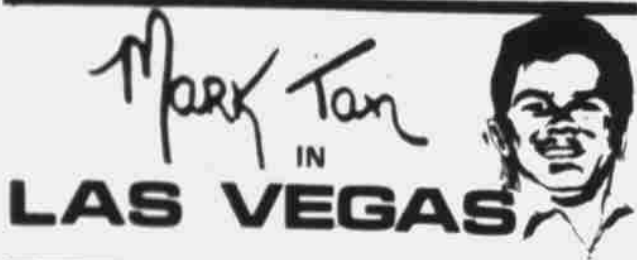


LAS VEGAS SHOWGASTE



Proud to Be a Jew

(In 25 words and more!)

By DAVE BARRY

(ED. NOTE: Dave Barry just closed at the Frontier Hotel where he shared honors with Wayne Newton, whom he is trying to convert!)

My admiration for this publication prompted me to offer Jack Tell the benefit of my writing talents to supplement the warmth and quality that his readers enjoy. I've been proud of what this newspaper stands for since I read the first issue. My only criticism is, that if this is truly a Jewish paper, how come you don't read it from right to left? My conclusion is that it must be reformed. (ED. NOTE: Must be or "should be?")

So be it. At least, we have in this desert oasis a beacon of light for our crowd. My contribution is most timely, for as I dodged traffic on the Strip recently, I couldn't help but "qvell" at the number of Jewish comedians and entertainers representing the hotel shows.

There was Milton Berle and Henny Youngman at Caesars Palace, with Jerry Lewis set to follow. Myron Cohen at the Flamingo. Barbra Streisand at the International, with Sammy Shore in the lounge. Jackie Gayle at the Sahara. Don Rickles coming in to the Riviera. Buddy Hackett opening at the Sahara. The way I figured, we had enough of an army to march into Hollywood and wipe out the Egyptian Theatre!

What really gave me "nochiss" was the thought that our type of humor is so universally popular that we reach the mixed masses of tourists who frequent this show world mecca. I believe it is because we Jews have a sense of humor, handed down from generation to generation which has sustained throughout all these years of pressures and persecutions. We

Flamingo Casino Feb. 3; the Brothers and their famous Sisters will be giving a Kim Family Concert in Hawaii in April.....

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....BARBARA EDEN & FRANK AVALON co-headlining for the first time at the Landmark...European singing sensation **AUDREY ARNO** now starring in the "Never Before Folies Bergere" at the Tropicana; **FAY MCKAYE's** the hilarious comedy hit in the "Casino De Paris" at the Dunes...Keigo's lavish Oriental splendor, "GEISHA'RELLA" now at the Thunderbird... "Mad Doctor" **PAUL GILBERT, RICKI DUNN**, peeling peelers **DIANE MARLOW & DEBRA DUKE**, and dancer **DON CRAWFORD** are the stars of the all new "MINSKY'S BURLESQUE" at the Aladdin...And of course, **THE ELVIS** is at the International-Hilton...**CONNIE STEVENS AND LONNIE SHORR** at the Flamingo.....

PAUSE FOR COMMENT.....Keeping up with and track of Strip stars and attractions is hectic enough, but what is really stepping into treacherous waters is trying to report, accurately, the various and numerous real estate activities on and off the Strip. One day there'll be rumors on top of rumors that, for instance, **THE PZAZZ PALACE** is definitely for sale, being sold, here comes the cash now...that'll go on for a couple of weeks and then, with hardly a whisper in advance, **ANOTHER** hotel is sold almost overnight. This month, both the **HACIENDA HOTEL** and the **DUNES HOTEL** have been sold. And that's all! **NONE OF THE HOWARD HUGHES HOTELS ARE BEING SOLD.** A representative of HH clarified reports of rumored sales by saying that Mr. Hughes himself has stated that none of his properties where **EMPLOYEES** are involved are being considered for sale. Period. And hopefully, that will stem the tide for the time being until the next "hot" bulletin surfaces. No one who writes about Las Vegas activities is intentionally misleading or attempting to stir up "news" for the sake of sensational copy or to cause discomfort or confusion. However, if and when "tips", "rumors", etc. do begin to take on shape, form and substance, there is a professional way to nip them in the bud. A cool, calm statement that such and such items are premature, inaccurate, whatever will usually get an immediate clarification and/or retraction.

BACK TO SHOW BUSINESS.....PAUL REVERE & THE RAIDERS, who've been shunning nightclub dates for years for big money one-nighters, will play the Flamingo Casino Theater, opening Feb. 3, for four weeks...Hilarious femme impressionist **LYNNE CARTER**, opening the same room on March 2, signed **BOBBY MORRIS** to chart and direct his music...All those rumors about **DEAN MARTIN** leaving the Riviera are exaggerated. Dean merely wants to change his show schedule from two shows a night to one. In the past, only **FRANK SINATRA, JUDY GARLAND** and **MARLENE DIETRICH** have been given that super-superstar honor.....

ROUND TOWN.....Wild Wild West, Mr. DA, and now "Nick Carter" tv-series star **ROBERT CONRAD** flew in especially to see his "Hawaiian Eye" co-star **CONNIE STEVENS**, singing and dancing up a new storm at the Flamingo...Speaking of Hawaiians, island favorites **THE SURFERS** are initiating a new show innovation at Caesars Palace. The popular group does shows at 7:15 and 11:15 in the Circus Maximus as a before-the-show (**JERRY LEWIS & SERGIO MENDES**)-show. Good idea for hotels with now-closed lounges who have playdates pending for many attractions...Newcomer **SAMI JO**, who's been holding her own with **WAYNE COCHRAN & THELMA HOUSTON** headlining at the Flamingo lounge, heads next for London where her Capitol disc "Don't Hang No Haloes" is getting a big new push on a British label (Pye)...The Desert Inn is putting a bright new face with an accent on young audiences. In the Crystal Room, young "oldtimer" **BOBBY DARIN** is making his first Vegas appearance since his surgery last year; with Bobby is the zany exuberant musical comedy revue of **THE GOOD HUMOR COMPANY - JOE DANOVA, JERRY BROWN, LIBERTY WILLIAMS, LINDA SUBLETTE, DING DINGLE, and JOHN PALMER** - who haven't been here since their smash six month run at the Thunderbird. And coming, Feb. 8, to the D.I.'s Lady Luck Lounge, one of the brightest and best new groups **RICK HARRIS, CANDY & MR. D.** The latter attraction just played ten weeks at the Hilton Hawaiian Village...Speaking of lounges, the powerhouse booking of **KENNY ROGERS & THE FIRST EDITION**, comedy star **SAMMY SHORE**, and rock group **SOUP** is doing all the biz and then some, at the Hilton Casino Theater.

BITS & PIECES.....JACK CARTER, who did such great biz at the Tropicana's Blue Room in his special Xmas-New Year's engagement, may be joining the Blue Room's '72 talent roster...**ABBE LANE** and **JOAN RIVERS** co-star again, opening August 1, at the Desert Inn. Last time the ladies proved such a potent package, their writers got together to prep a tv series which may be in pilot form by the time they open here...Meanwhile, the poor Riviera just has to try to get along with their new package - it's only **THE BEST SINGER - VIC DAMONE** - and **THE BEST COMEDIAN** (and winner of the 1971 Las Vegas Entertainment Award) - **SHECKY GREENE**. Maybe the Versailles Room can blast out another wall to make room for the SRO-plus crowds!!!...Sittin' in with **SOUP** (and dancing til 6 a.m.) at the Hilton: **CONNIE STEVENS, PAUL REVERE, REDD FOX, WAYNE COCHRAN, SAMI JO, THE SURFERS, & THE GOOD HUMOR COMPANY**...**THE KIM BROTHERS** return to the

never fail to find something to laugh about. We even laugh at jokes we don't get.

Many times I advise my audiences to laugh in business. Laugh at home. "Just remember folks," I remind them, "we all have a brother-in-law who needs five hundred dollars!" Everybody laughs, except the brothers-in-law in the audience who happen to need five hundred dollars!

The personalities of our faith, in show business, this newspaper, many members of the staffs of Las Vegas hotels, like Larry Snow at Caesars Palace for example, as warm a host I've ever met, are only a few of the sources of pride for this never jaded Jew.

I don't think we, in our time have ever walked taller than, since the establishment of the State of Israel. Rally around the Star of David and be part of history! Let us rebuild the Temple of King Solomon in Jerusalem. Had the Jews rallied together when the Temple was destroyed, we would have been two hundred million strong today. Think of all the Doctor Salks and the Albert Einsteins that the Jews are capable of contributing to civilization.

If we stick together today, who knows, but that we may not be two hundred million strong again some day? I have joined many of my colleagues in the profession, helping to sell Bonds for Israel, giving of ourselves to help in any way we can. **STANDING UP AND BEING COUNTED!**

How well I remember the years I spent in the army. On Friday nights, the military chapel was transformed into a Synagogue. The Jewish women of the nearby town would bring in the candles, the challah, the bagels, the lox, the herring. You never heard the command "CHARGE!" uttered with such fervor as by our Jewish Sergeant Rosenblatt as he led the attack on the food!

Would you believe I have four sons... (and one daughter)... all active in Temple activities, Israel and B'nai B'rith? In this day and age when parents are pondering as to how to communicate and keep the family together... try practising being a Jew. Try it... **YOU'LL LIKE IT!**

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