

OF THE STARS

ENTERTAINMENT TRIP AROUND THE WORLD



DICK MCINNES

Is the King of the Road planning to give up his lucrative touring and night club engagements? Rumors have it that ELVIS PRESLEY superstar is super tired of all that traveling and is going to settle down and become a moving picture star again. He has reportedly signed for the lead (what else?) in an independent production called "Country Road" which will be his heaviest dramatic role yet. He will play a ruthless country boy who makes it to the top but ends up accused of murdering his sweetie. That's certainly a switch from his other films. He also has insisted on script approval. Wonder how long his contract with the Hilton has to go? I have a feeling they won't be too happy about losing their biggest draw.

BRENDA VACCARO & MICHAEL DOUGLAS were out of town so they didn't receive the telegram informing them of the switch in opening nights of the Huntington Hartford's new tenant "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." So they showed up on Friday night and there were no seats for them and the box office didn't seem to recognize them. They were just searching for credit cards when the Hartford PR man, DICK SPITTEL recognized them and saved the day with the emergency house seats. Douglas, by the way, has bought the rights to the play and plans to produce it as a movie. The reason for the delay in opening night was because JAMES FARENTINO who was to have starred in it had flown the coop. No one, even now, seems to know exactly why but fly he did. I'm sure he regrets it just a titch now. WILLIAM DEVANE who was flown in from Chicago to replace him has received unanimous raves and his stock will be soaring upward. He deserves it too. He is absolutely brilliant in a play that is alternately aggravating, sad, funny, touching, frightening, overpowering and never, never dull. It put me through a kaleidoscope of emotional colors sparked by the fine performances of Devane and a top notch cast. SALOME JENS is marvelous as the super, efficient, villainous head nurse and the other inmates of the mental institution where the action takes place. ROCKNE TARKINGTON, JOHN SAVAGE, DELOS V. SMITH, JR., MEL HAYNES, RIK COLETTI, NORMAN RICE AND VAL BISOGLIO are all winners playing losers. I'd like to meet the author DALE WASSERMAN. He must be something else, too. Needless to say, the director HARVEY MEDLINSKY has done a masterful job. If you're flying over the Huntington Hartford, stop by and see the show. It's a trip.

This is the time of year when memories of JFK always become stronger. Some of us remember him all the time but as Thanksgiving nears, the tragedy always comes back to mind. This week, let's be thankful that we had him and let's just pray that "Camelot" will return to us soon.



BUDDY



EDDIE

BUDDY HACKETT, EDDIE FISHER, AT SAHARA TUESDAY

Comedy Superstar Buddy Hackett will re-introduce singing star Eddie Fisher to Las Vegas audiences when the duo open a brief 12-day holiday engage-

ment at Del Webb's Sahara Tuesday night. The exciting coupling will close the Sahara's Congo Room for annual renovations on December 14, with the room re-opening on December 27 (Totie Fields and Jerry Vale -- Dec. 27-Jan. 16 -- and possibly a special "Swingers Only" show at 2 a.m. New Year's Eve, to be announced).

Even though Hackett has been headlining at the Sahara for nearly a decade, "The Master" remains a surprise from show to show. Only one thing is predictable and that's that Hackett will keep his audience howling from curtain to curtain with his classic routines and free-form wanderings.

Discussing his latest "surprise" Hackett explained, "I sought Eddie out. I said 'come to work' and he said 'I'm really ready,' and I know

he's gonna put forth his best effort. I'm hoping he's just gonna open up his collar and throw back his head and sing!

"I tested him with a joke," Hackett continued. "I said to him, 'I'm gonna give you three violins and a metronome (a reference to musicians who say Fisher sings out of meter) and he laughed and when I heard him laugh I knew he was in good shape and ready to work Las Vegas."

Rounding out the Sahara's December entertainment line-up is a spectacular soul-rock line-up in the Casbar Theatre lounge featuring Little Anthony and The Imperials, Sidro's Armada (with Beverlee Brown!) and Vincent; folk-rock artist Robert Jason and Key Howard in the Safari Lounge and Gus Bivona in Don the Beachcomber.

SAMMY DAVIS AT CAESARS PALACE



SAMMY

Sammy Davis, Jr., one of the greatest cabaret performers in showbusiness annals, will add a special flavor to Thanksgiving Day Thursday by opening a three-week debut engagement in the Circus Maximus theatre-restaurant at Caesars Palace. It will be his first Las Vegas appearance in two years.

Davis' "special guest star" will be Miss Dyan Cannon, one of the screen's premier sex goddesses and an adroit music and comedy performer. George Rhodes, Davis' musical director, will conduct the award-winning Nat Brandwynne orchestra.

A non-pareil master of song, comedy, and dance, Davis is, without question, the most complete entertainer of his time. The singing voice is instantly recognized and admired by millions of people around the world. And so is the appearance of the man himself, whether he performs on stage, screen, or television. There is something special and personal about his presence, a special something which commands both attention and respect.

With Davis making his Las Vegas return and Miss Cannon providing a feast for the

eye and ear, Caesars Palace patrons will indeed have a lot to be thankful for.

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