

# LAS VEGAS

# SHOWCASE

## Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

NANCY REAGAN's "Just Say No" anti-drug campaign, becoming a national hoopla, has stifled concern about legal drugs that are the more serious concerns of addiction experts. For instance, alcohol and tobacco swilling and smoking/chewing causes hundreds, thousands more deaths than attributed to illegal drugs. DARYL INABA, expert in biochemical addictions in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury Medical Clinic says, "In reality, if you look at historical drug use, our worst drugs are our legal ones. There's no greater problems from a health perspective than those posed by alcohol, nicotine and caffeine." Economic cost to employers from employees swilling alcoholic drinks is estimated at \$116.7 billion compared to \$33 billion from drug abuse. The experts agree that cocaine withdrawal is a relatively minor problem, ditto heroin, but alcohol withdrawal is a medically significant problem. It can even cause death. Vegas is a great town for heavy drinkers, free to players in casinos. Swill it up, join the gang at Happy Hour on the way home from work. Las Vegas, the Hangover Capital of the World...We'll all drink to that. Well, not quite all of us.

DYANNE THORNE has been commuting to L.A. for a neat role in "Real Men," an "absurd action comedy," according to director DENNIS FELDMAN. She and BARBARA BARRY are fem foils to JIM BELUSHI & JOHN RITTER and, according to DYANNE, the dialogue and action is wild. MARTIN BREGMAN produces the film which has a Las Vegas scene. The switch -- cinematographer JOHN ALONZO shot it in Hollywood where all of the shoots will depict the foursome traveling cross country from Washington, D.C. Just like the old film days, when Hollywood was the world via the mammoth sound stages....DYANNE's mate, HOWIE MAURER is freelance gigging at his piano and singing, but still has his Mt. Charleston Lodge regular nights. The most recent pairing of DYANNE & HOWIE was their burlesque revue at the Fremont.



### Fabian In "Rock 'n' Roll Forever" At Union Plaza

Singing star Fabian moves the "Rock 'n' Roll Forever" revue into motion with a two-week turn at the Union Plaza December 2 as the UP-town resort-casino bets on the strong 50s-60s musical revival.

Marking a radical

change from the hotel's traditional Broadway show format, the Jim Mydlach Personal Management presentation of "RnR Forever" opens a seven-week-with-options run with a twice-fading Fabian, who is on a rollicking roll with his third career.

Fabian rose to rock-and-roll stardom at 15 in the late 50s, when a South Philadelphia talent agent guided his meteoric career after being attracted to him solely by his looks and his given name.

His musical ascendancy, propelled by songs like "I'm a Man," "Turn Me Loose" and "Tiger," carried him into a movie career at 16. His key films included "North to Alaska" with John Wayne and "The Longest Day."

Fabian's initial, 12-year retirement as a singer was triggered by his disenchantment with his career direction at 18 and was followed by a brief return to the stage and a five-year second retirement.

He began his present comeback when he joined the rock-and-roll revival circuit in 1981 as the star, producer and promoter of concerts, playing fairs, theme parks and such prestigious arenas as the Universal Amphitheatre and the Greek Theatre in Southern California.

Rounding out the

JACKIE VERNON has returned to "Touch of Burlesque" at the Marina surrounded by ANGELIQUE PETTYJOHN, CHARLIE VESPIA, CARME & TEDDY KING and intermingling with BETTY FRANCISCO's dancers...THE JUDDS, due to open the Las Vegas Hilton Tuesday with the NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND are set by the JIM HALSEY CO. for a prime time sitcom with mother NAOMI sharing dialogue with daughters WYNONNA & ASHLEY. The half-hour pilot for 20th Century Fox will be taped in March or April...The invite arrived for "Rock 'n' Roll Forever," starring FABIAN, DEL SHANNON, LOU CHRISTIE & THE MONTE CARLOS, another Tuesday opening, this one at Union Plaza. We press people are urged to join the performers for cocktails (there we go drinking again) in Center Stage following the show. On deck Dec. 15 at Union Plaza, CHUBBY CHECKER, THE WILD-CATS, GARY U.S. BONDS...In the U.P. lounge TNT with RICO, plus WILLIAMS, HEMBRE & JAMES wail away from 2:30 in the aft to 3 in the ayem...What better way to celebrate Pearl Harbor Day Dec. 7 than watching some arm wrestling? Surely we'll break down the doors at the Imperial Palace's Imperial Theater to cheer the PRO BASEBALL TEAM ARM WRESTLING TOURNAMENT reps from the Chicago White Sox, Texas Rangers, Montreal Expos, L.A. Dodgers, Atlanta Braves, Chicago Cubs, Cleveland Indians, Pittsburg Pirates, San Diego Padres, Detroit Tigers, New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox. What, no World Serious Champs, the N.Y. Mets? Perhaps their arms are too weak from all that bravo batting in October...By the way, the arm wrestling to-do is free...BILL MORRIS

### Stagehand's View



A rare shot from the wings during the presentation of the Tropicana's FOLLIES BERGERE offers a view of one of the production numbers that audiences never see. That particular assignment relaxed a "no visitors backstage" rule which is strictly enforced because of the frantic activity which takes place during scene changes. The lavish production is presented twice nightly in the Trop's Tiffany Theatre, a 7:30 dinner performance (cocktails-only optional) and the 11 o'clock cocktail show.

Fabian starrer in the poraries and rock-and-two-week Union Plaza rollmate, Del Shannon engagement will be his and Lou Christie, and musical contem- the "RnR" dancers.

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