

Imperial Palace Auto Collection Buys "Father Divine's Throne Duesenberg"

Long the home of unique and historic automobiles, the Imperial Palace Auto Collection in Las Vegas has purchased a 1937 Duesenberg custom built for "Father Divine," the leader of a religious cult that flourished during the Depression. The very expensive car was a gift to "Father" from an admirer.

The 7800 pound automobile was built on an extra long chassis, the wheelbase measuring 178 inches. It became known as the "Throne Car" because the rear quarter section can be removed to expose the occupants on the elevated rear seats.

The car is closely associated with Father Divine. His messianic career began in 1915 when George Baker, a black preacher from Georgia, set up headquarters in Sayville, Long Island. He gained both black and white followers by feeding the hungry, helping them get jobs, and promising them eternal life, security and equality. In return they gave him total loyalty and all earnings were communally shared.

Complaints from his Long Island neighbors about the crowds who frequently shouted and sang half the night resulted in the arrest of "George Baker, alias Father Divine, alias God" for disturbing the peace. The judge, who appeared to be in good health, gave Divine the maximum penalty. Four days later the 50 year old judge dropped dead. From his prison cell, Father Divine said, "I hated to do it." The impact on his followers was powerful, and many new devotees flocked to his "Peace Mission Movement."

The movement ran many businesses under the name "God Incorporated." As the profits poured in, Father Divine invested shrewdly in real estate, buying at one time a large hotel for half a million dollars, delivered in suitcases of cash. Many of his followers were wealthy and gave him expensive gifts. Besides the Duesenberg, he received a 73 acre estate in Philadelphia. It is said he left some \$10 million in the care of his second wife, "Mother Divine."

In his heyday, Father Divine claimed 20 million followers who accepted him as Master of Omnipotence, Dynamo of Salvation. Before his death in 1965 he assured his followers he was not dying, merely "dematerializing" and would return in another body.

The Duesenberg Throne Car will be on display soon in the Imperial Palace Auto Collection on the fifth floor of the hotel's parking facility. The Collection, which features more than 200 antique, classic and special interest cars, is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Israel sent medical supplies and blankets to volcano-stricken Colombia. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem set up a special task force to marshal Israel's aid effort.

Johnny Mathis Headlines At Caesars Through November 25



LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Johnny Mathis returns to the spotlight in the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom through November 25. He headlines a double bill with comedienne Jeannine Burnier.

Originally set for only a one week engagement, Mathis agreed to stay an extra week when country singer Willie Nelson injured his back and had to cancel his appearance.

Mathis, whose singing career spans nearly three decades, continues to prove his durability as a performer by singing his early smash hits, including "Wonderful, Wonderful," "Chances Are," "It's Not For Me To Say" and "The Twelfth of Never," as well as some of his newer hits. His latest album, "Right From the Heart," combines Johnny's up-tempo sound of the '80s in dance tunes like "Love Shock," "Touch By Touch" and "Falling In Love" with his trademark ballad style in "Just One Touch" and "I Need You."

In spite of her years on television and on tour with Mathis, Jeannine Burnier still thinks of herself as primarily a housewife and mother who just happens to make her living in comedy. She was featured as the resident housewife on "The John Davidson Show" and, being a housewife and mother, she keeps her suede gloves on while pointing the finger of Household and Family Knowledge at audiences who are always delighted to see her.

On stage at Caesars Palace, Mathis and Burnier will perform nightly cocktail shows at 10 p.m. For reservations phone the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus Showroom at 702/731-7333 or 800/445-4544 (outside Nevada, within the U.S.)

Tom Jones Stars At The MGM



APPEARING NOW...the man to whom the ladies throw their telephone numbers, keys and other things, TOM JONES, in the beautiful Celebrity Room of the MGM Grand. Tom will be "Grand-standing" it there through November 27.

Venture Downtown To Union Plaza To Cure The Blues

The oncoming fall season giving you the blues! Not ready to close the door and stay home watching television for the next few months? Then venture on downtown in Las Vegas and catch a Broadway show and night out on the town at the Union Plaza Hotel & Casino!

"The Mind With The Dirty Man" is just what the doctor ordered -- hilarity, yocking, fun and frolicking on stage with two of the top comic performers

around -- Mimi Hines and Phil Ford. Seems these two folks are settled in for the winter, too, only its for an eternity, thinks Alma Stone (Mimi Hines), a nice lady with a nice hubby (Phil Ford). But do they ever need a little space in their life.

And son Clayton (Dan Ferrone), movie producer from the big town, gives them just what they need -- a lot of furor, a lot of uproar, and also brings home a lot of something else -- a hot movie star named Divina (Marleta Marrow). Divina stars in Clayton's newest cinema verite masterpiece, and he is out to prove that mom and pop should see something in him and his work.

It all turns into a lively, joking, pun-placing comedy of circumstances, with the town's censorship committee getting into the act.

See "The Mind With The Dirty Man" at the 8 p.m. dinner show (or cocktails only) or at the 11:45 p.m. cocktail show. You'll Love It!

Continuous Country in Stereo

