

LAS VEGAS SHOWGAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR COMING.... with MILTON BERLE (Caesars Palace), JOHNNY MATHIS (Sahara), and PHYLLIS DILLER (Riviera) the first starters of 1972....The Landmark closes its lounge on January 4 to make way for still another Keno Parlor. In the mainroom, don't miss the new **ABBE LANE SHOW**, opening Dec. 29....**ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK** makes his once-a-year Vegas appearance at the Riviera in May....The thrice-shuttered Hotel Bonanza plans a re-opening in early February; this time, the hotel will be phase one of MGM's ambitious project to build the \$75 million Grand Hotel on the 42 acre site. Longtime Vegas hotel-casino man **AL BENEDICT** heads the Bonanza operations....Longtime Vegas hold-out, country superstar **JOHNNY CASH** will play at the Las Vegas Hilton this year. Negotiations with Cash and his managers started some two years ago when Bill Miller was Entertainment Director at the then International Hotel....**ROBERT GOULET** moves over to the Sands (instead of his usual stand, the Frontier) when he returns for his first '72 date on March 1....**BOBBY DARIN** and **THE GOOD HUMOR COMPANY** open January 25 at the Desert Inn. This will be Bobby's first Vegas engagement since he semi-retired a year ago and underwent open heart surgery, and The Good Humor Company's first Strip assignment since they played the Thunderbird and starred on last summer's CBS-TV "The Newcomers"....**RIP TAYLOR** who co-stars with **BILLY ECKSTINE** at the Mint's special New Year's Eve gala, has a couple of tempting Strip offers for '72 but the hilarious comedy star (being seen these days on the Dean Martin Show) wants to take a short vacation. Rip just closed a year long run as star of the Aladdin's "Funny Farm"....

'ROUND TOWN.... **SHECKY GREENE**, returning to the Riviera in February, and gorgeous Polynesian star **NALANI KELE**, returning to the Stardust Lounge in January, are one of the town's steadiest twosomes....**MIMI HINES & PHIL FORD**, now free of their last Flamingo

pact, co-star with Johnny Mathis at the Sahara, Jan. 4....**JACK JONES**, currently headlining at the Flamingo and just divorced for the third time, who admits to being "fascinated by marriage" says he won't be making that altar trek again until at least Valentine's Day.... Comedian **SAMMY SHORE** opens next at the Las Vegas Hilton Casino Theatre, Jan. 5. Sammy's favorite headliner **ELVIS** (Sammy was his opening act both here and on Elvis' sensational one nighter tours) will be in the mainroom opening January 26....**THE HUES CORPORATION** who made so many friends during their several dates at Circus Circus are back but only for one night, with **CHICAGO** at Gana Productions' New Year's gala at the Convention Center....**LESLIE UGGAMS** newly signed to the Flamingo, makes her first appearance of her contract with bushy haired **MARTY ALLEN** in mid-February....To nobody's great surprise, "**BARE TOUCH OF VEGAS**" has been held over again at the Stardust Lounge. This show seems to follow Entertainment Director **MOE LEWIS**. It played for a year under the name of "Tower Sweets Revue" at the Landmark when Lewis was E.D. there....Speaking of "Tower Sweets", former star of that revue **FAY MCKAY** is now starring in the '72 edition of "Casino de Paris" at the Dunes. Popular Fay just returned from a year long stint of concert dates with **LIBERACE**....

OUT OF TOWN.... The new **BARRY ASHTON** extravaganza "Revue Royale de Paris" just opened at the Americana Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Ashton's 10th Anniversary production at the Americana in Miami, "Paris Scandale" is playing to strictly **SRO**....Comedienne **ELMARIE WENDEL** sets sail on the new \$60 million Sitmar Cruise ships on January 21. **TONY MARTIN**, **EDDIE FISHER & VIC DAMONE** are also being set to star on the Mexico-Caribbean and Australia-bound luxury liners. Booking the ships is London producer agent **ALAN SHARPE**. Sharpe's shapely wife is delicious songstress **TRICIA NOBLE** who starred here in "London Playgirls" at the Sands Celebrity Theater....New Zealand star **JOHN ROWLES** plays a month at the Outrigger Hotel in Hawaii before starting a concert tour of South Africa. He won't be back in Vegas til mid-summer....Singer-impressionist **JIM BAILEY** set for London's Talk of the Town. So is Flamingo gun-twirling singer-comedian **NELSON SARDELLI**....A Mexican version of "No, No, Nannette" opens in Mexico City. **JIM HOSKINS**, New York, is staging and choreographing....

STRIP SCOOPS.... IS IT TRUE THAT THE SANDS HOTEL IS FOR SALE???? According to scuttlebutt, one group is so close to closing a deal, there's \$\$\$\$ in escrow....Another source says that when Recrion Corporation finalizes its sale of the Aladdin to Sam Diamond and Associates, it'll be going shopping for another Strip hotel. Will it be the Tropicana????....An L.A. producer has eyes for the Las Vegas Hilton legitimate theatre to present a repertory company in a slew of nostalgia-type musicals and plays. Among the titles being mentioned are "Gypsy", "Kismet", "Oklahoma", "Student Prince", "Kiss Me Kate", "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes", etc....

WEEKEND WANDERERS & NEW YEAR'S REVELERS.... The one and only **BARBRA** is at the Hilton.... **CHARO** guest-stars in **MANOLO TORRENTE-FREDDY MANJON'S "LATIN FIRE '72"** for New Year's Eve.... The all new **NEVER BEFORE FOLIES BERGERE** at the Tropicana....Don't miss the last show (for this season) of "**BOTTOMS UP**" at the Flamingo Casino Theater on January 2. The 4:00 perf will have a gang of special guest stars dropping by....

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU. HAPPY HANUKKAH! MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

HENNY YOUNGMANS CELEBRATE 43RD ANNIVERSARY AT CAESARS

BY JACK TELL

The 1972 Las Vegas entertainment scene is getting off to a brilliant start with the return of Henny Youngman, with Milton Berle to Caesars Palace on Jan. 3.

Henny is without a doubt.

There is no greater accentuation of the positive than the one-liners, calmly, quietly, assuredly spoken by Henny. No histrionics, no dramatics, no acrobatics from this genial purveyor of clean, understandable, recognizable humor. Standing erect, taking nary a step, motionless except for an occasional bow or a peck at the violin he carries, (his only prop), Henny's commentaries on the passing scene is reminiscent of the late Will Rogers.

Not all his observations are exactly brand new. Some have weathered and withstood competition for time in his act for 45 years as a professional entertainer. Like: "My boy is eleven. He'll be twelve, if I let him." We don't know why, but we've been falling off



HENNY

our seats at that one for at least 35 years.

His new ones reflect the news of the times. Like the day after the first successful landing: "Am I unlucky. I promised to buy my wife a fur coat when a man walks on the moon."

Speaking of Henny's wife, Sadie will be in Vegas along with their son and daughter, in-laws, grandchildren, brother and others to celebrate 43 years of wedded bliss.

To this perennial man of mirth and his bride of durable domesticity, we say in the parlance of the football season, "43 down, 57 to go."

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