

★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWCASE OF THE STARS'

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS



and his X.S. Baggage, in their Strip debut have one week to go on their current engagement, but if the crowds they've been drawing and the good word of mouth 'bout X.S. is any indication, it won't be long before the musicmakers are back. Baggage, whose individual members have worked for more than a dozen recording companies, are close to getting a new deal as a unit. Since all the members are also songwriters (as well as singers, dancers, musicians, arrangers, etc.) which ever discery lands them will have a wealth of original material to get the waxings rolling....Hilarious Lynne Carter, the extraordinary femme impressionist whose repertoire includes Dietrich, Davis & Diller, returns to the Flamingo Casino Theater on March 1....RONNIE SCHELL, now at the Sahara with headliner JIM NABORS, has been set as the first guest on the end-of-the-month Merv Griffin telecasts from Caesars Palace. Also airing this month will be Ronnie's guest stint on "The Little People" tv series from Hawaii, starring Brian Keith.... MARILYN ROBERTSON the beautiful but batty "Lillian Etting" in Barry Ashton's rockin' "Wonderful World of Burlesque" at the Silver Slipper, plans a long holiday from show biz when the show closes in April. Marilyn, who has been a featured dancer, lead nude, and comedienne in numerous Strip revues, wants to take time out to vacation after more than a



DANCE TO THE MUSIC! - Dancing's "in" in Las Vegas, and nowhere more than at the Landmark Theatre, where "Joy!" Canada's Number One show-dance group hold forth. Dancing begins in the Landmark's big room at 10:15 and continues on until the wee hours.

LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE....The maddest madcap of them all, zany RIP TAYLOR is back at the Sahara Casbar Theater, convulsing audiences with his hysterical ad libbery and uninhibited audio-visual hilarity. Rip's newest routine, which is one of the funniest highlights of his show, is his new chum, a dog named Spot that has to be "seen" to be believed. Rip, who has a huge following here since his year-long run at the Aladdin and his other Casbar appearances, goes next to an upcoming television series called "Nancy Clancy" which has already been piloted....At the Hilton Casino Theater, Jay Schlessinger

Israelite Ads Pay **MISS NEVADA**

The Miss Nevada Universe Pageant will again be staged this year, and the winner crowned, in the Theatre Restaurant of Deil Gustafson's Tropicana Hotel and Country Club on Sunday, April 15.

Christiane Le Bon, franchisee-director and Marcel Le Bon, producer, report the contest winner will be Nevada's representative in the five-day-long Miss U.S.A. pageant, scheduled this year for Puerto Rico in May.

Entrants for the contest must have never been married and never held the prestigious state beauty title. Girls must be at least 18 years of age, and not more than 28 years of age by the date of the Miss U.S.A. Pageant national telecast May 19.

year at the Slipper. Her next career moves include acting on television and movies, and possibly a brand new solo act as a singer-dancer-comic for a mid-summer Vegas bow....

THE MUSIC MAN.....ANTHONY "TONY" COSTA, well known here for his five year tenure as assistant conductor at the Desert Inn, conductor for many stars, and vocal coach for the "Folies Bergere", has been firming to conduct-arrange for the Maynard Sloate production of "Funny Girl" at the Union Plaza, opening February 20. Tony who won critical raves for the super job he did with the Union Plaza's production of "Oklahoma!" (arranging and conducting the elaborate Rodgers & Hammerstein score, and making his comparatively small band sound like a full orchestra) has been a Vegas resident for seven years. Prior to Vegas, he was musical director at Warner Brothers where he worked on various films and television series. Few people know it, but Tony was one of the very few musicians personally selected by the great maestro Leonard Bernstein to study under him. From Bernstein and studies at New York's famous Julliard and Manhattan School of Music, Costa conducted both classical and pop music for many years including a season at the Hollywood Bowl, a tour with stars like Jack Jones, and several years as a band member with both Jimmy & Tommy Dorsey. Tony's new position at the Union Plaza and "Funny Girl" adds another plume to his many feather hat!.....Conductor-arranger RICHARD BELLIS (who's worked for CONNIE STEVENS, JOHNNY MATHIS, BARBARA McNAIR, and most recently musical director for ABBE LANE at the Desert Inn) will write a brand new act, musically speaking, for JAMES DARREN when Jimmy returns to the Sahara in April with Buddy Hackett. As a side venture, Dick is still hard at work on his own compositions which he plans to spring in a "Bellis Sings Bellis" album later this year....Conductor PAUL LOWDEN who is musical director at the Flamingo, is also part owner of the Hacienda Hotel which is going thru a complete change-over in personnel, entertainment and policy. According to Paul, all of those recent rumors, which have included an ice show, a burlesque revue, a comedy show, a legitimate Broadway production, etc., etc., are strictly just rumors and no show/production has been signed to reopen the Hacienda's main showroom - as yet!!.....

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STRIP CHATTER.....JOAN RIVERS, off to a Miami engagement this month, returns on March 20 to co-headline at the Desert Inn....PATTI PAGE and ROY CLARK have been set to headline - separately of course - at the Frontier later this spring. Same hotel, ROBERT GOULET and wife CAROL LAWRENCE will make their first Vegas appearances together in JulyChicago's SIG SAKOWICZ who now has radio show on Sy Newman's KVOV will be syndicating his popular show "Down Memory Lane" starting with a second station in the Reno-Tahoe area, this month.

'ROUND TOWN.....THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONS OF THE STRIP - MARTY ALLEN & CASS ELLIOT - open February 22 at the Flamingo! Marty's new act will feature singer Kevin James in another hilarious look at "Bridging the Generation Gap". Marty will also be competing with himself on the tube during his Flamingo stint; among others Marty has guestings on The Bob Hope Special, Hollywood Squares, The Vin Scully Show, It's Your Bet, Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin.



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