

★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWCASE OF THE STARS'

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS



'ROUND TOWN.... Voluptuous actress-comedienne DYANNE THORNE, just back from a cross country tour costarring with JAMES "The Virginian" DRURY in "The Only Game In Town" returns to the Strip this week as comedy star TIM CONWAY's leading femmes in his Caesars Palace debut with STEVE & EYDIE (opening May 10). Dyanne was here last for a year long run in "Minsky's Burlesque" at the Aladdin, and has since starred in several films and television comedy-dramas....THE CHAPTER I, choreographer-manager JOYCE ROBERT's versatile singers-dancers trio, will make their Las Vegas bow next at the Flamingo Hotel with SERGIO FRANCHI headlining. The Chapter recently closed with Franchi in New York. Last summer, the group co-starred with Hawaiian star DICK JENSEN at the famed Cinerama Dome in Waikiki. Sergio and the girls open May 17....JIM SCHIFF'S LAS VEGAS WAX MUSEUM is now opened in the new shopping mall opposite the Stardust Hotel. The Grand Opening of the new museum will be later this month with an all-star reception; hopefully many of the stars who are starred in wax will be on hand to give the Museum a proper send-off. ANN-MARGRET, SAMMY DAVIS JR., LIZA MINNELLI, BURT LANCASTER, MRS. NAT KING COLE, DIANA ROSS & LIBERACE have been invited to host the event. Liberace, incidentally, just sent the Wax Museum one of his bejeweled tuxedos for his wax likeness to wear. The suit is valued at about \$8,000. All told, the cost of the Wax Museum, including antique furnishings, wardrobe, special stages, sound, and the wax figures, is well over \$500,000....NOONEY RICKETT, currently costarring at the Flamingo Casino Theater, is a fulltime composer, arranger and record producer. Rickett got back to performing as a favor to his longtime musical associate Teddy Randazzo when Teddy played the Hilton Theater a few months ago. Flamingo entertainment director Bill Miller caught the show and was so impressed with Nooney's solo talents, he signed him for his current Flamingo stand....BOBBIE GENTRY, now at the Desert Inn with her much talked about "Diamonds by Tiffany's, Levis by Strauss" revue, has been inked to switch over to the Frontier for an early September return....If mid-week show counts tell the tale, there are four shows currently playing the Strip that are in serious trouble. One revue reportedly has had a week-long-high (?) count of less than 20 customers! On the other hand, shows like Breck Wall-Joe Peterson's "BOTTOMS UP" (now at the Circus Circus Hippodrome), Maynard Sloate's production of "THE SOUND OF MUSIC", and the Thunderbird's Oriental afternoon revue, "GEISHA'RELLA" are going full speed with capacity counts at every performance. By the way, don't forget the Union Plaza has a Sunday afternoon perf of "Sound of Music".....

CELEBRITY CIRCUS.... Vegas-visiting press corps, here to interview stars and catch shows: BRUCE VILANCHE from Chicago's lively "Chicago Today" enroute to confabs on the West Coast. Vilanche also writes special material for stars and has a couple of movie-tv scripts in various states of production....Drama critic RON PENNINGTON, from The Hollywood Reporter, up from covering L.A. production of "Oliver", "Streetcar Named Sesire", and "Two Gentlemen of Verona" to less cerebral diversions like the Tropicana's "Folies Bergere", the Stardust's "Lido de Paris" and the Dunes' "Casino de Paris", and Barry Ashton's new hit at the Aladdin, "This Is Burlesque" starring Irv Benson....Dallas News newsman DON SAFFRON in to catch SHECKY GREENE & JOEL GREY at the Riviera....L.A. pr man EVERETT HAYES back for a second presentation of "SUNFLIGHT", the exciting and colorful new musical group produced, directed, choreographed and costumed by DANE WEAVER & BILL BOWERSOCK (formerly of "The Establishment"). Sunlight just back from a USO tour of Greenland, made an impressive showcase last week at the Frontier Music Hall, start watching for the announcement of the group joining the Hughes family of stars for an early summer debut.....

LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE....Movie stars,



CONTINENTAL SINGING AND DANCING SENSATION AUDREY ARNO IS RECEIVING RAVES FROM ENTERTAINMENT CRITICS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOR HER PERFORMANCE AS THE STAR OF THE COMPLETELY NEW EDITION OF THE "FOLIES BERGERE" AT THE TROPICANA HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB. A PETITE PARISIENNE, MISS ARNO IS BEING REFERRED TO AS EUROPE'S ANSWER TO BARBRA STREISAND. SHE CAN BE SEEN TWICE NIGHTLY IN THE LAVISH STAGE SPECTACULAR IN THE TROPICANA THEATRE RESTAURANT. HER TAKE-OFF OF MAURICE CHEVALIER IS THE BEST HAPPENING ON ANY STAGE IN ALL OF LAS VEGAS.

celebrities, agents, producers, managers, press and friends turned out in full force to boost the West Coast debut of Detroit singing sensation BOB ANDERSON in his first nitery appearance in Los Angeles. Bob opened this week with headliner JOAN RIVERS at the Ye Little Club in Beverly Hills and from first nighters reaction, he's a smash hit!!

WEEKEND WANDERERS....THE 5TH DIMENSION back at the Riviera....STEVE & EYDIE open this weekend at Caesars Palace (May 10) with TIM CONWAY....KENNY ROGERS & THE FIRST EDITION packin' em in at the Flamingo Casino Theater...

BOBBIE GENTRY AT DESERT INN

Bobbie Gentry, the dark-haired, dark-eyed beauty whose moving "Ode to Billie Joe", made the countryside come alive for millions, opened a three-week engagement at the Desert Inn on Tuesday, May 8th. Sharing the bill in the Desert Inn's Crystal Room with Miss Gentry is comedian John Byner.

The central theme of Bobbie Gentry's new act will be based upon a Tiffany/Levi motif and will feature an original song written and sung by Bobbie Gentry. Title of the song is "Diamonds by Tiffany, Jeans by Levi Strauss". An exclusive Levi costume has been designed for Bobbie by Levi Strauss & Company. Tiffany & Company has provided the costume with an extra air of sophistication by supplying diamonds valued in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to be used as buttons on the Levi jacket and the fly of her Levi jeans.

John Byner's career as a comedian-impressionist had its beginnings in the exotic island of Guam.

In September of 1963 he appeared on CBS-TV's Talent Scouts. What followed is now history. Seven appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show, appearances on the Dean Martin Show, the John Gary Show and talk shows like the Tonight Show, the Merv Griffin Show, and the Mike Douglas Show.

Bobbie Gentry and John Byner will be in residence at the DI thru May 28th. Milton Berle and Florence Henderson follow on May 29th.

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