

★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWGASTE OF THE STARS'

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS



'ROUND TOWN.....KENNY ROGERS AND THE FIRST EDITION, now in their mainroom bow with Riviera powerhouse **TOTIE FIELDS**, will be hosting a couple of plane-loads of deejays from all over the United States this weekend. **MGM** - distributors of Kenny's 'Jolly Roger' label - plan the weekend frolic to show off their million selling recording stars.... **TAKEUCHI KEIGO's** dazzling new "Geisha'rella", now at the Thunderbird for another six month engagement, features the doll-like Filipino singing group, **THE TUDERA SISTERS** and **THE SABUSAWA SISTERS** who both sing and dance in the production numbers as well as in their solo spot. One of the show's liveliest production numbers is a rockin' Ah So soul rendition of "Shaft" and "Super FRY"....**The Heavyweight Champions of the Strip**, bushy haired **MARTY ALLEN** and **MAMA-sans** the **Papas-CASS ELIOTT** open at the Flamingo on February 22....**The UNION PLAZA**, now the unofficial Las Vegas home of Broadway smashes (with its 1-2-3 successes of "Fiddler on the Roof", "Cabaret", the current "Oklahoma") opens its next production, "FUNNY GIRL" on or about February 20. After that producer **MAYNARD SLOATE** has his eye - or is it, ear? on a Vegas production of "Sound of Music".....

NOTES FROM ALL OVER.....BRECK WALL & JOE PETERSON'S "BOTTOMS UP" is breaking old and setting new attendance records at the plush Caesars West nitery in Omaha, Nebraska (first stop on the show's annual road tour). In to catch the spicy frolic, actor **ROBERT HORTON**, Heisman Trophy Winner, **JOHNNY ROGERS**, talk show hostess **VIRGINIA GRAHAM**, and Sahara Casbar zany **RIP TAYLOR** (enroute to his own engagement at the Chicago Playboy Club). "Bottoms Up" will open April 15 at the Cinerama Polynesian Palace in Honolulu, when **DON HO** returns to the Flamingo....**JOAN RIVERS**, opening this week at the Ye Little Club in Beverly Hills plays two dates at the Desert Inn, both with co-headliner **TRINI LOPEZ**. They'll open first on March 20; the second date is set for June....Busy guy, **JAMES DARREN** (skedded for a return playdate here with **BUDDY HACKETT** at the Sahara in April) has been signed to play the posh new Playboy Hotel in Great Gorge, New Jersey....**ELANOR ROTH GRASSO**, who recently marked her 20th year at the Sands Hotel (in entertainment) is chairwoman of the upcoming Nevada Heart Association fashion show and luncheon at the Frontier on Feb. 10. So far, Elanor has firmed Mrs. Georgie Johnston (**TOTIE FIELDS**), Mrs. **JERRY VALE**, Mrs. **SERGIO FRANCHI**, Mrs. **PAT COOPER**, and **PAMELA MASON** to join her in her very worthy efforts. Tickets are on sale now for the gala....**JIM NABORS** who did such bang up biz here last year finally returns, to the Sahara, opening Feb. 6. The Sahara wanted Nabors to come back much sooner than this but his schedule of concert dates was so heavily booked in advance, the February date was the first clear slot on his calendar.....

STRIP BITS.....Lovely lady and great songstress# ROBERTA SHERWOOD is the main reason for the steady flow of traffic out to the Hacienda Hotel. Roberta, always a big favorite here, originally opened the Hacienda as a special Christmas-New Year's attraction but response has been so tremendous, she's been switched over to a new "Indefinite" status....At the Frontier, **WAYNE NEWTON** who never fails to get at least one (and more often as many as five) standing ovations per show, is giving lessons in showmanship! The Frontier's Number One Attraction was greeted for his return with a turnout that had the line up all the way thru the Frontier casino, past the front desk, and out to the swimming pool!!! Needless to add, the showroom captains were kept busy putting up extra tables to accommodate the Newton fans, and ending up by putting half a dozen tables right up on stage with Wayne....Downtown, it's "MINSKY'S BURLESQUE" at the Fremont and "OKLAHOMA" at the Union Plaza that are keeping the chill off the showrooms. At the Golden Nugget, **JANA AND THE VACCARO'S** are headlining the popular Gold Room lounge in a six week engagement....An

informed source says that the Tropicana's construction of its super new **SUPERSTAR SHOWROOM**, Mr. D's, won't be ready until this summer, and it's just as well since management would like nothing better than to open the room for the star its named for, **SAMMY DAVIS JR.** Sammy, a part owner at the Tropicana, has weeks to play yet for the Hughes Hotel before he'll be free to move. He'll play the Sands next opening in mid-March....Your handwriting, they say, reveals all there is to your inner self. Handwriting analysis expert, **MILDRED GOULD** who's done that kind of expertise for numerous official and business concerns detecting forgeries, etc. is now on hand at the Circus Circus for personal interpretations. A lovely, charming and knowledgeable lady, Mildred's been working at her specialty for many many years and knows whereof she speaks.....

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....ELVIS (and all the attendant Presley-mania) is at the Las Vegas Hilton....Laugh In's **DAN ROWAN & DICK MARTIN** with special guest **JERRY VAN DYKE** are in their closing days at the Sahara. **BUDDY HACKETT** and newcomer, Irish tenor **JOHN McNALLY**

Sandstars

The Copa Room of the Sands welcomed Phyllis Diller this past Wednesday when she opened with songstar Jerry Vale, marking her second engagement at the Sands.

Vale, who started his Las Vegas singing career in the original Sands lounge, is marking his 35th appearance at the hotel.

A lot of attention is being paid to the fact of a "New Phyllis Diller". This condition, created by a battery of plastic surgeons, makes such descriptions as "Dr. Zorba's Mother", "The Twiggy of the Geritol Set", and "The Liz Taylor of the Twilight Zone" obsolete.

The comedienne, who exploited her unkempt looks with such epithets, recently changed her tune from "Aren't I a Baddie" to "Lovely to Look At" via a face-lift, nose job and realignment of her teeth. This new look does not mean that she is deserting the housewives who so strongly identify with her. "I still project the same image while I'm performing."

A creative, natural wit, Phyllis writes most of her own material. On stage she is the personification of the housewife's lament and although she enjoys kidding herself - her hair, her wardrobe and her housekeeping abilities - in private life she is the antithesis of her funny professional image. Properly coiffed and dressed with flair and subtlety, she is a gourmet cook and a devoted mother of five. But the exuberance, the love of people she communicates on stage - these are real.

Vale introduces several numbers from his new album entitled "Jerry Vale Sings the Great Italian Love Songs" which is being released this week. He also has a new single out - "He"

open Jan. 28....Whether you call her "Fancy", "Billie Joe", or "The Girl from Cincinnati", it's all beautiful **BOBBIE GENTRY** starring in her new revue at the Desert Inn....**PHYLLIS DILLER & JERRY VALE** still packin' em in at the Sands....Canada's top group **JOY!** plays music for your dancing pleasure from 10 p.m. til 3 a.m. at the new Landmark Supper Club theater....Sexy **JOEY HEATHERTON** ("Bluebeard's" favorite) and the **SHIPSTADS & JOHNSON ICE FOLLIES '74** now at Caesars Palace.

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