


★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWCAST OF THE STARS'

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS



'ROUND TOWN....The extraordinary **DIANA ROSS** returned to Caesars Palace Feb. 1, for her first nightclub appearance since her stunning triumph in "Lady Sings The Blues". Diana's last appearance here, last summer, at Caesars, was to have been the start of a national tour but was cancelled due to pregnancy (Diana's second daughter Tracey arrived in November). Her Motown mentors will host the gala all-star premiere at Caesars which will last the entire weekend of Feb. 1-4. Miss Ross will be at the Palace until Feb. 21**DEE FULLER**, who gave up a fulltime

movie career to concentrate on her songwriting talents (she's written more than a dozen tunes for Elvis Presley including his album "I Got Lucky") is also a career manager. Her latest discovery, musical group **THE VACANT LOT** will be showcased at the Las Vegas Hilton Casino Theater on February 13 at a special 3:30 in the afternoon performance....Academy Award winner **GOLDIE HAWN** will make her headline bow at the Hilton on June 25....**Zany RIP TAYLOR**, just back from a smash engagement at the Playboy Club in Chicago, is co-starring on an upcoming tv comedy pilot called "Nancy Clancy"....Taylor returns to the Sahara Casbar on February 12....**BILLY DANIELS** now starring in the Aladdin's "Nymphs of the Nile" is scheduled for a headline bow at the Hilton Casino Theater in March but Daniels' is going so great in "Nymphs", the producers are hoping to tag him for

BOBBIE GENTRY AT DESERT INN

Miss Bobbie Gentry, often called the best girl singer in the busi-

ness, opened at the Desert Inn on Tuesday, January 23rd. Sharing the four weeker bill with Gentry is comedian **Mal Z. Lawrence**.

As everyone must know by now, Bobbie Gentry was born in Chickasaw County, Mississippi. When she was old enough to go to school, she went to live in the Delta, spending much of her time on her grandparents' farm. It was unadorned by such frivolities as indoor plumbing and electricity. Bobbie's grandparents traded a cow for an old piano and the rest is showbiz history.

Bobbie wrote her first song on the black keys when she was seven. It was called "My Dog Sargeant Is A Good Dog" and this original composition still pops up in her nightclub act.

At the age of 13, Bobbie left for California, settling in Palm Springs where she graduated from high school. She continued to write and work on her music until her first big hit, the Delta Saga entitled "Ode to Billie Joe", was recorded in 1967 bringing her instant fame in the eyes of the public and the music world. Among the accolades were three Grammy Awards in 1967.

Her current engagement will be a family affair. Bobbie's brother, Robert Streeter, will replace dancer Dick Trees in her new act.

Comedian **Mal Z. Lawrence** has played most of the major nightclubs around the country and has appeared on television talk shows, including several visits on the Tonight Show.

an indefinite stay....Award winning thrush **HELEN REDDY** makes her Strip debut at the Riviera on March 21 with **TOTIE FIELDS** headlining. Miss Reddy has played Vegas only once before, at the Fremont....**ROBERT GOULET** who opens in February at the Frontier has also been signed to play the Sands in May, and with wife **CAROL LAWRENCE** (their first appearance together in Las Vegas) at the Frontier in July.... **CONNIE DANESE** will star as "Funny Girl" for producer **MAYNARD SLOATE'S** new production opening February 20 at the Union Plaza....Diminutive dynamo **MONICA MYERS** is back at the Hacienda lounge. Her special one week engagement there a couple of weeks ago convinced the Hacienda talent buyers of Monica's tremendous local and celebrity following, and they brought her back for an indefinite encore!....**KAY BALLARD** returns to the Broadway stage as Mollie Goldberg in a spring opening musical "Mollie". Kay's long overdue to return to the Vegas scene and at last reports, the Hughes Hotels' entertainment director **WALTER KANE** was hoping to fit her into the early '73 star line-up....Another long-term Hughes pactee, **DEBBIE REYNOLDS** asked for and got a year-long release so she could return to Broadway in a revival of "Irene". Debbie's show now has in excess of \$1 million in advance ticket sales for its upcoming Broadway opening. **GOWER CHAMPION** has been added to the company to choreograph the musical numbers.....

CELEBRITY CIRCUS....Movie star **JAMES DARREN** ("The Guns of Navarrone", "Let No Man Write My Epitaph", as well as all those "Gidget" gadgets) made his nightclub debut a few months ago with **BUDDY HACKETT** at the Sahara, and its been a brand new nonstop career ever since. Darren, who just closed in Miami, where the critics raved over him as the most sensational 'discovery of the season' and 'the American Engelbert Humperdinck', will play Sut Miller's in Ohio next month, Palumbo's in Philadelphia in March, the Sahara (with Buddy again) in April, and the new Playboy Club in Great Gorge in June. He also has a new recording contract with MGM and a dozen variety tv guestings between now and July....Comedian **DAVID STEINBERG** will make his Vegas debut with **PETULA CLARK** at Caesars Palace, opening April 5....Popular radio and television personality **ROBERT Q. LEWIS** will host the Vegas portion of the upcoming "radio-thon" for the benefit of the "Fight Lukemia" foundation, on Feb. 11. Robert Q., who hosts a daily three hour broadcast from Universal Studios, is also planning to move his popular KFI show to Vegas on a once a month basisGorgeous lady and super-super performer **MITZI GAYNOR** will star in her own telly special for CBS airing March 28. Mitzi who had to bypass Vegas appearances completely last year because of prior commitments has promised to return to the Strip sometime in '73. Good News!! She is a most-missed miss!.....Speaking of Mitzi, two of her talented and versatile Four Fellows -**BART CARROLL** & **MICHAEL GRAY** - are currently working with **BOBBIE GENTRY** in her new act at the Desert Inn.....

STRIP BITS....Construction is so far ahead of schedule, reports are that the smashing new **MGM GRAND HOTEL** will be opening in late 1973. **DONN ARDEN** is already starting work on his upcoming superspectacular that will open the hotel showroom. Oddly enough, there have been no official releases from the Grand about star names being signed to play the mainroom altho names like **JACKIE GLEASON**, **JULIE ANDREWS**, **DORIS DAY**, **LUCILLE BALL**, **ROCK HUDSON**, etc. keep cropping up as potential marquee hangers....Also under construction, and getting ready for a mid-July opening, is the new superstar showroom at the Tropicana christened "Mr. D's" in honor of new part-owner **SAMMY DAVIS JR.** The Tropicana plans to inaugurate a new showtime policy of 10 and 1:30 for the new room: **CARROLL O'CONNOR**, **RICHARD HARRIS**, and of course **SAMMY D.** are among the stars signed to play

WEEKEND WANDERERS....**ELVIS** is at the Hilton - but if you didn't know that, you shouldn't even be in town!!!....**BOBBIE GENTRY** is at the Desert Inn....Vivacious beauty **CONNIE STEVENS** singing and dancing up a storm at the Flamingo, with comedy star **LONNIE SHORR**.... **PHYLLIS DILLER** & **JERRY VALE** at the Sands....**DON'T MISS**: "Paris Scope" the all new edition of the "Lido de Paris" at the Stardust starring **THE JOLLY JOVERS**, **THE RIOS**, **DICK WESTON**, and the magical lunacy of **MILO & ROGER**..



Now in the Crystal Room

Bobbie Gentry

Special Guest Star

MAL Z. LAWRENCE

DESERT INN

AND COUNTRY CLUB