

# LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE

*Mark Tan*  
IN  
**LAS VEGAS**



**NOTES FROM ALL OVER.....**Songstress ANNE SIMMONS, "The First Lady of Nostalgia" now fully recovered from a serious illness of years duration, making a strong bid for renewed nitery action. Anne is currently in rehearsals of her one woman dramatic-musical presentation for showcasing for Vegas buyers. Anne is also prepping her show for her first Los Angeles appearance, most probably at the hot new "Studio One" where RUTH BUZZI is currently playing to capacity plus crowds and has been held over for another week. The Studio is also the Hollywood nitery that has starred JOAN RIVERS, BERNADETTE PETERS, CHITA RIVERA, CRAIG RUSSELL, LYNNE CARTER, ROZ CLARK, etc with stars like PETER ALLEN, KAREN MORROW & SALLEY KELLERMAN also set for L.A. debuts.....Never even found out who TOM T. HALL was, who was announced to headline at the Thunderbird in June. Now the Thunderbird has shuttered its main showroom cancelling out Hall, JACK JONES, LESLIE UGGAMS, JIM BAILEY, DICK HAYMES, and others on its star roster.....JOHNNY CARSON plays a special one week date at Caesars Palace (his second of four such engagements) opening June 12.....Beautiful blonde actress-singer-comedienne DYANNE THORNE (here with Minsky's, Tim Conway, etc.) marries HOWARD MAURER, the leader of THE CAIN MUTINY, in L.A. on April 20. Singer JEANNIE THOMAS - Dyanne's former partner in a musical comedy act - will be matron of honor. Howard's partners in the Mutiny, brothers Mat and sister Joyce will witness the ceremony.....Sahara star CHARO, currently working on her first television series, signed GARY COLLINS as her tv-husband.....

**STRIP BITS & PIECES.....**JACK CARTER returns to Las Vegas after a summer and winter away on tour with his wife-Roxanne in "Last of the Red Hot Lovers", to costar with GLADYS KNIGHT & THE PIPS, opening April 15 at the Las Vegas Hilton.....PHYLLIS DILLER headlines with "Hollywood Squares" host-singer PETER MARSHALL, opening April 30 at the Sands..... Actor REB BROWN enroute to the Philippines for his next film role, in Vegas for a quick bit of showstopping. Brown has also been seen recently on "Marcus Welby", "Police Story", "The Waltons" and several national tv commercials.....JOAN RIVERS should know that a currently playing comedy star on the Strip is using a big hunk of her material. Joan who should be getting used to having some of her zaniest observations "borrowed" by other comedians, returns on May 21 with SERGIO FRANCHI at the MGM Grand.....

**ROUND TOWN.....**DONN ARDEN'S new "LIDO DE PARIS", now in rehearsal, scheduled for a mid-May premiere at the Stardust.....Choreographer-producer JERRY NORMAN'S "BARE MINIMUM" revue moves into the Holiday Casino showroom in May.....GEORGE ARNOLD & BILL MOORE's all new edition of the long running "SPICE ON ICE" at the Hacienda bows on April 15 with satirist comedy star CORK PROCTOR..... Singer-pianist-arranger, and drolleries by the



**PAT SUZUKI, WHO BECAME AN OVERNIGHT SUCCESS IN NEW YORK AS THE DARLING OF "FLOWER DRUM SONG" (HER FIRST MILLION SELLER FROM THAT SHOW RELEASED ON THE RCA LABEL WAS "I ENJOY BEING A GIRL") IS THE SPECIAL GUEST STAR OF THE LANDMARK HOTEL'S EXCITING FAR EASTERN PRODUCTION "ORIENT FOLLIES '75."**

dozen, keynote the easy listening sounds of KEY HOWARD, now at the Sahara Safari Lounge nightly.....GLENN SMITH, formerly of Glenn Smith and the Fables - one of the top lounge acts of the late 1960's in Las Vegas - is back in a new single act, now at the Frontier Winner's Circle Lounge....."Chico and the Man" star FREDDIE PRINZE, now making his Las Vegas bow guesting with PAUL ANKA at Caesars Palace, is a solid hit in his first go-round as a stand-up comedian. Hear tell that Prinze's first couple of nights routines have been toned down considerably, deleting some of his more earthy expressions and ethnic parodies.....THE JACKSON FIVE, now back at the MGM Grand with gueststar FRANK GORSHIN, are now officially recognized as the top selling musical group of Motown Records. The Jackson's record breaking sales - now sell well in excess of 25 million - beat out other top Motowners like The Temptations, Stevie Wonder and the Supremes.....RICH LITTLE returns to the Sands on June 11. This time round Rich's gueststar will be MEL TORME, in his first Sands date in five years. Mel has been a Sahara patee for the past year, and is currently replacing current Sahara star DICK JENSEN, in Honolulu at Jensen's home base showroom, the Oceania.....SHIRLEY MacLAINE will have Italiano funnyman PAT COOPER as her gueststar when she returns for her third (and last) outing at the MGM Grand opening April 23. When Shirley closes here, she goes into filming the biog of adventuress aviatrix Amelia Earhart.....BOBBIE GENTRY will have an all new revue when she returns next, on June 3, to the Desert Inn Crystal Room. The

multi-talented Miss Gentry is not only producing her show, she's doing most of the musical arranging, costume designing, and production concepts.....Broadway star of "Pippin", BEN VEREEN makes his Strip debut, with ALAN KING, next at Caesars Palace.....Musical ensemble THE ESTABLISHMENT makes its first Strip appearance in almost two years, opening with EDDY ARNOLD at the Sahara on April 17.....

**STRIP GLITTERINGS.....**RIP TAYLOR, now starring in the new "Folies Bergere" at the Tropicana wings to Los Angeles this month to start taping his new "Sigmund the Sea Monster" guestings as the Genie. Rip's also going to be popping by several other tv variety and talk shows this month.....WAYNE NEWTON returns to the Frontier Hotel - after so many months at the Sands exclusively - on April 23. For Wayne who holds the record of the longest continuous engagement by a mainroom headliner (from November to March) plays a quickie four weeks at the Frontier til June 25.....Comedy favorite of the MGM Lion's Den, JACKIE GAYLE, returns in May.....MARTY ALLEN, always such a strong crowd pleaser here, currently negotiating with four Strip hotels for his next date. Marty who will be heading to Europe early this summer for his co-starring role in the '75 blockbuster "The Other Side of Midnight", may play an early date here before his movie trek.....Strip Showstopper: PAUL ANKA's rendition of early Neil Diamond hit "I Am, I Said" at Caesars Palace.....TOTIE FIELDS, delightful as she is devastating, and one of the very few comedy stars who can actually sing (Totie started her career in show business as singer in Hartford, Conn. and Boston, Mass.) belting out a lot of new tunes in her current Sahara stint. "Where Are All the Dirty Old Men" and Totie's special "The Real Totie Comin' Thru" are among the musical highlights.....

**WEEKEND WANDERERS.....**BARRY ASHTON's smash new French Music Hall romp, "VIVE PARIS VIVE" now into its record breaking fourth month at the Aladdin Hotel.....JULIET PROWSE and FOSTER BROOKS now at the Desert Inn.....PAUL ANKA at Caesars Palace.....ENGELBERT at the Riviera....."THE MIND WITH THE DIRTY MAN" starring Phil Ford, Jane Kean and Marilyn Chambers going strong at the Union Plaza....."THE FOLIES BERGERE" starring RIP TAYLOR with Buddy Vest, Carl Ballantine, The Bernard Brothers and lead dancers JANELLE & DAN PARKER at the Tropicana's Tiffany Theater.....

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