LAS VEGAS 'SHOWCASE

THE VEGAS BAG

by Mark Tan

UP, UP AND AWAY....FRANK SINATRA JR. will be the special guest star initiating live entertainment on the Los Angeles to New York 747 flight on August 26. Frank's new Daybreak album marks his debut as a composer-singer; he'll have three of his own songs on the lp, and is already at work for a second album called "time and space" to be etched when he returns from a three week tour of Australia in November. RICK HARRIS, CANDY & MR D. winding a most impressive two week special engagement at the Desert Inn Lady Luck lounge, head immediately for a ten week debut in Hawaii at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. The group (of eight) are a sure bet for a quick Vegas return either for the Hughes Hotels, or another Strip hostelry. Comedian HERB EDEN now with The Bobbie Gentry Show (doing sensational biz at the Landmark) returns for another Strip date with THE SUPREMES, opening Sept. 16 at the Frontier. And Broadway's Tony Award winner MELBA MOORE, now at the Riviera with DAVID FROST, comes back with JERRY LEWIS at Caesars Palace in October. Mmmmmmmarvelous MITZI (Gaynor, of course) who has the Canadian critics doing flips over her new nitery act opening here Sept. 1 at the Riviera follows that with a city to city promo of her "South Pacific" flick set for fall televiewing and has snagged one of the femme leads in Ross Hunter's superspectacular "Hollywood' Hollywood"'.....

STRIP CHATTER....According to those well known "usually reliable sources" it'll be JONATHAN WINTERS at the Las Vegas Hilton following Elos. This will be Winters' first Vegas appearance in more than four years. And Frederic Apcar's "VIVE LES GIRLS" shuttering at the Dunes Persian Room on August 30, has been set for a new edition to debut at the Union Plaza following the current "Fiddler on the Roof" six week engagement. A top entertainment type executive is reportedly ready to walk out of his current hotel position because of too much interference from other department execs and upper echelon egging...There are at least four Strip comedians hassling between and among each other for "joke thefts" real and imaginary...Playboy chief HUGH HEFNER reportedly scouting a Vegas hotel for a gambling casino-Playboy Club venture.....

CELEBRITY CIRCUS....MARTY ALLEN, currently packin' em in at the Flamingo Hotel and being seen at the same time on half a dozen television guestings including Merv Griffin, Hollywood Squares, etc., flies to L.A. to guststar as Quasimodo of Notre Dame in an upcoming "NIGHT GALLERY" segment for fall airing. Marty's new film, "The Ballad of Billie Blue" will have a mid-September release, and Marty's co-star JASON LEDGER in town for the Flamingo fling says funnyman Allen is going to be the year's biggest dramatic surprise in his role of a vicious scandal magazine columnist. PAUL ANKA now at Caesars Palace is celebrating his 15th year in show business. Paul, always a top showman in his various Vegas dates, is proving without a doubt in his current outing that he's the next big superstar to be re-discovered by his legions of fans! Anka, who has written and given away more hit tunes than most singers ever get to record, is promising to record all the million sellers himself and call the album "Sons I've Written For Superstuds", i.e. Tom Jones, Engelbert Humperdinck, Frank Sinatra, etc. ...JOEY BISHOP, just closed at the Sands, heads for New York and two weeks of guest hosting on the Tonight Show. JOHNNY CARSON will be at the Sahara opening Aug 24...Movie star RICHARD EGAN in to see Marty Allen at the Flamingo, then over to surprise ELVIS. Egan starred in E.P.'s first movie "Love Me Tender". Egan and Riviera star JAN MURRAY will soon be seen in "Day of the Wolves": Dick is the hero and Jan plays the head of a criminal gang...New Zealand singing star JOHN ROWLES opens a month long engagement at the Outrigger Hotel in Hawaii in October. John, currently co-headlining at the Flamingo, also has a new Kapp album due for release called "Saying Goodbyes".....

STRIP BITS....THE BROTHERS KEEP Lee Dollar and Mark Vance now at the Frontier Circle E, are busy scrambling and scribbling new tunes for an upcoming recording date set by agent BOBBY MORRIS. The Brothers close here August 25, and have a Hawaii calling date to follow...Also Hawaii bound, THE UNUSUAL WE now at Caesars. The Unusal We have a full hour show ready for showing but because of time limitations are sliced to a less than fifteen minute spot at CP..."BOTTOMS UP" star-coproducer BRUCK WALL used his one day off from the Flamingo to dash up to Lake Tahoe for JOHNNY MATHIS' Sahara Tahoe engagement...JEFF PARKER, who is quite a movie buff as well as one of DEBBIE REYNOLDS' featured song & dance partners, has the job of projectionist for Debbie's nightly popcorn & movie fetes at the D.I. In the past couple of weeks, Jeff's obtained such classic favorites as "Sunset Boulevard", "Sorry, Wrong Number" and "Tom Jones" for the early a.m. galas for the cast and friends...Songbird LORETTA ST JOHN (last here in "Pzazz") returns to her perch at the Top of the Mint later this month. Since Pzazz, the Philadelphia thrush has been on tour in Europe with the Glenn Miller Band, and on the Playboy Club circuit with her solo act...Local rancher ANDY ROSSETTI, who trains and rents horses for western movies and stage spectaculars, showstopping with "Vive Les Girls" comedy star ELMARIE WENDEL in to see DAVID FROST at the Riviera, "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Union Plaza, and MARTY ALLEN & JOHN ROWLES at the Flamingo...BOBBIE GENTRY, JOEY BISHOP, MINNIE PEARL & PAUL ANKA are the latest stars to lend their time and talents to the American Heart Association '72 campaign. Stars are being asked to tape radio promos here and so far, only one supersuperstar has refused.....

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....MINNIE PEARL, who's had only four hats as her trademark in her 31 year career, is in her Vegas debut at the Fremont Hotel...Don't Miss: "BOTTOMS UP" afternoons at 2 & 4 at the Flamingo Casino Theater...RIP TAYLOR stars in "Funny Farm" now thrice nightly (8, 10 & 12) at the Aladdin...MANOLO TORRENTE & FREDDY MANJON produced and star in their own lavish Latino revue, "Latin Fire '72" now in its fourth month at the Thunderbird.....

ALLEN AND ROWLES AT FLAMINGO HELLO DERE

MARTY

Marty Allen and John Rowles, two performers who are moving into their own as Las Vegas headliners, join forces at the Flamingo Hotel.

Both Allen and Rowles moved up to topline status last year for the first time at the Flamingo and enjoyed tremendous reception from critics and audiences.

Allen is no stranger to the show business scene, having enjoyed super success as one-half of the most popular comedy team of the 1960s, Allen & Rossi. Teamed with singer Steve Rossi, the rotund comic starred in major supper clubs throughout the country and on every big television variety show.

The "Hello Dere" comedian of TV and motion pictures, has also scored heavily as a nightclub performer and recently concluded a successful tour of college campuses.

Rowles, a native New Zealander with a powerful baritone voice and matinee idol looks, hit his stride last year with his widely acclaimed Flamingo engagement.

Rusty Warren, Wayne Cochran and the Sun Spots remain in the Flamingo Casino Theatre through August 18. "Bottoms Up" continues as the Flamingo's afternoon comedy feature.

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