

# ★ LAS VEGAS ★

## 'SHOWCASE' OF THE STARS

*Mark Tan*  
IN  
**LAS VEGAS**



**STRIP HOPPING....**MEL TORME returns to the Thunderbird (opening June 15) and is the latest star in the T-Bird's concentrated effort to present big name performers. The 'Bird, incidentally, seems to have a special knack for persuasion: hard-to-get stars like Mel, making his first Strip appearance in more than a year, the just closed TONY MARTIN-CYD CHARISSE SHOW, DONALD O'CONNOR & SARAH VAUGHAN are among the stars who've been coaxed back to the scene by the T-Bird's new team, President BURTON COHEN and Entertainment Director SID GATHRID.....Nine year old HANNAH, one of the soloists who will be featured with the LITTLE ANGELS OF KOREA when the troupe makes its American nightclub debut with BOBBY DARIN at the Hilton on July 16, has the distinction of being Korea's first "child movie star" and has just been presented the highest Korean press award for her role in the Korean production "Echo of the Valley".....Didja know that Dunes "Casino de Paris" star KITTY KOVER's dad is EDWARD W. KOVER, director of Food & Beverage at the Silver Nugget??.....And speaking of "Casino", dancer-choreographer-actor CARY LASPINA is now lead male dancer in the revue. Cary was featured here with ANN-MARGRET and has two films completed and being readied for release later this year. Cary recently returned to Vegas after a long engagement as one of the stars in producer Frederic Apar's Mexico City-Acapulco edition of "Vive Les Girls".....The popular CHANDLER CONSPIRACY return to the Landmark Theater on June 20-July 17.....LES DUCS DE SAVOY, the new French Bakery at the new Tiffany Square on Maryland Pkwy, is owned by ANDRE ROCHAT and his beautiful missus, "Bare Touch of Vegas" dancer BAMBI YOIA. For the shop's opening, the girls from "Bare Touch" played hostesses to the invited company of performers, press, and first day customers. And that was Strip stunner MIKKI SHARAIT now sporting an inch length European haircut.....

**NOTES FROM ALL OVER.....**Singer-movie star JAMES DARREN, now winding a smash engagement starring in "West Side Story" in Milwaukee heads next to Toronto's Beverly Hills opening the 18th. It'll be Jimmy's Canadian nitery debut; he'll be back at the Sahara, with BUDDY HACKETT, in August.....JOAN RIVERS who'll be at King's Castle at Northshore Tahoe next, returns to Caesars Palace, with PETULA CLARK, on July 26..... Comedienne LIZ TORRES, last here at the Flamingo, will join LIZA MINNELLI when she returns to the Riviera on August 8.....Comedienne ELMARIE WENDEL ("Vive Les Girls") back from her Dallas, Texas gig, into huddles with producers BARRY ASHTON & WOLF KOCHMANN about taking over the femme star slot in Ashton's Aladdin hit, "This Is Burlesque". Impressionist DAPHNE DAVIS will be leaving the show this month to fulfill previous nitery commitments.....HAPPY BIRTHDAY (his 50th) and HAPPY SHOW BIZ ANNIVERSARY (his 30th year) to Frontier Hotel star JACK CARTER. Carter, recovering nicely from that freak spill backstage at the Frontier last week, is hotter than ever in his new act and is reaping the raves and bows from both the audiences and hotel execs. Jack, who has fulltime careers going as an actor, director when he's not playing the cabaret circuit, should have a brand new long term Strip pact signed, sealed and delivered by the time he winds his current stint on June 27. Coincidentally, Jack started his Las Vegas appearances more than twenty years ago with his first engagement at the new OLD FRONTIER, where the present hotel now stands; Carter's played the Strip so many times since (at the Riviera, Caesars, Sands, etc.) he's lost count of what number engagement he's up to this year.....

**CELEBRITY CIRCUS.....**Singer BOB ANDERSON, just closed at Ye Little Club in Beverly Hills, and opening this week at the Nugget in Reno with NANCY SINATRA, moves on to the east coast in July for a guesting with MIKE DOUGLAS in Philadelphia, and confabs with STAX RECORDS in Memphis. Anderson also has a standing offer to

make his debut in Honolulu, Hawaii anytime he's available this summer but his manager, Detroit industrialist DAN RAPPAPORT wants to nail down a recording pact before picking up the offers from Hawaii, Chicago, Miami, and New York, among others. MERV GRIFFIN, a big Anderson booster, has invited the singer back for a THIRD appearance on his show in July, and three time TONY AWARD winner, director-choreographer RON FIELD (who caught Bob's Beverly Hills showcase) is ballyhooing Gotham niteries to grab the hot young star for an early fall debut.....MARTY ALLEN, who opens tonight (14) at the KING'S CASTLE, flew into town for one night to emcee-host the Aerospace writers banquet held at Caesars Palace. Marty was proudly showing his just awarded citation from former astronaut NEIL ARMSTRONG, now a professor in Ohio. Marty was co-host with MIKE DOUGLAS at the Sea World in Cleveland last week, and then jetted to Dallas to join BOB HOPE's POW benefit. The busy bushy haired star returns to the Flamingo this fall.....Producer JOHN HARRIS of United American Pictures added a Las Vegas office to his Beverly Hills and Toronto complex and is here to start production on a new film called "Pageant" (the filming starts this month with SUZANNE VEGAS, BARON CLEMENT VON FRANCKENSTEIN, LILY LANGTREE, ANNETTE SUZOR, and PEPPER DAVIS set for starring roles). The picture will be shot partly in Vancouver, Canada and in Las Vegas. JERRY O'FARRELL'S Vegas Attractions offices are handling the local casting.....

**'ROUND TOWN.....**MILTON BERLE, now headlining at the Desert Inn, has an offer to star in a new special from Las Vegas later this summer. Berle, so booked with cafe dates and legit plays this summer, is also mulling an offer to take on a full professorship at a California college to instruct drama students in the very fine and complex art of Comedy. Milton should know enough about it; he's celebrating his 60th year in show business this year and has written a dozen books on the subject.....

### JONES, COHEN AT FLAMINGO HILTON

Smooth -as- silk vocalist Jack Jones and veteran funnyman Myron Cohen will return to the main showroom of the Flamingo Hilton on June 14.

Jones, one of the few soft - sell vocalists to survive the hard rock era, has evolved from a youthful singing prodigy of the late fifties to one of the premier pop balladeers of this generation.

After paying his dues at tiny west coast nightclubs, Jones first hit it big in 1961 when he took leave from the Air Force to record "Lollipop and Roses," a major hit which won a Grammy award.

Myron Cohen, known internationally as the entertainment business' number one storyteller, has been one of the Flamingo's most popular attractions for more

than a decade. A master raconteur, Cohen is praised by critics for his sharp wit, unmatched delivery and keen timing.

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