

LAS VEGAS SHOWGASTE



VEGAS QUICKIES.....Producers BARRY ASHTON & WOLF KOCHMANN won't have to make any changes in their long-running hit romp, "Wonderful World of Burlesque" at the Silver Slipper, until mid-'72, if then, Slipper execs are more than happy with the show as is, and the thrice-nightly crowds that pile in to see classic burlesque comedian TOMMY MOE RAFT and exotic JANET BOYD.....Gorgeous NALANI KELE begins her 12th year in Las Vegas with her all-Polynesian Revue, opening January 7 at the Stardust Lounge.....LAF RECORDS has leased the Royal Las Vegas showroom, opening with the "soul comedy" of SKILLET & LEROY.....Alan Lee's "Funny Farm" ends a year long run at the Aladdin on Dec. 17. "Funny" star RIP TAYLOR, with at least three more tele-guestings on the DEAN MARTIN show, returns for a New Year's Eve gala, with BILLY ECKSTINE, at the Mint.....Statuesque MAUD HAMILTON has resumed her career; will be a showgirl in Frederic Apcar's new "Casino de Paris" at the Dunes opening Dec. 24. Maud's husband, dancer-choreographer RICK HAMILTON puts the finishing touches on the new "Lido de Paris" revue in Paris for opening Dec. 15. Hamilton has another European offer to stage & choreo a tv series.....DICK McINNES who made a lot of friends here as tv-director and "legman" for a Hollywood columnist, is prepping a new series of specials he'll write, produce & direct. The first will be an in-depth look at the Las Vegas entertainment scene.....JACK MORGAN and the RUSS MORGAN ORCHESTRA return to the Top of the Strip, at the Dunes, Dec. 24.....Comedian MARTY BRILL, just here with Connie Stevens and co-star of the new Dick Van Dyke show, joins DIONNE WARWICKE at the Sands opening

Dec. 15.....SANTA'S CIRCUS, a "must" for the kids, has a short Dec. 13-17 run at the Landmark Hotel. The room goes dark til Dec. 28 when ABBE LANE returns..... STRIP GRAPEVINE.....TEX BENEKE, RAY EBERLE & THE MODERNAIRES with PAULA KELLY are doing only SENSATIONAL biz at the Desert Inn's Lady Luck Lounge. The lounge hasn't had that kind of business since last June when the attraction was the debut of Tex, Ray and The Mods. The 3-star package is proof that if the right stars are in the right room, the public will turn out in full force!! There's no reason to close all the lounges because of lack of business, just lack of stars with drawing power. "VIVE LES GIRLS" (Dunes), SHECKY GREENE (Riviera), PAT COLLINS (Landmark), "BOTTOMS UP", THE MILLS BROTHERS & JIM BAILEY (Flamingo), IKE & TINA TURNER (International) JACKIE GAYLE (Sahara), to mention just a handful, are proven lounge stars of supermagnitude. And of course stars like DON RICKLES, NORM CROSBY, TOTIE FIELDS, FRANK SINATRA JR., FAY MCKAY, etc. were "discovered" and made stars from their many lounge appearances. Regardless of facts, figures and "other" ways to go, the Sands will close its Celebrity Theatre on January 5. The D.I., Frontier & Landmark lounges are open on practically a month-to-month life. The status of the Tropicana Blue Room is shakey but rumored to shutter.....It probably sounded like a dynamite booking to put LITTLE RICHARD on the bill as ANN-MARGRET'S special guest star for her last 12 days at the Las Vegas Hilton. It was obviously a mistake; the two stars are totally incompatible, and the A-M audience finds the flamboyant rock and roll star incomprehensible, offensive, and very unentertaining. LITTLE RICHARD, a big, big star in any lounge in town, is all wrong for the very polished, slick and classy ANN-MARGRET SHOW. Newcomer comedian PETER ANTHONY is a very pleasant, funny young man who just happens to be short on material for a mainroom stint. Anthony can only get better and stronger once he gets his mainroom footing; it's a big break and everybody who knows him is rooting for Peter to get his act together.....French singing star JEAN PAUL VIGNON (who co-starred here a few years ago with SHECKY GREENE at the Riviera) did an impromptu audition when DON HO

brought him on stage at the Flamingo. JEAN PAUL was a big hit, and stayed around town a couple of more days to chat with Entertainment Director BILL MILLER who caught the singer's guesting.....Biggest and best party in town was MANOLO TORRENTE & FREDDY MANJON's annual FIESTA DE SANTA BARBARA last week at the Thunderbird. Packed in among the more than 400 pals: JILLIAN, SIEGFRIED & ROY, JENNIFER PIERSON ("Lido"), BRECK WALL, ALICIA IRWIN, JAN SUTTON, VICKI ANTHONY, COOPER NEAL ("Bottoms Up"), and press-publicity reps like BRICK HOUSTON (Sahara), SUZANNE VEGAS, MARGUERITE RITTENDALE, MARY RETTIG, ANN VALDER, FORREST DUKE, and Vegas Visitor's BOB CHAVEZ and SHIRLEY NORMAN. A good time was had by all until dawn's early light...Speaking of mobs, the RUDEST, PUSHING-EST, SHOVING-EST, noisiest crowd seen in a long, long time was on hand to give DEAN MARTIN's opening midnight show a circus atmosphere. Even mild mannered MARTY KELIN and his staff of captains were shocked by the rude manners and out of line conduct. The Riviera Security Guards were kept busy trying to keep a couple of aggressive customers from adding to the bedlam.....

OUT OF TOWN NOTES....."BOTTOMS UP" will make its Harrah's, Tahoe, debut on January 10. The revue closes at the Flamingo Jan. 2.....Personal manager LEONARD GRANT (The Establishment, Rip Taylor, etc.) has leased the Tiffany Theater on Sunset Blvd. for his West Coast premiere of Broadway hit, "The Dirtiest Show in Town".....Singer-impressionist JIM BAILEY, just closed at Bimbo's, San Francisco, will have a one man concert at Carnegie Hall, New York in February before heading for his European debut at London's Talk of the Town.....Producer MATT GREGORY'S new revue "The Feminine Touch" opens at Harrah's Reno on December 15 starring MONICA MYERS, DYANNE THORNE & JEANNIE THOMAS.....The 7th edition of BARRY ASHTON'S "Revue Royale de Paris" gets unveiled at the Americana Hotel in Puerto Rico, December 23.

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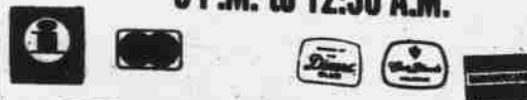
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