

LAS VEGAS SHOW EAST

Mark Tan
IN
LAS VEGAS

BY JUST THE SHEEREST BICENTENNIAL COINCIDENCE, HIS NAME IS TOM JEPPELSON, and he's rapidly becoming one of the most talked about (make that "RAVED about) young singers on the West Coast. Now working in the La Jolla/San Diego area twenty seven year old Jepperson combines a solid musical background (from grand opera to rock and everything in between) with a dynamic and persuasive "in person" charisma that has made him "the" singer to catch wherever and whenever he's appearing. Now we hear that word of Jepperson's talents and appeal has FINALLY penetrated the sometimes ten foot wall of indifference that keeps new talents out of Las Vegas and he'll be visiting here soon with his manager Jeanne Jennay to hopefully set a deal for a Strip debut. Producers APCAR, ASHTON, ARDEN & LEE, take note..... Singer-dancer RAY BENGSTON just back from Australia (he's one of the featured players in Breck Wall's "Bottoms Up") was such a hit Down Under it's a wonder he came back to the U.S. Hear that Ray was deluged with movie, television and nitery offers in Sydney not to mention SWAMPED by flocks of female fans who found him the most exciting U.S. export since ELVIS!!!..... Sydney Daily Mirror Entertainment chief MATT WHITE (also the Australian correspondent for The Hollywood Reporter) plans a visit to the U.S. - Las Vegas and Hollywood

CHOREOGRAPHER AL GOSSAN ARRIVES THIS WEEK FROM HONOLULU, HAWAII TO hold auditions for Joe Peterson and Dave Barry's upcoming "RED, WILD & BLUE" comedy revue scheduled to open April 1 at the Thunderbird. Gossan who's been living in Hawaii for the past couple of years just wrapped the staging and choreography of the all new JOHN ROWLES SHOW - a permanent fixture at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Waikiki. John incidentally is now being managed by TOMMY AMATO who was - for years and years - the very dynamic



ONCE MORE IT'S BUDDY HACKETT, WHO NEVER FAILS TO DRAW STANDING ROOM ONLY TO THE CONGO ROOM OF THE SAHARA. SAMMY CAHN IS THE SUPPORTING ACT.

manager for WAYNE NEWTON. Tommy is also manager for country western star (and Playboy Mag favorite) singer BARBI BENTON.....AUDITIONS for "Red, Wild and Blue" are scheduled for February 16 and 17 at the Thunderbird, and Feb. 20 and 21 in Los Angeles. Needed are female and male dancers, singers and comedy types - and all must be able to do lines, comedy skits, blackouts, etc.....THINGS WE KEEP HEARING:.....that a very popular and long running revue on the Strip will be closing sometime in April and a still-to-be-found new show will take its place.....that the STARDUST HOTEL will be opening its new lounge this spring with the long awaited return of a "VIVE LES GIRLS" revue. "Vive" a Frederic Apar/Ron Lewis opus ran for something like NINE years at the Dunes Hotel when that hotel had one of the hottest and most popular lounges in town!!.....

DELICIOUS LESLIE UGGAMS - JUST HERE AT THE SAHARA - MAY NOT BE COMING BACK to the Strip til mid-summer. Leslie's being wooed to take the lead in a very

special new musical - a tribute to martyred MARTIN LUTHER KING - with BILLY DEE WILLIAMS as King, and Leslie playing ALL the women roles. The King tribute will have a limited 3-4 month engagement and limited tour starting in Washington, D.C. If Leslie takes the role, she'll be unavailable for any club dates til at least June.....DAVID BRENNER, just here with MAC DAVIS at the Grand, has been signed by MGM entertainment boss BERNIE ROTHKOPF to costar next with LOLA FALANA, making her headliner debut on April 1. Lola who has had something like four smash television specials is going all out for her MGM stint with a big production type revue, a company of dancers, sets, etc., all reportedly costing somewhere in the very elegant neighborhood of \$100,000!!!! Between now and then, popular Brenner will be hosting the "Tonight Show" again and plans to wrap his NBC-TV special that'll spin-off into a pilot next season.....And speaking of the MGM, isn't singer-composer-actor PAUL WILLIAMS just about penned to a headline engagement for this spring?.....

NOTES FROM ALL OVER.....SHIRLEY MacLAINE, now a double whammy SMASH in Europe with her "Las Vegas Show '76" opens April 8 at Caesars Palace.....BOB HOPE and BING CROSBY will be reunited for one more "Road" picture.....this time, it's "ROAD TO TOMORROW"..... JOHN DAVIDSON, making his headliner bow at the Riviera on April 1, has reportedly been tagged to star in his own (summer) musical variety tv series.....Memo to songwriters: MAC DAVIS will feature a segment on his new television series that will introduce brand new UNPUBLISHED songs. If any composer ever said to themselves - if only Mac Davis could hear my tune - now's your chance.....PAUL ANKA who's been practically a resident of Sun Balley (where he's opened his own restaurant CHEZ PAUL) is at Caesars Palace til Feb. 25. Always a superb showman (and one who could do a couple of hours of Anka Sings Anka compositions) Paul showcases his protegee ODIA COATES and his colorful musical director JOHNNY HARRIS in his Palace fest. In a word: DON'T MISS HIM..... Add to the HAPPY BIRTHDAY AQUARIANS list: JOEY BISHOP (opening at the Sahara Feb. 26 with Teresa Brewer), CAROL CHANNING, EARTHA KITT, PAUL NEWMAN, NEIL DIAMOND, and JEFF WALD (Helen Reddy's husband-manager)..... MORE THINGS WE KEEP HEARING: that two very big comedy names are engaged in an all out feud that has, on at least one occasion, led to fist flying after harsh words..... that GINGER ROGERS and GEORGE BURNS - separately that is - have been inked to play the Strip at the Hughes Hotels later this year.....



Buddy Hackett Sammy Cahn

