

LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE



STRIP RIDDLES...A few weeks ago, rumors started that a major hotel would drop all of its star names and go to a lounge-type entertainment policy in the mainroom. The mainroom would also become a restaurant with or without entertainment. The new policy will now go into effect in late October, and the revue has already been selected and booked for openers in the theater-restaurant...There's a no-minced words feud going on at one of Strip hotels betwixt a talented and lovely lady star and a slow talkin' gentleman star. The hotel originally wanted to team the two up for a fall outing but the lady screamed long and loud and absolutely refused to be in the same hotel let alone share the stage. The hotel now has both stars under contract and has to find suitable co-stars for each...A lounge star here but a major headliner elsewhere is facing not one but half a dozen law suits from musicians, managers, agents, designers, etc., etc. The star, whose price rose astronomically in a short space of time, went from "difficult" to "impossible" and shed early pals and boosters as rapidly as said star gathered up dozens of new creditors... Don't think the connection between showroom and casino is of another era. Casino bosses are making themselves heard to top entertainment offices up and down the Strip with reports as to which stars draw - in the casino - as compared to which draw - in the showroom. Some of the stars that play to capacity SRO crowds with the kind of fans that make a beeline for the door immediately after the show with out dropping a nickel in a slot machine will find out it increasingly harder to land long-term hotel pacts in coming months...

ROUND TOWN...Former comedy star of the Dunes' "Vive Les Girls" ELMARIE WENDEL is now starring in a revue called "The Wonderful Days of Burlesque" in Chicago's Mangam Chateau. The revue has been held over again - into September, and Elmarie's popularity is one of the major reasons why...PITTY FOX (two many localities will remember as maitre'd at the Thunderbird a few years ago, is now of Miami's top theatre-restaurant owners (Sneaky Pete's). Foxx has also branched out in personal management a bit, his client songstress KAREN YOUNG (just closed at the Flamingo Casino Theater) returns to the Hilton Casino Theater in February...And manager DAN WILLY (associated with stars like Johnnie Ray) heads for his first vacation in seven years with a long leisurely jaunt to Europe. Willy also manages newcomers like singers DON MINTER & BITTY RHODES and internationally famous sculptor JOHN REISTETER and composer - VAL JOHNS is making his presentation to buyers of hilarious femme impressionist, CHARLES "Male Actress" PIERCE, one of his last pre-vacation projects. Pierce, long overdue for a Strip debut, has a brand new show ready that includes some of his more classic parodies

of JOAN CRAWFORD, JEANETTE MacDONALD, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, BITTY DAVIS, KATHARINE HILPBURN, etc...DON HO returns to the Flamingo on Oct. 26...

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: PRODUCERS BARRY ASHTON AND WOLF KOCHMANN ARE CONDUCTING A NATION WIDE TALENT HUNT FOR THEIR NEW REVUE OPENING IN NEW YORK CITY IN SEPTEMBER. THE SHOW WILL PREMIERE AT ONE OF GOTHAM'S TOP HOTELS. THE PRODUCERS SEEK NEW UPCOMING STARS TO BE FEATURED/SHOWCASED IN THE MUSICAL REVUE. AUDITIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY FOR SINGERS-DANCERS AND THE ASHTON-KOCHMANN OFFICES IN HOLLYWOOD ARE ADVISING AGENTS, MANAGERS, AND TALENT TO CONTACT THEM FOR INTERVIEWS/AUDITIONS FOR THE STARRING ROLES. IF EVER, THERE'S BEEN THE OPPORTUNITY, THE TIME AND THE PLACE TO DISCOVER THE "NEXT" SAMMY DAVIS JR., BARBRA STREISAND, CAROL BURNETT, ETC., ETC., THE NEW YORK PRODUCTION IS IT!! ASHTON-KOCHMANN ARE STRESSING THE FACT THAT THEY WILL SHOWCASE NEW, PROFESSIONAL TALENT (NOT AMATEURS) AND HOPE TO DISCOVER PERFORMERS WHO HAVE BEEN NEEDING JUST ONE "GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY" BETWEEN THEM AND STARDOM. CONTACT ASHTON-KOCHMANN AT THE L.A. (MELROSE BLVD.) OFFICES...

TALENT-SCOUTING...Now in their Vegas bow at the Hilton Casino Theater, the seven member RHODES FAMILY ranging in age from 7 to 19. The Houston-based group, who turned professional in 1971, has already played Harrah's Tahoe, Disney World, etc. gathering a strong following for their first single record on the Oak label, "What's It All About". The tune was penned by talented lead guitarist, 17-year-old RONALD RHODES. The Rhodes Family - Paul 18, Ronald 17, Gary 15, Patricia 14, Marsha 13, Brett 10 and Mark 7 - will be at the Hilton for three weeks with their lively and popular repertoire of music from Bacharach to the Beatles...In for a special five day showcase engagement THE GRINGOS are at the Sahara Casbar Theater. The group is currently appearing at a Cape Cod resort hotel and will be returning immediately after their Sahara stint. JIMMY MILLER heads the eight member group with DONNA BYRD the lone featured femme...At the Union Plaza, appearing with the RUSS BALCK QUINITT, beautiful and multi-talented LORITTA ST. JOHN. Miss St. John was featured here in "Pazz" at the Desert Inn, and various musical groups including her own all-girl band. Loretta recently returned from an European tour with the Glenn Miller Band...

NOTES FROM ALL OVER...Popular Hollywood columnist DICK McINNES hospitalized for injuries sustained in an auto accident last week...Singer RICH CASABONNE headlines a special weekend show at the new

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Murietta Springs opening Aug. 26 thru Sept. 23... Singer-impressionist JIM BAILEY (last here at the Flamingo lounge) headlines at the Palmer House in Chicago next month...BOBBY DARIN, opening at the Hilton with gueststar SHIRLEY BASSEY on Sept. 5, plays one night at the Canadian National Exposition in Vancouver on Sept. 28...PHYLLIS DILLER returns to the Sands (her second engagement for Hughes Hotels) on October 4...STEVE & EYDIE who just ended another smash at Caesars return Nov. 2... Bushy haired MARTY ALLEN opens Aug. 31 to the Flamingo and the hotel is already feeling the comedian's popularity with convention groups by the number of advance reservations being set for his four week date with co-star LESLIE UGGAMS. Marty checks in a few days early to catch up on the Strip shows...

WEEKEND WANDERERS...TOM JONES is at Caesars - as if you didn't know!...Don't Miss: SHECKY GREENE, at the Riviera...ABBE LANE and JOAN RIVERS go into their final week at the Desert Inn...Racy RUSTY WARREN at the Flamingo Casino Theater...Delightful lady FAY McKAYE stars in the Dunes' "Casino de Paris"..."LATIN FIRE '73" beautiful music and gorgeous senoritas with singing star MANOLO TORRENTE and dancers FREDDY MANJON & CLARITA DIAZ at the Thunderbird...

TEL AVIV (WNS)--A faction of the Labor Party's younger members has adopted a series of resolutions designed to curb the power of the religious establishment in Israel and separate it from the State.



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