

LAS VEGAS SHOWGAS

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT.....THE SHOCKING MR. CRAIG RUSSELL, the hilarious young Canadian impressionist now in his Vegas bow at the MGM Lion's Den. Craig's harpooning carbons of stars so revered as DINAH SHORE, SHIRLEY TEMPLE, DORIS DAY, CONNIE FRANCIS, SAHARA VAUGHN, SHIRLEY BASSEY, among others (and his classic take-offs on TALLULAH BANKHEAD, CAROL CHANNING, MAE WEST, PEGGY LEE) has been keeping the Den's crowds repeating their visits to catch all of Russell's characters. Russell's at the MGM for a special limited engagement and is scheduled to close May 28. If the MGM bosses hold him over, the Den will have a "first" by having TWO impressionists on the same bill. Satirist-impressionist DAVID FRYE opens May 29.....The all new TOM JONES SHOW, now at Caesars Palace. It's Tom's most elaborate outing with the new RON LEWIS DANCERS, THE BLOSSOMS, comedian VIC ARNELL, and the Strip return of one of its most popular musical ensembles, THE CELEBRATION.....The Landmark Hotel's new STAR*SEARCH show hosted by Red McIlvaine, presenting some of the brightest newcomers from all over the country. New talent should be contacting producer Mark Durbin for future showcasing.....

STRIP CHATTER.....JOAN RIVERS who was scheduled to costar with Helen Reddy in the MGM's Celebrity Room, will be making her MGM return date instead with SHIRLEY JONES & JACK CASSIDY opening June 5.....Impressionist-singer JIM BAILEY, breaking attendance records at the Thunderbird, has been set for at least two more T-Bird dates this year. Jim returns in August and again for the Thanksgiving holidays. Following Bailey, on June 6 will be songstress-impressionist EDIE ADAMS and her husband PETE CONDOLI. Edie's impressions include ETHEL MERMAN, SHIRLEY TEMPLE, PHYLLIS DILLER and LADYBIRD JOHNSON..... RIP TAYLOR, "visiting" his new home in Las Vegas, had to fly out again to resume rehearsals and tapings for his new Sheldon, The Genie character on kiddies tv-er "Sigmund the Sea Monster". Rip reported for his first day of work two weeks ago and that day, the Goldwyn Studios went up in flames. This week, he'll be filming at National General Studios for the September airdates.....THE ARGENTINIAN GAUCHOS were the big hit at the Las Vegas Mental Health Center's Open House. The Gauchos whizzing bolos and flashing swords were the highlight of the afternoon of stars. PEPPER DAVIS & JOE DELANEY emceed the gala.....MILTON BERLE, who'll be back headlining at the Sands on June 26, flies into Vegas from his Dallas Fairmont engagement to join the all-star presenters at the VICTOR AWARDS, at the Las Vegas Hilton on June 8. Also presenting will be Academy Award nominee and EMMY winner, actress CICELY TYSON.....

YES, BUT IS IT NEWS.....that BRECK WALL-JOE PETERSON'S long run (the longest running show in Las Vegas) musical comedy smash, "BOTTOMS UP" has been signed for an indefinite engagement at the Las Vegas Hilton Casino Theater, opening June 26. The show which just closed after a year at Circus Circus is currently on vacation with cast members scattering for holidays in Europe (Breck Wall), Texas (Robert Beal), New York (Suzanne Buhner and David Harris), Acapulco (Jan Sutton), Los Angeles (Alicia Irwin).....Producer-director JERRY SCHAFER wraps his first "Horace & Fred" comedy flick for Affinity Pics Corporation this week. Schaffer is now interviewing and casting for his next opus in the comedy series, "Horace & Fred Return" which will go before the cameras in Las Vegas in mid-June. A third film, "Horace & Fred in Hawaii" starts shooting in Honolulu and Maui in July.....Speaking of Hawaii, KAHALA HILTON star DANNY KALEIKINI makes a rare mainland appearance opening June 20 at Caesars Palace; DICK JENSEN leaves his luxurious Oceania Floating Restaurant-Nightclub for a June 18 opening with JERRY LEWIS at the Sahara, and DON

HO is about ready to announce his next Vegas date for early fall. Hawaii-bound Vegas stars: ROBERT GOULET, THE CARPENTERS, JOHNNY MATHIS.....Motown's blockbuster THE JACKSON FIVE, who did nothing but sensational in their Vegas debut at the MGM Grand, have been signed for a second appearance later this year.....

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO.....MANOLO TORRENTI & FREDDY MANJON'S "LATIN FIRE FOLLIES"?? TAKEUCHI KEIGO'S "GEISHA-RELLA"?? Songbird LEE MEZA?? Much talked about singing discovery PI-TR LEMONGELLO?? Burmese-English singer-dancer



RED MCILVAINE'S STAR*SEARCH OPENED ITS SECOND WEEK IN THE LANDMARK SUPPER CLUB WITH FAITH, COUNTRY SINGER FROM SACRAMENTO (SHOWN); ARNOLD DOVER, COMIC/IMPERSONATOR FROM LOS ANGELES; LAVERNE SANTOS, POP SINGER FROM LAS VEGAS AND ALMETA SPEAKS, JAZZ/BLUES SINGER FROM TORONTO. THE TALENT, ALL OF WHOM ARE PROFESSIONAL, ARE PRESENTED AS A SHOW-CASE WITH AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION AND FINAL JUDGING DURING THE THIRD SHOW. SHOWTIMES ARE 6,8 & 10 P.M.

PETER GORDENO??.....EARTHA KITT??.....New Zealand singers JOHN ROWLES & FRANKIE STEVENS??.....Australian beauty TRISHA NOBLE??.....The always popular THE ESTABLISHMENT??.....Comedienne DONNA JEAN YOUNG??.....Canadian powerhouse GRANT SMITH??.....JANE MORGAN??.....THE HUES CORPORATION??.....

STRIP MEMO.....Broadway and tv star KAY BALLARD, in town for a few days of show-stopping, stopping crowds wherever she went. Kay, one of the most gracious and popular stars, hasn't played Vegas since before her recent Broadway return in "Mollie". A return engagement is long overdue!.....Ditto for JOHNNIE RAY, currently packin' 'em in all over the country in his current nightclub and concert tour. Johnnie is a big, big Nostalgia Boom star, and is reportedly readying a re-issue album of some of his million sellers of the 50's and 60's.....Speaking of Strip returns, due and overdue, isn't it about time some hotel signed LITTLE RICHARD for a Vegas outing??.....

BITS & PIECES.....PLAYGIRL Mag "Discovery" GARRISON WAYNE makes his first time visit to Las Vegas this week to see the sights and shows of the Strip. Wayne, an aspiring actor-singer who has been flooded with offers since his Playgirl exposure, will make his movie debut later this year. Garrison will also be one of the special guests of honor at an upcoming showfolk gala in honor of THE CELEBRATION (at Caesars Palace) marking the group's first Vegas date since their tour last summer with ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK.....Don't miss an evening of JAI ALAI at the new MGM Grand Hotel fronton. Games are nightly except Monday, from 7:30 p.m. Popping by for between the shows jai alai action: JAMES DARREN, (now at the Sahara Hotel with Buddy Hackett), DEEDA HYMES, ROB BARRON and SUZANNE BUHRER (of "Bottoms Up"), CRAIG RUSSELL, RIP TAYLOR, DEAN SCOTT, KITTY KOVER, producer JERRY SCHAFER, The Hollywood Reporter's tv columnist SUE CAMERON with Jay Bernstein pr man DICK TAYLOR, etc....."Lido de Paris" singer-dancer WAYNE ALBRITTON sidelined for at least a month with an ankle injury.....Former lead dancer of Matt Gregory's "Fancy That" revue, JERRY WILKINS now in the "Casino de Paris" at the Dunes Hotel. Femme

ROY CLARK AT FRONTIER

Superstar, Roy Clark, returned with fanfare for three giant weeks at the Frontier's Music Hall.

Appearing with the singer / musician is "Hee Haw" regular, Gunilla Hutton, a spirited song and dance group, The Spurrilows & banjoist, Buck Trent.

The shows, at 8:15 and midnight, promise to be among the liveliest on the strip, with down home picking and up town singing by Clark, who is the only artist ever recognized by the Country Music Assoc., the Academy of Country Music and the American Guild of Variety Artists for their top awards in a single year.

His recordings on the



(ROY)

DOT label have consistently risen to the top of nation-wide music charts, with his latest single entry, "Honey-moon Feelin'" heard on his newest album release, "The Entertainer."

lead of same revue, JOANNE GILL, now in the new Holiday Casino Dixieland revue.....Singer JOE LAVIGNA back into "Minsky's Burlesque" at the Fremont.....Australian singer GORDON CORNISH now featured in Barry Ashton's "This Is Burlesque" at the Aladdin.....

WEEKEND WANDERERS.....Country's superstar ROY CLARK with Hee-Haw's beauteous GUNILLA HUTTON now at the Frontier.....BUDDY HACKETT and JAMES DARREN at the Sahara.....JACK JONES AND CORBETT MONICA at the Flamingo.....BOBBY VAN, in his Riviera bow, with DIONNE WARWICKE....."THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN" at the Union Plaza starring CATHY CAHILL & CRAIG LITTLER (with a daily matinee at 4:00 p.m. and a dinner show at 8:00 p.m.).....JACKIE VERNON, JOE WILLIAMS, CRAIG RUSSELL & GARY LEWIS and THE PLAYBOYS at the "hot" Lion's Den Lounge at the MGM.....

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