performance... Last days to catch BOB NEWHART & ABBE LANE at the Desert Inn Crystal Room, and JOHNNIE RAY at the D.I. lounge....

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