

DONDINO MAKES STRIP DEBUT AT SILVERBIRD

Domizio Dondino Melchiorre, better known to Las Vegas habitués as Dondino, takes his rightful place on the Big Apple -- better known hereabouts as the fabulous Las Vegas Strip via a three week starring engagement on the stage of the Continental Theatre at the Silverbird Hotel. (July 17 thru August 6).

It was a long time coming for Dondino. He says: "When I watch all the fuss being made over me as I prepare for my Strip debut, I can't believe it. I think they must be doing it for someone else. It's like a dream."

Dondino, born in Naples, Italy, and reared in Brooklyn, signs pop, country, rock and roll, jazz and becomes totally possessed when he is doing the big show tunes.

He's an accomplished musician, too. He attended Julliard School of Music, is a polished performer on the piano and accordion among other instruments.

A long, never-ending series of triumphs with "gigs" at such quality watering spas as New York's Copacabana;

the Village Gate, Fields Supper Club in Chicago, and the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal, have honed him to a fine edge as he prepares to take on the marquee blockbusters who dominate the Las Vegas scene.

Not too long ago, Dondino decided to put more of his energies into singing and performing. He found just the man to pick up on his arranging and conducting: his bass player, William Bailey from Boston. Dondino's solid, swinging orchestra includes a nifty gal at the keyboard known as Debbie Richards. From start to finish of the act, the whole group, including the gorgeous three Dondino Singers, seem to be having a ball.

Overnight success? Dondino says his overnighter took 18 years. "I think I have played every Holiday Inn from Boston to Miami... and that's just for a start," he says.

He even managed his own club in Garner, Iowa. The population was only 3,000. But Dondino created a sensation with a Dondino sign that mea-

sured 40 - feet across. This is a good size marquee for even Las Vegas' formidable pylon structures. He says he is considering importing the cold-stored sign for his Silverbird engagement.

And why the butterfly on his logo signature? Dondino relates a Disney-like tale of his youth. He was on a camping trip in up - state New York. He followed a beautiful butterfly into the woods and got lost for three days. He almost died from exposure. On the third morning he awoke trembling from the cold, half-starved and frightened. He saw another butterfly and followed it for hours. It lead finally to a major highway.

"Since then, the butterfly has been one of the most beautiful symbols of life to me." He says he has never told the story to the press before "because it sounds like a crazy invention."

It all adds up to a portrait of a performing artist who has prepared himself well to assume the mantle of stardom. His fans predict "fame and glory and never-ending triumphs."

Dondino's appearances nightly at the Silverbird are scheduled for 9 p.m. and midnight. His "special guest stars" will be the comedy team of Gaylord & Holiday, possessed of the kind of zany talents that will guarantee a happy crowd when Dondino breaks into song.

NEW ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUE SETS SERVICES

Congregation Shaarei Tefilla, the new Orthodox Synagogue of Las Vegas, is now holding Kabbalat Shabbat services on Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The Synagogue is located at 1331 S. Maryland Parkway.

Shaarei Tefilla will be conducting Orthodox High Holiday Services to which members as well as the Jewish public at large are invited to attend.

A religious school has been organized and classes will be starting in the fall. The religious school will include Bar Mitzvah instruction.

The Congregation Shaarei Tefilla morning Minyon, at which Kaddish and Yohzeit can be observed, is held at 7:30 a.m. weekdays, 8:30 a.m., Sabbath, 9:00 a.m. Sunday.

For more information, call 734 - 9540.

HOW TO DEAL WITH DROPOUTS!

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A top level international Jewish committee has been formed to "reach a consensus within world Jewry" on how to deal with the growing problem of dropouts -- "neshira" -- among Jews leaving the Soviet Union, it was reported here.

The committee was mandated by the Presidium of the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry which ended its deliberations here in early June without resolving the long standing differences over how to deal with dropouts. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, was authorized to appoint the committee's members. He announced its composition to the WZO Executive at a meeting here.

The rate of dropouts -- Jews who opt to settle in countries

other than Israel after emigrating from Russia -- has soared to 85 percent in recent months. According to some foreign press reports, the Soviet authorities have warned Israel that if this high level continues, they will clamp down on Jewish emigration totally. The Brussels Presidium expressed grave concern over reports that a continuation of the dropout rate may affect the entire emigration movement in Russia. The new committee was asked to take "appropriate measures among world Jewry" to prevent the dropout phenomenon. But there is a strong body of opinion among Jewish leaders that world Jewry is obligated to aid any Jew who manages to leave a country of distress, regardless of where he chooses to settle.

BEGIN REJECTS U.S. LEAK CHARGE

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Premier Menachem Begin's office firmly rejected an oblique reproach from the State Department over Begin's alleged leakage of confidential information. The matter involved a document Begin said he had received last January from U.S. Ambassador Samuel

Lewis expressing American concern that Iraq was planning to build a nuclear bomb.

It was reported here that Begin used the document to explain to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs Committee his decision for the attack of the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Recently a State Department spokesman in Washington observed, "We do not discuss the nature of sensitive exchanges that we have with foreign governments including friendly governments." David Passage, a Department spokesman said, in what was viewed as a rebuke to Begin that even if "Prime Ministers" were prepared to discuss private exchanges with the U.S., "I am not." Begin's office stated that "The Prime Minister did not publish" a U.S. intelligence assessment. He did transmit "the contents of a certain document to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee in accordance with his parliamentary and democratic obligation." The statement added that the committee's deliberations are kept in total confidentiality and secrecy. The statement observed further that "if we are discussing leaks, Washington's experience is no less rich than that of Jerusalem."



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