

OF THE STARS

RED SKELETON RETURNS TO VEGAS AT MGM GRAND

Red Skelton, the clown prince of pantomime whose comic capers became movie magic in MGM's Culver City cinema center brings his considerable talents to

MGM's Las Vegas entertainment emporium - The Grand Hotel - next week. Skelton, who over the years has emerged from the roles of comedian, wit and clown into

Caesars Palace, her first Strip appearance in more than a year, opening in May...**MARTY ALLEN**, back from London AGAIN. Marty's so popular in England, he's been asked to return five times since last summer for special television appearances and theater/concert dates. Marty's also wanted for his own tv comedy special to spin off into a series in London later this year. Meanwhile Marty's prepping his new show for spring/summer nitery dates in the U.S. and listening to several offers from the Strip for a multiple engagement pact....**LIBERACE** heads next to Australia....**Mime duo SHIELDS & YARNELL**, now at the Riviera with **TONY ORLANDO & DAWN**, have been signed to be "regulars" on the new **MAC DAVIS** tv show....**GLEN YARBROUGH & THE LIMELITERS** make their Las Vegas debut next at the Thunderbird Hotel, opening March 23-April 4. **SANDLER & YOUNG** who've been doing such sensational biz at the "Bird", have also been set to return on April 6-18 and again on April 27....**DICK CLARK** and his Good Ol Rock & Roll Revue take over the Thunderbird showroom from July 14 thru August 31....In San Francisco, the new "hot" spot is **TOM SANFORD'S "THE CITY"** with a great line up of stars, newcomers and special talents. Sanford who plans to make the City into a contemporary Purple Onion type of showroom is currently presenting a new singing star named **LOVERDE** who reportedly has the Bay city in an uproar. **DON McLEAN**, S.F.'s getaround know it all entertainer/columnist also reports that producer **STEVE SILVER**'s long running smash musical comedy hit **"BEACH BLANKET BABYLON GOES BANANAS"** - at the Club Fugazi - has now played to more than 95,000 people since its reopening and is a continual SOLD OUT attraction for its Thursday-Sunday performances. McLean, who writes for several S.F. entertainment publications, is also the comedy actor who appeared recently with Archie Bunker on "All in the Family" as "Lori Shannon", the impersonator "saved" by Archie....

STRIP CHATTER....A 1175 room hotel/casino complex, **THE XANADU**, will be built on the Strip, opposite the Tropicana Hotel. Estimated cost of the new hotel is \$150 million....**NEIL SEDAKA** returns to the Riviera Hotel, with gueststar **GABRIEL "Welcome Back, Kotter"** **KAPLAN** opening June 3....Do drop by the new **"NEW FACES SHOWCASE"** at the Marina Hotel in Shipwreck Kelly's. Producer **LENN COOPER** plans to feature two new talents at a time for special engagements. The showtimes start at 8 PM....Comedy star **TIM CONWAY** joins his tv 'boss' **CAROL BURNETT** when she returns to Vegas performing opening May 27 at the MGM Grand....As tipped weeks ago, **BETTE MIDLER** will make her second mainroom appearance (she played the Sahara once with Johnny Carson) headlining this time naturally - at Caesars Palace....**BOBBIE GENTRY** makes a special return engagement at the Frontier Hotel opening March 18. Bobbie's been busy writing the music for her "Ode to Billie Joe" film (opening June 3) and recording a new album for the Warner Brothers label....One of Miss Gentry's dancers, **TOM ANTHONY**, is now one of the featured male leads in "Hallelujah Hollywood"; a former Gentry singer **RALPH LOVEDAY** is now starring in Jerry Norman's "Girls After Dark" revue at the Sahara Tahoe....**BRECK WALL'S "BOTTOMS UP"** opens next at the Windmill Dinner Theater in Houston, Texas. "BU" follows that five week stint with nine weeks at the Chateau DeVille in Boston, and then **FINALLY** home to Las Vegas and the premiere of the all new 1976 edition of Las Vegas' longest running musical comedy revue ...**SUZANNE BUHRER**, **DAVID HARRIS**, **RAY BENGSTON**, **SUNNY SMITH**, **SHON VAUGHN**, **SUE MOTSINGER**, **BOBBI GRUMLEY**, & **ROBERT BEAL** are featured with star-producer Wall in the new edition....

WEEKEND WANDERERS....**ANN-MARGRET** at the Las Vegas Hilton, with gueststar **Charlie Callas**....**TONY ORLANDO & DAWN** at the Riviera....**RED SKELETON & DES O'CONNOR** at the MGM....**SAMMY AT CAESARS**....

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that of America's singularly recognized pantomimist will headline in the Grand's Celebrity Room March 11th through March 24th. Sharing the Celebrity Room spotlight with the classic clown will be the English entertainment phenomenon **Des O'Connor**. Skelton, the clown's clown, stepped in for this Grand-stand to replace another comic genius, the ailing **Shecky Greene**. Greene, a prominent member of the Grand's stable of stars, suffered vocal chord damage following surgery removing a benign tumor in his parathyroid gland, forcing suspension of all of his night

club and entertainment commitments. Skelton's Grand gig is a rare appearance for the famous redhead. Several years ago Skelton publicly announced from the stage that he was planning retirement from appearances before live audiences. Red, who obviously enjoys his work, was unable to live by that pronouncement, has on rare occasions succumbed to the lure of his first love. In returning to the stage, Red opined, "The sound of laughter from an audience you can see and hear just can't be matched. It's so satisfying to know you're helping

people have a good time, helping them feel good these days, that it was more than I could resist." Des O'Connor's credits across the Atlantic include nearly a decade's worth of million selling records, hit television shows and critically acclaimed engagements in England's top niteries.

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