

LAS VEGAS SHOWGASTE

THE VEGAS BAG

by Mark Tan



STRIP CHATTER... MICK DOWD, SUSAN SCHREIBER, NORA COPPOLA, DALE VERDUGO, DENISE ROUTH, RON WALZ, BRIAN HURLEY & EDDI DUCKWORTH are the exciting and versatile talents now joined together as THE UNUSUAL WE. The popular group is now at Caesars Palace, with headliner PAUL ANKA, for their first Vegas appearance in more than two years. JESSE SALVE staged the electrifying choreography and DE VON PERSHING charted the group's unique musical arrangements... Singer-impressionist JIM BAILEY, a sensation at the Elmwood Casino in Ontario, Canada, heads next for Australia. Jim has also been set to gueststar at DEBBIE REYNOLDS' superstar THALIAN BALL in October just prior to his return to the Flamingo Casino Theater... THE BROTHERS KEEP - Lee Dollar and Mark Vance - signed with BOBBY MORRIS and his Creative Entertainment agency and in less than a week were set for guestings with STEVE ALLEN, MERV GRIFFIN, a Far East-Hawaii tour, and had meeting with two record labels. Morris predicts the duo, currently at the Frontier Circle F, will be one of the hottest new acts on the circuit by December. The Brothers have been together just about a year... Don't miss SOUP now at the Hilton Crown Room. Lead singer GARY STAMPER in his wild western chaps and gun belt is a dynamite newcomer. SOUP simmers for another four weeks at the Crown Room disco before heading homeward to San Francisco.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMOS... JOSE MOLINA AND HIS COMPANY of singers and dancers present "Bailes Espanoles" at the Lindy Opera House in L.A. Several Strip talent buyers are reportedly interested in signing the talented young dancer for a Vegas debut. Molina, formerly with Jose Greco, is on a national tour, and will be in L.A. for a limited two week appearance... It'll be JACK (Jones) and JOAN (Rivers) co-headlining at the Sands, opening Sept 22... RIP TAYLOR to L.A. to confab with Fashion Films about a proposed cooking tv show. Rip is also in line to become one of DEAN MARTIN's regulars this fall... PHIL FORD & MIMI HINES resume their "Evening With..." concerts while deciding which of several vehicles they'll accept for a return to Broadway... RIC MITCHELL'S HALLOWEEN BALL will be held this year at the Stardust Auditorium. ABBE LANE, ROBERT GOULFT & TOTIF FIELDS have been invited to head the panel of judges... BOB NEWHART & EDIE ADAMS set for a Sept 2 bow at the Frontier... MANOLO TORRENTE & FREDDY MANJON'S "LATIN FIRE '72" held over til December at the Thunderbird.

WEEKEND WANDERERS... COUSIN MINNIE PEARL is at the Fremont... Wildwood (N.J.) wacky favorite, AL FISHER & LOU MARKS back with JOEY BISHOP at the Sands... "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF" at the Union Plaza... Manila imports, THE SUN SPOTS, at the Flamingo Casino Theater... Delightful and delovely DEBBIE REYNOLDS at the Desert Inn in everybody's must see favorite!

"FIDDLER" WRITER WITH SAM BOYD



AUTHOR RECEIVES MEMENTO - Joseph Stein, left, recently received a specially made miniature fiddle from Union Plaza Hotel president Sam Boyd to mark the coming opening of "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Union Plaza Aug. 10. Stein wrote the book of the famed musical which is based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem. Bob Carroll and a cast of 35 noted Broadway performers will star in the Plaza presentation.

CELEBRITY CIRCUS... Hectic strip hopping from one end of town to the other to attend ELEVEN openings in one week, plus a dozen more newcomers in lounges round town. In place now and revving up for a big final summer fling and Labor Day visitors: ELVIS at the Hilton, "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF" at the Union Plaza, MARTY ALLEN & JOHN ROWLES at the Flamingo, PAUL ANKA, JOEY HEATHERTON & THE UNUSUAL WE at Caesars Palace. The other new arrivals are in for shorter two and three week dates. And don't forget, MITZI GAYNOR and her brand new revue come to the Riviera on September 1... First-timers on the Strip, RICK HARRIS, CANDY & MR D plus five are at the Desert Inn Lady Luck Lounge. In to catch the hot new merry music makers, KAY BALLARD, RIP TAYLOR, ELMARIE WENDEL, THE KIDS NEXT DOOR, THE UNUSUAL WE, RUSTY

WARREN, WAYNE COCHRAN, THE SUN SPOTS, SOUP, DEBBIE REYNOLDS' FIVE PLUS FIVE, MARINA MAUBERT & MARTIN GAVIN (from the Silver Slipper's "Wonderful World of Burlesque"), ROB BARRON, JAN SUTTON, DEEDA HYMES & BETTY WALDRON (from the Flamingo's "Bottoms Up"), and of course, Rick's famous uncle PHIL HARRIS with his current Frontier co-star HARRY JAMES and Fremont favorite PAT BUTTRAM on hand to give the youngsters a rousing welcome... MICKEY MANNERS flew in from his summerlong string of dates in the Catskills for his pal JOEY BISHOP's opening at the Sands. Other ringsiders for the ever popular JOEY and his uninhibited band of players: MRS JOEY BISHOP and son LARRY, ALLAN DRAKE, ALISHA KASHI, producer MIKE FRANKOVICH with actress-wife BINNIE BARNES, and Hughes Hotels entertainment chief WALTER KANE and head of all HH publicity PERRY LIEBER... MR & MRS GEORGIE JOHNSTON (TOTIE FIELDS) and MR & MRS STEVE LAWRENCE (EYDIE GORME) between show dining at the Flamingo's star-favored SPEAKEASY... Actress CAROLE MATHEWS, who used to dabble in the travel agency biz now has her own travel service in Sherman Oaks, California and is "moonlighting" as an actress, in for a quick holiday to see RIP TAYLOR starring in "Funny Farm" at the Aladdin... Gorgeous TRISHA NOBLE with husband-manager ALAN SHARP now headquartered in Hollywood after Trisha's long run here as star of the Sands "London Playgirl Revue", in town for a few days for business and pleasure. Trisha's mulling movie, tv and Broadway deals, and is one of the top contenders for a role that could mean international stardom for the beautiful Australian singer-dancer... Performer turned producer LINE RENAUD (now entertainment directress at King's Castle) at her home here between planes. Line, just back from Miami's Miss Universe pageant, had a hectic schedule from Miami to L.A. to King's Castle to Vegas, back to Tahoe, and next goes to Paris via New York. Line's flashy new success "LOVE IN" is all but set for a long Vegas run but has a commitment first to play the King's Castle mainroom starting in mid-September...

TID-BITS... Hasn't RITA HAYWORTH been signed for a Vegas debut at the International???... JUNE ALLYSON ready and willing to package a nitery act for producers BRECK WALL & JOE PETERSON has her agents scouting a Vegas hotel... JOHN ROWLES makes his New York debut (at the Plaza) in November before heading home (New Zealand) for a December concert tour... With "Vive Les Girls" shuttering at month's end, star ELMARIE WENDEL's rallying her writers and special material experts to whip a solo nitery act together for her... Silver Slipper adagio team MARINA MAUBERT & MARTIN GAVIN set for a Merv Griffin guesting in November... KAY BALLARD, PHYLLIS DILLER, MARTY ALLEN, PHIL FORD & MIMI HINES, TOTIF FIELDS, JOEY BISHOP & PHIL HARRIS among the Strip's first stars to answer the call for the '72 American Heart Fund campaign, with radio promo spots...



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