

# LAS VEGAS

# SHOW EAST



**LIFE UPON THE WICKED STAGE.....** Best news of the week is the arrival of RIVERA AT THE RIVIERA! Smash Broadway and cafe star CHITA RIVERA is making her first Strip appearance in more than six years, now at the Riviera Hotel with ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK. Chita who most recently starred on Broadway in "CHICAGO" with both LIZA MINNELLI and GWEN VERDON as her costars, just ended another SRO stint at the always "hot" Studio One, Backlot in Hollywood. As a matter of history, it was Chita's initial Backlot appearance that opened that cabaret-disco to top name stars giving them - finally - a place to show off their new cafe acts. Among the stars who followed Miss Rivera's lead-in were SALLY KELLERMAN, JOAN RIVERS, BARBARA COOK, BERNADETTE PETERS, KAYE BALLARD, LYNNE CARTER, RIP TAYLOR, KAYE STEVENS, GOTHAM, CHARLES FIERCE, WAYLAND FLOWERS, CRAIG RUSSELL, MARVIN LAIRD and BILLY BARNES, ANN DEE, etc., etc., a veritable "who's who" in the current cabaret scene. Multi TONY AWARD winner RON FIELD staged and directed Chita's new act for the Versailles Room..... MERV GRIFFIN and company back for another week of special "Las Vegas weeks" at Caesars Palace, and once again, Merv proves he is this town's number one Goodwill Ambassador. More than that, Merv and his associates, producer BETTY BITERMAN, talent coordinator DON KANE, and prexy MURRAY SCHWARTZ, are one of the few top rated television shows that will give a newcomer a well deserved and sometime, long overdue, "break". Merv makes it a policy to try to use as many "new faces" and new acts as he can when he's doing his shows from Caesars..... Speaking of TV shows, more and more of the network and syndicated shows are looking to and at Las Vegas as a potential taping and filming site. Upcoming, for instance, at the MGM GRAND will be at least three more Dean Martin special "Roasts", and, in December, another week of DINAH

SHORE shows. Also at the Grand, JOAN RIVERS will be casting and taping the first of her new "SHOW GIRL" series (for MGM-TV) from the Grand. Joan isn't starring in it, just writing the scripts..... More tv news, MONTY HALL and his "LET'S MAKE A DEAL" will be returning two or three more times to tape weeks from the Las Vegas Hilton; Perry Como taped his "Las Vegas, Como Style" from the Hilton; the "NEW TREASURE HUNT" will be taping from the Sahara Hotel this month; and WAYNE NEWTON, JULIET PROWSE and ROBERT GOULET will be among the headliners in an upcoming tv spec "Las Vegas, Las Vegas" documentary. And isn't there a lot of talk these days about the annual LAS VEGAS ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS being filmed this year (in November) as either a tv special or as a "special-special" of the MERV GRIFFIN SHOW???. What a huge turnout of talents for the just held auditions for "THE ORPHANS' REVENGE" set to open at the Thunderbird Hotel on October 8 (with two preview performances on October 7). The new 'old time' ADULT musical melodrama, written and SUZANNE BUHRER and GENE CASEY, is now in rehearsals at the T-Bird. Casey is directing with RAY FROST signed to do the staging, choreography and assistant direction. Suzanne Buhner will have a special hiatus from her current engagement as one of the stars of "Bottoms Up" (now in Houston) to return to Vegas on October 1 to co-direct the last week of rehearsals and add her zany comedic touches to the finished product. "The Orphans' Revenge" will be presented twice daily with AFTERNOON performances at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

**NOTES FROM ALL OVER.....**  
JOHN DAVIDSON, back from his summer circuit of theaters and nightclubs, starts taping his new television special "Christmas with the Davidsons" for NBC-TV. John is also awaiting the go-light to start his own musical variety series for a January/mid-season debut; if the latter gets on, John will have to postpone his scheduled February return to the Hilton til his first hiatus..... SHIRLEY MacLAINE winding her first motion picture (in about four years) returns to Caesars Palace in November and again for the Christmas-New Year's holidays..... And isn't current MGM star SERGIO FRANCHI about to wind his MGM pact and announce a new hotel base for '77???. Hear tell that there'll be a lot of "new" names cropping up on showroom rosters in the New Year. Here's a couple of popular "rumors" - MAE WEST at the Tropicana..... BOB

## COMIC PAT BUTTRAM, SHERRY BRYCE, PLAINSMEN IN LANDMARK SHOW



PAT

Sherry Bryce, MCA recording artist currently headlining the Landmark's Jubilee Showroom along with The Plainsmen, special guest star Pat Buttram and banjo picker Skip De Vol, features as a unique part of her presentation - a special tribute to some of the country singers of the past who have contributed so much toward making country music the increasingly

popular music form it is today.

Using a back screen projector, Sherry tells the stories of country greats Hank Williams, Bob Wills, Patsy Klein, Jimmie Rodgers and Lefty Frizzell while her band Proud Country plays the songs for which they are most remembered. She also does a medley of some of her own releases.

The Plainsmen, Gerald Williams, Jack Mainord, Laddie Cain and Jim Garstang deliver a strong round of tunes including million sellers "North to Alaska" and "This Ole House" along with spiritual selections and contemporary country hits, focusing on the high tenor of Cain and the deep bass of Williams.

Pat Buttram, who is presently writing a syndicated column of original quips "Pat Buttram Sez" and "Yours For Fun," bring with him for his third time around this year, a new collection of timely comments on the state of the union. His portrayal of the loveable con artist Mr. Haney is being seen again locally on the television re-run of the popular "Green Acres" series.

Skip De Vol -- who now makes his home in Las Vegas -- in addition to his long-running engagement at the Landmark where he amazes audiences with his prowess on the banjo, has become heavily involved in local charities and benefits.

HOPE at the Las Vegas Hilton..... JACKIE GLEASON at the MGM..... ROCK HUDSON..... PAUL LYNDE..... KAYE BALLARD..... LISA KIRK..... EARTHA KITT..... LITTLE RICHARD..... JAMES DARREN..... MILTON BERLE..... THE CAPTAIN & TENNILLE..... LAINIE KAZAN..... MEL TORME..... FLIP WILSON..... and that "holdout" of all hold-outs, MISS DORIS DAY.....

**"ROUND TOWN.....** Popular PETER ANTHONY is the new comedy star of the all new "PIN-UPS '77" merriment at the Sahara Casbar Lounge..... ROY CLARK will have stutterin' country comedy star MEL TILLIS as his special guest when he opens at the Frontier in October..... BOBBIE GENTRY and terrific comedy impressionist FRED TRAVALENA open next at the Frontier..... The midnight til dawn showfolks' LAS VEGAS BEAUX ART HALLOWE'EN BALL set for October 31, at the Stardust Hotel Crown Room. Tickets go on sale starting October 1..... RIP TAYLOR signed to headline in the "new/old" Sahara Casbar Lounge.

TENNESSEE ERNIE FORD, in a rare Vegas visit, at the Sahara..... HILO HATTIE at the Tropicana Blue Room..... PAUL SCARNE's new "PERFORMER'S SHOWCASE", Wednesday and Saturdays, at the Entertainer Cabaret on the Strip..... WAYNE NEWTON at the Sands..... OPENING OCTOBER 8, at the THUNDERBIRD - "THE ORPHANS' REVENGE" afternoons at 2 & 4 p.m.

# The New Plainsmen

## Sherry Bryce with Proud Country

special guest star  
**Pat Buttram**

extra added attraction  
**Skip De Vol**

# Landmark

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