

★ LAS VEGAS ★

'SHOWCASE' OF THE STARS

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS

STRIP CHATTER.....It's too bad that EVERY entertainment director, agent, manager, producer and talent scout didn't spend at least part of this past Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the CIRCUS CIRCUS HIPPODROME. Those were the days of talent auditions for BRECK WALL & JOE PETERSON'S "BOTTOMS UP" and DONN ARDEN'S MGM GRAND HOTEL superspectacular. Hundreds of new faces, new talents and some familiar performers out of the confines of their regular shows here, were paraded thru the auditions. Singers, dancers, comedians, comedienne, novelty acts, and every possible combination thereof turned out, and although many, many came calling, it was possible to choose only a handful for the jobs available. The auditions were an ideal showcase and the perfect time for entertainment buyers and directors (who are forever talking about developing new stars for future Strip shows) should have and could have found PLENTY of deserving, versatile and strictly professional newcomers just waiting for an opportunity!!.....

ROUND TOWN.....Popular PAUL PERRY, who "pioneered" North Las Vegas with his lively Gay 90's and Palomino Club burlesque houses, has opened a new, nearer the Strip club called THE CABARET, on Paradise Road. Headline burlesque stars, exotic dancers and comedians will be featured at Paul's newest fun spot....Klav radio star SIG SAKOWICZ, who does such interesting and provocative all star interviews (11:05 P.M. til Midnight) and a lot of special broadcasts, will do a tribute to LENNY BRUCE this week and on Friday, a tribute to MARILYN MONROE. Among the stars who've been dropping by for Sakowicz chats: DON RICKLES, FRANKIE LAINE, RICH LITTLE, DICK ROMAN, NELSON SARDELLI, PETER GORDENO and RIP TAYLOR....Add to the growing roster of Vegas headliners that'll be starring at CORBETT MONICA'S new Nanuet (NY) THEATER GO-ROUND (opening October 2 with GLEN CAMPBELL): DON RICKLES, TOTIE FIELDS, JOHNNY MATHIS, and a double barreled powerhouse in SHECKY GREENE and MEL TORME (opening Oct. 9). Mel, incidentally, will be returning to the scene of his last Vegas triumph, the Thunderbird, in mid-October....STEVE OZARK, the very talented and imaginative lighting director-designer, currently making his headquarters in Honolulu, Hawaii (where he lights up stars like DICK JENSEN, JOHN ROWLES, etc.) will be visiting Las Vegas for the first time in a couple of years at the end of August. Ozark is one of the best new technicians in his field; stars shopping for some really new, dazzling effects should shop Ozark....CONNIE STEVENS, with a brand new two years



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part at the Flamingo, returns this week (Aug. 2) with her brand new musical comedy revue, staged by Jaime Rogers.....

LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE.....Movie star-singer JAMES DARREN, opening August 7 joining BUDDY HACKETT at the Sahara, has a busy fall schedule including dates at the Playboy Great Gorge Club and a return to his hometown (Philadelphia) Palumbo's. But Darren's not planning to get "too busy" to have to turn down some choice movie roles in some big pictures for next year release. James is also the number one contender for a new science fiction television series. His last series was also sci-fi, "Time Tunnel"....Heard a tale that puts either GOGI GRANT, MOLLY BEE or ROBERT SHERWOOD as the next singing star of the Hacienda's "Fantasy On Ice" show when current star SUSAN ANTON has to leave for new movie and television commitments....Funny funny girl JEANNINE BURNIER (the lady just at the Sahara with JIM NABORS who said she prepared for her "Swan Lake" ballet debut by doing "Goose Lake" a couple of times in summer stock), will be rejoining Nabors when he opens next at Harrah's Tahoe....Singer RICHARD CURTIS (now starring in his own Richard Curtis Show) back from an east coast tour, and opening next in New Mexico, Arizona and Southern California cabarets. Curtis is the young singer who has the rather eye-opening publicity tag as "That Singing, Swinging Son of a Witch"....And that's no gimmick, Richard is the son of nightclub hypnotist and "witch" SANDRA SENNES, who played the Strip a couple of years

back....Welcome Mat is out to first-time Las Vegas Visitor, SANDRA PIERUCCI ROGERS from Philadelphia and more recently of Jacksonville, North Carolina. Sandra is a former actress who gave up drama classes for marriage, motherhood and real estate (in that order).

BITS & PIECES.....When TOTIE FIELDS plays the Las Vegas Strip next, it'll be at the Sahara Hotel. Totie just signed a new multi-year deal....BOBBY DARIN & SERGIO FRANCHI the first two stars to leave the Hilton Hotel chain for the new MGM Grand Hotel..

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....AUDREY ARNO stars in the latest edition of the "Folies Bergere" at the Tropicana....THE ARGENTINIAN GAUCHOS & THE FLYING FERCOS are the not-to-be-missed featured specialty acts in the "Casino de Paris" at the Dunes....TOMMY MOE RAFT & JANET BOYD in "Minsky's Burlesque" now at the Fremont....SHECKY GREENE & CASS ELLIOT at the Riviera and DON'T MISS: Miss PETULA CLARK and her special guest star Miss JOAN RIVERS now at Caesars Palace.....

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