

LAS VEGAS SHOWGASTE



THE BUSINESS OF SHOW BUSINESS.....JOHN HALEY, who now heads up the new Rock Department of BOBBY MORRIS' CREATIVE ENTERTAINMENT AGENCY (on Paradise Road), heads east to Minneapolis, Chicago, St. Louis, etc. on a big swing to sign up rock acts for CEA. Haley, formerly a lead singer with a group called Quantrel's Raiders, switched to the other side of the business last year and has been quite successful promoting and producing rock concerts and rock revivals throughout the Mid-West. The agency can offer rock groups and performers plenty of work in a biz where nightclubs are disappearing rapidly. Morris' office currently has among others THE MARSHMELLO COMPANY and THE JERRY SUN SHOW (at or coming to the Aladdin), PATTY YORK and BITTERSWEET (at the Golden Nugget), JOHNNY PACINO (at the Bonanza) etc.....Producers BRECK WALL and JOE PETERSON open their "Bottoms Up" revue (now at the Flamingo, afternoons) in London in January. Peterson returns this week from a month long business-holiday in Europe.....Auditions for the new "LIDO DE PARIS" spectacular at the Stardust, opening a new edition later this year, will be held here in late August.....Rock concert promoter MIKE TELL has lined up some dates at the Las Vegas Stadium for his new PEARL PRODUCTIONS and will be bringing in some of the biggest concert names in the business. Tell, who started in his promoting business when he was sixteen (he had one of Vegas' first teenage nightclubs), has had dozens of rock concerts across the country with stars like JAMES BROWN, THE ASSOCIATION, ARETHA FRANKLIN, RAY CHARLES, CANNED HEAT, and THE DOORS.....Producers BARRY ASHTON and WOLF KOCHMANN in and out of Las Vegas from their headquarters in Los Angeles for talks about a new Ashton

extravaganza to open on the Strip in early '73. Meanwhile, the producers are readying new specs for their Americana Hotel revues in Miami and Puerto Rico for December unveilings.....Personal manager-producer LEONARD GRANT is being pitched to bring his L.A. company of "THE DIRTIEST SHOW IN TOWN" for a special limited engagement at a major hotel here. Grant, now in Europe, returns next week to firm a deal and a date.....

CELEBRITY CIRCUS.....HARRY BLACKSTONE JR. now abracadabra-ing nightly as the star of the Fremont's "Hocus Pocus" begins a daily commuting chore to Reno later this month to star in a daily spectacular to introduce the 1973 Chrysler Corporation autos. Harry will fly to Reno every night after his midnight show at the Fremont, do his show in Reno in the A.M., and return to Vegas in early afternoon to rest (?) for his Fiesta Room gig. "Hocus Pocus" incidentally is doing big, big business and should run indefinitely. It's an all-family show (a rarity in Las Vegas), the price is right, and Blackstone is a marvel of mystifying illusions!.....PHYLLIS DILLER who just closed a dilly of a debut for the Hughes Hotels at the Frontier returns next to star at the Sands. Phyllis did capacity biz for her short nine day stint (filling in for BOB NEWHART) and kicked off her first Hughes engagement with an impressive 2000-plus reservations opening night.....Bushy haired MARTY ALLEN (returning to the Flamingo Hotel with LESLIE UGGAMS on August 31), just back from a big hit engagement in Miami (and the Democratic Convention) has a couple of weeks of added scenes to film for his upcoming "WHALE OF A TALE" movie. Filming will be at Marineland. Then Marty and his show take off for a cross country string of fairs and concert one-nighters until late August.....The sultry summer heat of the Strip is the perfect mood-setter for a visit to the sizzling and colorful, exotic ports of call featured in the Thunderbird's new "LATIN FIRE '73" starring producers MANOLO TORRENTE, FREDDY MANJON and their big company of Latin singers-dancers. "Latin Fire" audiences take in a 90-minute musical tour that includes stopovers in Cuba, Mexico, Spain, and Brazil. Always one of the Strip's favorite revues (this is "Latin Fire's" sixth year on the Strip), this year's edition is topless, torrid and more extravagant than ever.....

CURRENT AND CHOICE.....MISS SUZANNE VEGAS, the featured dancer and special attraction in the Hacienda's "Love of Sex" revue, has been inked for a co-starring role in producer Charles Nizet's currently filming "Double O-Plus" spy spoof for locally headquartered ATF STUDIOS. Suzanne, who is now acting by day, dancing at night, and still finding time to write her weekly entertainment columns, is also mulling a tempting offer to headline in her own starring revue to tour a circuit of top cabarets in the U.S. and Canada. Add "busy" to the glamorous Miss Vegas' adjectives which already include busy, beautiful and beguiling.....JOHNNIE RAY is back at the Flamingo Casino Theater.....THE BROTHERS CURTIS in their debut at the Hilton Casino Theater.....DIONNE WARWICKE is bowing at the Riviera; her little sister DEE

DEE WARWICK doing likewise at the Stardust Lounge.....

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO.....THE CHECKMATES??...EARTHA KITT??...THE DALLAS SOUND TRACK??...(BUDDY)VEST & (STERLING) CLARK??...THE GOOD HUMOR COMPANY??...KITTY "THE CAT GIRL" LYNN??...BOBBY RYDELL??...CHUBBY CHECKER??...LEE MEZA??...THE BROTHERS CASTRO??...JOANNE WORLEY??...JANE MORGAN??...MAMIE VAN DOREN??.....

STRIP BITS & PIECES.....THE JESS MACK AGENCY (headquartered here and in Hollywood) has a new hit aborning in its "BURLESQUE GOES TO COLLEGE" revue starring TEMPEST STORM, LOONEY LEWIS and former Dunes showgirl JENNIFER MAXWELL. Mack not only cast the entire production but was called in to produce and direct the revue which sneak-premiered at the University of Ohio. After that showing, "BGTC" was booked for a multi-month tour of the college campuses.....JOEY HEATHERTON who was skedded to be at Caesars with PAUL ANKA did NOT cancel her date; Caesars Palace entertainment director SID GATHRID asked for and got a postponement so that he could move Joey into the headliner spot when she returns next.....PETER ANTHONY is back again headlining at the Bonanza Glitter Gulch lounge.....THE FIFTH DIMENSION returns to the Riviera on August 30; ROBERTA FLACK, LIZA MINNELLI, JOEL GREY and KENNY ROGERS & THE FIRST EDITION are also on the Riv line-up for the fall.....ABBE LANE opening August 1 at the Desert Inn with JOAN RIVERS, has been firmed for a return date opening October 24. Abbe's co-star for the second date is to be announced.....

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....PAUL ANKA and JACK CARTER at Caesars Palace.....DOC SEVERINSEN and his new revue featuring the NOW GENERATION BRASS and TODAY'S CHILDREN singers at the Sahara.....JACQUELINE DOUGUET & GARY MARSHAL star in the new Circus Circus Hippodrome Theater's "LOVE CONNECTION".....DEBBIE REYNOLDS at the Desert Inn.....CONNIE STEVENS, LONNIE SHORR and THE JUDGE'S NEPHEWS at the Flamingo.....

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