

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE

THE VEGAS BAG

by Mark Tan



OUR FAIR AND VERY FUNNY FUNNY GIRLS... KAY BALLARD, whose career has just been BOOMING, is back at the Fremont for a limited two week engagement. The very popular Miss B has been wracking up one success after another since her last date here in December. Kay's television guestings will be running into each other all thru the new fall season; she'll be on the Doris Day Show, The Carol Burnett Show, The Merv Griffin Show, The Lucille Ball Show, Virginia Graham, Man Trap and a couple of variety specials still to be taped. Kay is also up for Chicago's coveted Sarah Siddons Award for her acting in "Desk Set" this past spring, and has the writers and producers of a new Broadway-bound musical "Molly" rushing to get the show together so as not to lose the services of Kay. All in all, everything is wonderfully Okay with our Kay. Now why doesn't some Strip entertainment director grab the versatile singer-actress-comedienne for her next turn in town. Kay would be great with a co-star like JACK JONES, TRINI LOPEZ, ROBERT GOULET, PAUL ANKA, JOHN ROWLES, etc. You may remember it was the same Kay Ballard who headlined at the Flamingo when a new upcoming Welsh singer by the name of TOM JONES made his Vegas debut.....

D-DAY IN LAS VEGAS.... DEBBIE, DILLER, DAVIDSON and DOUGLAS are the current favorites along the multi-starred Strip. DEBBIE REYNOLDS now at the Desert Inn introduces her two offspring, TODD & CARRIE FISHER, for a summertime only show biz debut. JEFF PARKER & JERRY ANTES are Debbie's featured song and dance men with her versatile FIVE PLUS FIVE (JERRY TRENT, ELAINE PEPPARDE, PENNY WORTH, WALTER STRATTON, IRA HAWKINS, LOIS KRANETT, BANI MICCORMICK, ALEX KRANETT, and LOIS ETELMAN) joining in for the delightful Debbie's non-stop comedy and musical marathon..... PHYLLIS DILLER now at the Riviera with JOHN DAVIDSON, has never been funnier or more furious with her husband Fang, her mother-in-law, her neighbors, her kids or her hairdresser.

Her hilarious new get up could set the Hot Pants trend back ten years. A delicious surprise for Diller-addicts is Phyllis' heretofore hidden talents as a pianist, and a charming, most humanizing touch as Phyllis sings - without a bit of clowning - "Before the Parade Passes By" from her Broadway outing in "Hello, Dolly". JOHN DAVIDSON could be a dynamite attraction here if he worked at it more, and appeared here more than once every year. His lively thirty minute program abounds in talent, showmanship, surprises and beautifully rendered love songs. John's new single "Say It Again" might just be the one to put him in the Top 40 pop race..... Television favorite MIKE DOUGLAS is in his Vegas debut at the Sahara and does a little bit of everything including alot of singing (he was singing in clubs long before he was talking on tv). Mike is tremendously popular and keeps his revue moving along nicely with his well known affable talents. Songstress VIVIAN REED, THE FRESH COLLECTION and LARRY STORCH are Mike's special guests. LARRY STORCH ("F Troop") is merely brilliant and keeps the audience convulsed and hanging off their chairs with his madly original and unique comedy capers. His far out characterizations include Japanese, French, German, English and an hysterical conversation with an African who learned his English on short wave radio. He's a classic talent and should be Vegas' next major comedy star.....

ROUND TOWN..... A great idea and a most commendable community spirited project happens Sunday, August 8 at the Clark County Juvenile Detention Center. Four musical-comedy groups - THE MARSHMELLO COMPANY (Landmark Nighthawk), THE SUN SPOTS (Flamingo Casino Theater), THE BROTHERS KEEP (Frontier Circle F) and SOUP (Hilton Crown Room) - combine their talents to present a special "COMIN' ON FOR YOUTH" concert. Children and teenagers from the JD Center, Spring Mountain Youth Camp and Child Haven will be the concert's select audience. The four popular acts - all barely out of their teens themselves and definitely youth oriented - put the whole package together on their own. It's much more than just a worthwhile gesture, and wouldn't it be nice if such a concert could become a regular monthly event for the young people in the care of the County agencies????

STRIP CHATTER..... Hasn't LINE RENAUD'S new smash revue "LOVE IN" been tagged for a fall Vegas engagement???? THE MOULIN ROUGE REVUE is NOT going to the Desert Inn or anywhere in Las Vegas, so far! A D.I. source says, in effect, why import still another French show when there is such an abundance of U.S. talent and producers who could whip up an All American spectacular if and when the time comes!!

BILLY KAY AT SNOWBOAT



BILLY

"Billy Kay and Chapter One," who are creating quite a stir in the Showboat Lounge, have proven so popular the management re-booked them for a return engagement a full month in October.

Billy, who has played the top Strip hotels in Vegas as a member of "King's IV," and with Danny Thomas, Judy Garland, Jerry Lewis, Red Skelton, is emerging as a stand-out performer.

He is primarily a comedian but his emcee performance and dramatic love songs, have won rave notices across the nation. Israelite urges you to see Billy at his best, now at the Showboat on Boulder Highway.

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