

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE



First Lady of Nostalgia, tumbled on her concept of presenting a dramatic-musical presentation set in the hectic heyday of the 1920's and 30's. Anne's act, a total re-creation of the times and music of those colorful eras, is complete down to makeup, wardrobe and slang styles. The act has been shown in the east and elegant supperclubs in New Orleans, Chicago, Miami, etc. but never in either Las Vegas or the Reno/Tahoe area. Entertainment buyers and scouts will be flying up north to catch Anne, and will be seeing her concept fully for the first time.

ROUND TOWN...DON RICKIE returns to the Riviera TONIGHT (Dec. 15), and will be holding forth with his devilish ditties thru Jan. 4. WAYNE NIWTON opened a couple of days earlier than scheduled at the Sands (when he replaced FLORENCE HENDERSON DON ADAMS JAN MURRAY) and will be at the Copa Room thru Dec. 25. SAMMY DAVIS JR. opens Dec. 26. STEVE & TYDIE reopen the Circus Maximus at Caesars Palace on Dec. 21. The Desert Inn Crystal Room will go dark Dec. 19-25 reopening Dec. 26 with JULIET PROWSI & JAN MURRAY.

DECEMBER DOODLINGS...Movie star-singer JAMES DARREN made his second short Strip appearance with BUDDY HACKETT at the Sahara. Darren's engagements here have only been for four days at a time and each time out he proves he's a dynamite entertainer. Now that he's out of the teen idol muddle (the same pool that spawned stars like PAUL ANKA, GEORGE CHAKIRIS, FRANKIE AVALON, BOBBY RYDELL, ELVIS PRESLEY, FABIAN, BOBBY DARIN, etc.) JAMES DARREN is primed for great things. With the right recording, tv and film exposure, James could

be America's Engelbert; he has the same stylish presence, solid singing talent, and smouldering good looks. Darren has been booked back for another Sahara date in April. Speaking of PAUL ANKA, isn't he the latest superstar to join the headliners parade to the Tropicana Hotel in '73? CONGRATULATIONS to SHECKY GREENE and Polynesian beauty NALANI KELL who were married last week in a quiet ceremony at the Riviera Hotel. KSHO TV personality and L.V. Sun columnist JOE DELANEY was best man. Producer-star BRECK WALL just back from a month long holiday in Europe could do another whole series on An American in London, Paris, Rome, Amsterdam, etc. "Bottoms Up" will be heading to London-town in '73 for two BBC-TV specials and a West End run. Currently at the Flamingo Casino Theater at 10 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.

CELEBRITY CIRCUS...ELVIS PRESLEY...GOLDIE HAWN...MILTON BERLE...JOEY HEATHERTON...JAN MURRAY...Tony-Award winner RON FIELD...JOAN RIVERS...BETTY GRABLE...LIZA MINNELLI...CASS ELLIOTT...GEORGE MAHARIS...CHITA RIVERA...SHECKY GREENE...EARL WILSON...REX REED...RONA BARRETT...and dozens more among the Who's Who in to see the dazzling and delicious ANN-MARGRET and her all new "Ann-Margret '73" extravaganza at the Las Vegas Hilton. Producers-stars (Latin Fire '73) MANOLO TORRENTE & FREDDY MANJON played host to well over 1000 friends at their all night goodtime gala, "Fiesta de Santa Barbara" at the Thunderbird. Special guest star CELIA CRUZ electrified the mostly Latin partygoers with a selection of her Afro-Cuban music including a stirring hymn to the patron saint of Cuba, Saint Barbara. Performers spotted in the throng JACQUELINE DOUGUET & MICHAEL DARRIN ("Love Connection"), SIEGFRIED & ROY, JILLIAN and THE VOLANTES ("Lido de Paris), Ann-Margret's "Boy Friends" SCOTT PEARSON, BOB ROMANIAC, DON WALLIS, BLAINE SAVAGE & SCOTT SALMAN, and JOAN RIVERS doing a wild tango-cha-cha-rumba with Aladdin Maitre'd ALLAN CHAPIN. Local-light and favorite songstress MONICA MEYERS kept a big crowd of fans enthralled into the wee hours of the morn with her socko singing. Good things are FINALLY starting to happen for Monica. MERV GRIFFIN heard about her and called her into L.A. to audition for both his tv show and his recently formed management company. Needless to add, Monica passed both with flying colors. She'll be given a "newcomer of the year" presentation later this year on Merv's tv'er, with a still to be announced "name star" presenting her. Longtime mainstay of worldwide entertainment (radio-television) news via Chicago's WGN, popular SIG SAKOWICZ now a Vegas resident. Veteran reporter Sig and his lovely shutterbug assistant editor and wife, Gma, are maintaining his WGN broadcast on a weekly Las Vegas Hot Line basis and that's only the beginning of the "Sakowicz Go West" saga.

STRIP TIPS & BITS...MAYNARD SIMON'S production of "OKLAHOMA" opens Dec. 22 at the Union Plaza for an initial six week engagement. No cast names have been announced. DIANA ROSS returns to Caesars Palace on February 1. Since her last appearance here, Diana's won a couple of dozen awards for her movie debut "Lady Sings the Blues", and had her second daughter, Tracee. NANCY SINATRA'S bow at the Sahara Congo Room on Dec. 22 will be the first date of her newly signed longterm pact. Nancy will play another six weeks for the Las Vegas Tahoe Sahara Hotels in '73. Choreographer WALTER PAINTER still beaming over the reception his work got for Ann-Margret's new act, has been set to dream up the special dance sequence for MARY ALLEN & CASS ELLIOTT who'll be teamed at the Flamingo opening in February. The very popular musical ensemble, THE CELEBRATION, back after a year's tour with ENGELBERT HUMPERDINK, return to the Hilton Casino Theater on Dec. 13.

LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE...Sultry and sexy songbird ANNE SIMMONS presents her unique one woman show at the Nugget in Sparks next month. Miss Simmons, The

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