

Mark Tan IN LAS VEGAS



NOTES FROM ALL OVER.....Comedy ventriloquist SAMMY KING, in town to tape his 7th guesting on the Merv Griffin Show, from Caesars Palace, had to dash right back to L.A. for his guesting on Norm Crosby's Comedy Shop and then back to Northern Nevada where Sammy will be opening as the star of Frederic Apcar's "Bedazzle" revue now at Harrah's Tahoe. Sammy who recently returned from The Crazy Horse Saloon in Paris, is househunting for perm residence in Las Vegas next fall.....Comedy star DICK CAPRI who of course you know has been on a world tour (his 6th year) with ENGELBERT, back for his two week stint with the singing star at the MGM Grand, opening May 31. As usual, Capri is inserting a lot of new material in his pantomime comedy routine and updating his monologue.....JOAN RIVERS will join JOHN DAVIDSON for her first appearance at the Las Vegas Hilton, opening June 12. Joan will be following another "debuting" star, MISS PHYLLIS DILLER who will be gueststarring with STEVE & EYDIE when they return May 29.....GABRIEL KAPLAN will have TANYA TUCKER as his special gueststar when he returns to the Aladdin on June 22. Gabe has been in town this past week pursuing another of his avid hobbies - playing poker!! Gabe was in town for the Horseshoe's Casino's marathon sessions and for the world championship of poker (with a top prize of some \$300,000.00 in the offing!!). Gabe's hot movie bow "Fast Break" has resulted in his being snowed under with movie scripts and he hopes to choose his second film this summer now that his tv series "Welcome Back Kotter" has taped its last season.....MARY BURNS, MAUREEN MURPHY, JOHNNY DARK and special guest drop-in PAUL ANKA among the guest impressionists joining RICH LITTLE at the MGM Grand for his just taped Home Box Office tv special. Mary Burns who was her last partnered with her brother, Burns & Bono, at the Aladdin, makes her solo debut with her new group FIRE, this month at the St. Louis Playboy Club....Maureen Murphy, who worked for several years under another name, is now a standup comedienne/impressionist. Johnny Dark flew in just prior to his upcoming cross country tour with THE OSMONDS.....

DATELINE: HONOLULU, HAWAII.....Former Las Vegas, choreographer/director AL GOSSAN finally took "the plunge" and has become a fulltime producer!! Al is now partnered with popular Polynesian singing team TEDDI &

HELEN REDDY JOHN BYNER IN SAHARA CONGO ROOM TO MAY 30

The Congo Show-room of Hotel Sahara resounds with the music of Helen Reddy and the comedy of John Byner, as they fulfill a limited one - week engagement, through May 30.

Along her merry musical way, Helen Reddy has picked up an amazing amount of awards. The gold and platinum records, Grammys, Billboard, Cashbox and Record World recognition are ample proof of her performing credentials. They reinforce the expectation of a musical treat every time the

lady steps on a stage, and she never disappoints her audience.

But she has also been honored by the City of Hope, the NAACP, the Los Angeles Times, the B'nai B'rith and other organizations far removed from the entertainment scene. It's a tribute to her life style and must be a prime factor in her outstanding success as a performer. Packed Congo Room houses are ample proof of her great popularity.

John Byner is a one - of - a - kind performer. His repertoire of impressions doesn't end



HELEN

The Helen Reddy- 8 o'clock dinner and John Byner engage- midnight cocktails- ment continues only shows each through May 30, with night.

NANCI TANAKA to form TANGO PRODUCTIONS. First project on the trio's already busy schedule of bookings will be "HAWAII DISCO '79" featuring THE AL GOSSAN DANCERS. Gossan who also has several dance classes in the 50th State will be canvassing the tropical discotheques for "undiscovered" talents as well as drawing from auditions all over Hawaii. The all-Polynesian/Hawaiian dance company revue is scheduled to open in mid-summer. Tango Productions has also been invited to form a dance company to headquarter in Honolulu for the Chamber of Commerce, the Honolulu Convention Center, etc etc special performances and plans are underway for still another company to tour the Far East. Between the Tanaka's and Gossan, each of whom have worked all over the mainland and in Europe, "HAWAII DISCO '79" looms to become a major export of the island-state with engagements being talked about for Paris, Mexico City, Tokyo, Toronto, etc. Apparently the lure and magic of HAWAII has international appeal and club bookers are intrigued by the combination of Hawaiian dancers and the worldwide disco craze. Best wishes to the new production company and good luck to "Hawaii Disco '79". We'll be watching for it in Las Vegas.....soon???



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