Jack Portz

November 29, 1952

Fabulous LAS VEGAS Magazine

CASINO MANAGER

JACK METLER



15c

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THE
HOTEL LAST FRONTIER
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PHIL SPITALNY
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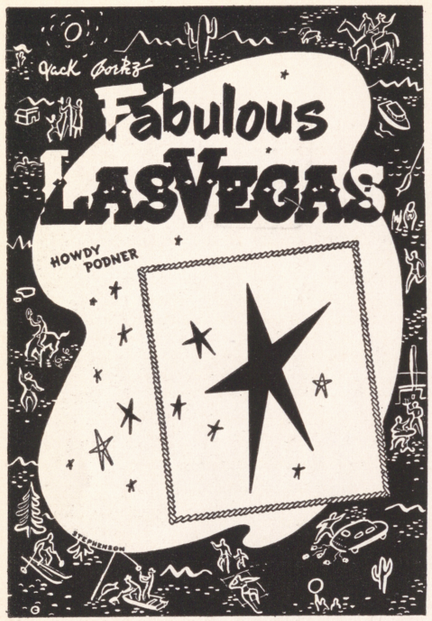
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BOB WILLIAMS

Producer-Director: Stan Irwin

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NO MINIMUM

HIWAY 91 • LAS VEGAS • NEVADA
RESERVATIONS • TELEPHONE 6800



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NOVEMBER 29, 1952

OBSERVATIONS by POP SQUIRES
RANDOM THOUGHTS by B. B. BARTON
THAT'S FOR SURE by JACK CORTEZ
WHAT'S DOIN' by JOHNNY UHLMAN
WATCHBIRD by LADY MICHAEL
RENO BEAT by ART STEAGALL
★ SHOW REVIEWS ★
HOLLYWOOD HEADLINES by MARTIN LEWIS

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HIGH SPOTS

ON THE STRIP . . .

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NEW LAS VEGAS CLUB—18 Fremont, same popular gaming club but in a new location. Featuring bingo games. Phone 28.

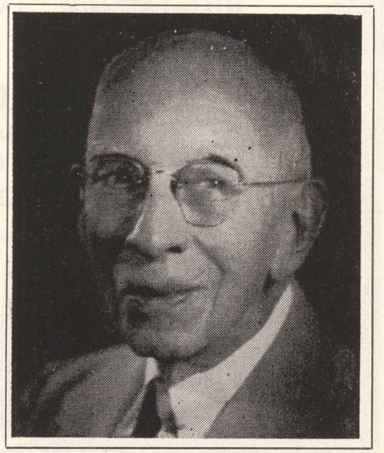
PIONEER CLUB—First and Fremont. Phone 583. Displaying 62-foot giant sign of Vegas Vic.

WESTERNER CLUB—Rustic casino, in western splendor. Phone 5612.

EMBASSY CLUB—Burlesque, in North Las Vegas on North Main. Phone 1633.

OBSERVATIONS . . . by CHARLES P. "POP" SQUIRES

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING



LAST WEEK my story told of our first personal Thanksgiving in Las Vegas in 1906. This brought to my mind the really great and colorful Thanksgiving celebration which the people of Las Vegas staged spontaneously when the Boulder Canyon Project Act was signed by President Coolidge. This was more of a Christmas celebration, perhaps, because it occurred on December 21, 1928, the day after the President signed the bill, finally removing all doubt that the government would carry out the great project of building a dam in the Colorado River.

The fight for the legislation, in which I participated for more than ten years, had long had the enthusiastic support of Las Vegas people, although many of them had grave doubts that the great project would ever be carried through. Time after time, down through the years, when we thought we had everything set for carrying out the dam enterprise, it fell through.

As the idea of building a dam was studied by engineers both in and out of the government, the project increased in size and height, cost and complications.

In 1920 we succeeded in interesting the Southern California Edison Company in the enterprise. They made application to the states of Arizona and Nevada for permits to build the dam, and they agreed to spend not less than fifty million dollars on the structure, at the rate of ten million a year, and we really thought we had the job practically done.

However, in May 1920, at a meeting of governors and commissioners in Denver, the Inter-State Compact idea was injected into the picture and our dream dissipated into thin air. From then on we realized the government only could do the job.

Down through the next eight years we had many ups and downs as far as the Boulder Canyon Dam project was concerned, but nevertheless the people of Las Vegas believed in it. They believed that the building of a dam in Boulder or Black Canyon would insure the greatness of Las Vegas. So we were able to meet disappointment year after year and every time we were knocked down and stomped in the face we got up and made another attempt to do something about it.

In spite of all adversity and many disappointments the people of Las Vegas believed that the dam would some day be built and that it would be the salvation of Las Vegas. And as plans were made by the Bureau of Reclamation and revamped from time to time, the height of the dam was increased to 250 feet, then to 400 feet, finally to 500 feet which seemed the supreme height.

Finally plans were made for a dam in Black Canyon 550 feet in height. The estimates of cost had increased to eighty million, then one hundred million, then one hundred forty million and finally one hundred sixty-two million was set as the cost of the project.

Finally when the bill was actually passed by the Congress and signed by President Coolidge, this little city of Las Vegas was in a mood for Thanksgiving only rarely experienced in a community. The actual signing occurred December 20, 1928. Up to that moment many Las Vegas people were fearful that something might happen to again wreck our hopes.

A young fellow named George Ellis, representing the Associated Press, was in Las Vegas at that time, working with the Las Vegas Age on publicity. He put life and action into the idea which many had that Las Vegas should in some public manner express its spirit of thankfulness for this great blessing. He organized a public "pilgrimage of thanksgiving" for the day following the signing of the bill, so on December 21, 1928, Las Vegas people to the number of several hundred made a pilgrimage to the Colorado River.

(Continued on Page 33)



NOW . . .

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CASHMERE SWEATERS — GIFTS and ACCESSORIES

William Baer Furs

OF BEVERLY HILLS

Town and Country Shops—Just South of Desert Inn

RANDOM THOUGHTS

. . . By B. B. BARTON

ARE YOU in the mood for some conversation pieces? In the old faithful scrapbook there are quite a few squibs and short tales that can be introduced at a gathering, when folks are in the mood for oddities and slightly known facts . . .

Joining my list of favorite stories is the one woven about a certain New York City cab driver. The leading trait of most men who pilot their taxis through the hectic streets of Manhattan is the art of swift decision. A man with slow reflexes cannot qualify for the job; a fact you'll well recognize if you've ever been in our fantastic town . . .

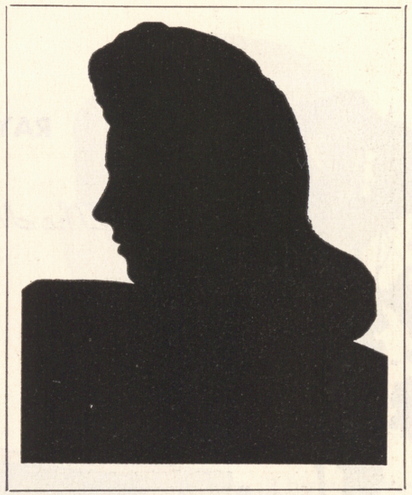
It's purported to be a true occurrence and this gal believes its authenticity. In order to relieve the tension of the job, most cabbies try to take time out to have a fast cup of coffee and a few precious moments of relaxation. While quietly waiting for his steaming cup of liquid to cool, our friendly cabbie glanced out of the restaurant window. Needless to say, he was extremely startled to see a stranger slip into the driver's seat of his taxi. His quick wit warned him that the would-be thief would rapidly drive away if he attempted to shout and run . . .

Instead, the real cab driver calmly strolled over to his vehicle, climbed into the passenger section and greeted the interloper. He settled himself comfortably and quietly gave certain directions. In a short time, the cab reached its destination—the police station. You know the rest of the story. The taxi pirate was taken into custody and the cab reverted to its proper owner. Sure is wonderful—how some people can react to situations of this sort . . .

Another gentleman found himself in some difficulty when he decided the only way he could make a living was through the questionable profession of being a hold-up man. Most humans who choose this path are usually capable of honest work but have a strong leaning toward "easy money" . . .

Well, sir, the indolent soul set out on his first "job," with all the confidence a man could muster. Thinking to make his initial crime endeavor a simple one (just to acquire more confidence for the future), the misled chap approached a young lady on a thoroughfare that was dark and deserted. He kept his hand in his pocket so it could be seen bulging in the dim light and uttered the usual words about "this being a stickup" and "better hand over your purse—or else" . . .

Poor boy! Just imagine his chagrin when he found himself on his back, looking up at a very determined, disgusted, delicate woman. His "victim" had learned Ju-Jitsu during her term of service as a WAC. The gal proceeded to display every trick of self defense. When the fellow was completely devoid of strength, she towed him to the station house (without assistance) and filed charges . . .



I wonder if you knew that the famous ship "The Mayflower" still exists, though in different form? When the information was revealed to me, my reaction was one of disbelief. But—the information was passed along by a person who specializes in research . . .

The remnants of the historical vessel can be seen in St. Giles, England. The wood that carried the pilgrims to this new world now plays a pretty important role on a farm. It was converted into a barn. Amazing is the fact that the original construction is still standing . . .

I'll wager you didn't know that one thin sheet of newspaper could penetrate the trunk of a good sized tree. Don't have to take the word of this columnist; there are photos to prove it. Happened in Melrose Park, Illinois. A fierce hurricane raged over that territory. When it subsided, local folks walked around to determine the damage suffered. Investigators discovered that the strong gale had tossed a newspaper page through a tree, just as though it had been a spear. Perhaps a spear couldn't have made such a clean incision, without giant strength behind it.

OPENING DECEMBER 15

DANNY THOMAS

CONNIE RUSSELL

LEW WILLS JR.

RAY SINATRA and His Orchestra

AND

The Most Beautiful Girls in the West



the Sands

A PLACE IN THE SUN...

THE STRIP • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

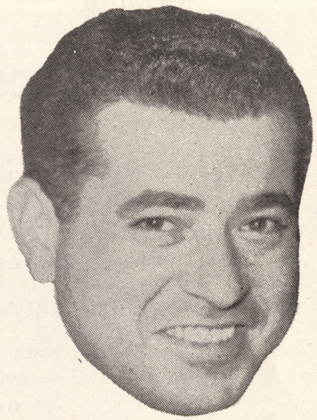
THAT'S FOR SURE . . . by JACK CORTEZ

IN LAST week's column, we reported that CONNIE MORMON was recuperating nicely, after undergoing surgery at the GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL. However, we later discovered that friend Connie is a very sick young lady. When PEGGY GODWIN (in charge of the cocktail waitresses at the HOTEL SAHARA) learned of her former co-worker's plight, she decided something had to be done. At present, Peggy is heading a drive to collect funds to forward to the hospital. She feels that Connie is in need of further medical attention and her friends are going "all out" to ascertain the best of care. We don't usually utilize our column for personal appeals but we are making an exception in this case. If you are approached by anyone in Mrs. Mormon's behalf and were a friend of hers, please contribute something—no matter how small. Your helping hand will help to bring back health and gratitude to a young lady who really needs you now.

Weeks before he opens, DANNY THOMAS can be sure of a complete turnout for the event. The management of the SANDS HOTEL is being plagued by folks who are pleading with them to include "just one more table" in the already crowded dining room, December 15th. If you don't have your reservation for that gala opening yet, we're afraid you'll have to wait for the following week.

This is a tale of three young gentlemen of our fabulous little town. One is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. The second holds a diploma from Northwestern. The third hails Stanford University as his Alma Mater. They are (respectively) BILL KOZLOFF (major domo of the SILVER SLIPPER), ROY BABICH (swing shift boss at the same spot) and HERB McDONALD, director of the WESTERN VILLAGE. All of them are young, intelligent and successful. While in school, they were captains of their football and basketball teams. We made mention of these facts in answer to the misled (out of town) scribes who foolishly believe that sagacity is not needed in the gaming profession.

Bouquets of commendations to waitress MAE DRIGGS and bell captain JACK VALENTINE of the FLAMINGO HOTEL. The couple drew wonderful results from their energetic campaign to raise a collection for VAL SCIACCOTTI. (Mae received donations from the waitresses and Jack from the bellhops.) When SI came to work and told



his fellow workers how ill his wife was after her operation, it didn't take long for Mae and Jack to work on their collection goal. The hospital staff informed one of the kids that Val was in desperate need of blood. Rising to the crisis, all of the bell hops became blood donors. Latest report of Val's condition is heartwarming and must bring a lot of joy to all the folks who showed such sincere concern and attention. Just another example that people will always be nice to someone who is deserving.

Belated birthday greetings go winging their way to JEAN ROTHSTEIN in Atlanta, Georgia. The lovely lass was pleasantly surprised on November 22nd when she entered her home to discover a wonderful collection of gifts, garnished with a long distance call from her most ardent suitor, BUDDY GROVER. We wish the gal would give her consent so the smile would return to Buddy's life. How much longer do we have to look at his cocker-spaniel expression? Even though the lad is lonesome for the gal, he still turns out some mighty smooth music with the GROVER-SHORE TRIO at the LADY LUCK BAR of WILBUR CLARK'S DESERT INN.

Have you noticed how the women are really supporting the latest fad of "pedal-pushers" for casual wear? Seems that a certain young lady is being given credit for the introduction of this lounging outfit. (We are quoting Hollywood fashion experts—but local gals assure us the craze began before this.) Seems that Paramount's JOANNE GILBERT decided to use a pair of ordinary

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SILVER SLIPPER SALOON

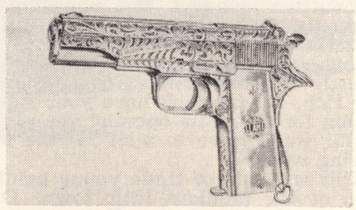
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GOLDEN GIRLS
At the Terrace Bar — The Three Guys
Terrace Bar - Slot Machine Bar
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three shows nightly 9:00 11:30 2:05
Terrace Room
HOTEL GOLDEN BANK CLUB IN RENO
Bill Graham - Dave High
Managing Directors

WHAT'S DOIN'?

. . . with JOHNNY UHLMAN



WOULD you mind passing the bicarbonate again, please? I was really a turkey gobbler last Thursday afternoon, Thanksgiving Day! I gobbled more turkey than I've ever sunk a fang into since a year ago about this time. My tummy wound up stickin' 'way out to there! I can well imagine that my belly button must have taken on the appearance of one of the entrances to the Carlsbad Caverns. By now you are probably getting the idea that I stuffed too much of that stuff called turkey and stuffin's. RIGHT! This I did! This I did! It seems that every year around "turkey time" I revert to that old childhood instinct of mine of trying to eat at least a little of everything in sight. Why, when I was a little child I could eat twice as much as I did the other day! So how cum I'm getting fat when I don't eat so much? . . . I had the good fortune, on Thanksgiving Day, to be invited over to share dinner with the FRAZZINIS; Barbara, Nick and Dee. Let me tell you, for a Mediterranean Irishman, that Barbara sure did roast a crazy Tom! All I'd ever had previously at their place was Italian food; but the greatest! That gal really wields a wicked kitchen! Probably when I get married again the bride won't know which end of the dish rag to stir the soup with! All kidding aside, I hope that your day was as wonderful as mine. You and I both know that there were plenty of people, not too far away, in any direction, that had very little. Some had . . . none!

PAT BUCKLEY came back to town this past week with a fantastic story about the amazing popularity of his BLOCK CITY kits all over the country. He'd planned an extensive advertising campaign for the project throughout the west and middle west but ran into a little trouble. It seems that they are so in demand that it is impossible at the present time to fill the orders. For the past few months the home office has been doing nothing but canceling orders. I told you all about the building set some weeks ago but if you'd like to see one of them before they're all gone, you might try Sears or Sportsman Supply. Greatest thing since BVD went to flexible flaps! . . . This year, around Santa Claus season, a lot of husbands and wives who are smart home-owners are going to give one another gifts that can be put to use in and around their own home. To them I make this suggestion: PAUL FERGUSON, owner-manager of FERGUSON FURNITURE, has considered himself most fortunate indeed in being able to secure the assistance of MISS MARGE WILSON, who is associated with Obie of California. Miss Wilson has been granted a six months' leave of absence from that firm to take charge of a complete gift department which she has designed for Ferguson Furniture. She recently completed an extensive tour of the western states during which she lectured to homemakers on home styling and decorating. With this wide knowledge in her field, Miss Wilson has purchased some very unique and highly fashionable items in the field of arts, gifts and accessories which you will find on display at the home of FERGUSON FURNITURE on South Fifth street . . . Last Tuesday night saw the opening of tall, blonde and enchanting, LORELEI, the girl with the million dollar legs. Even though the highway in front of the EMBASSY CLUB is in the process of being made into a nice wide thoroughfare, there is plenty of parking space adjoining the building in the parking lot and on the street in the rear. Since her opening, MISS LORELEI has been doing her share in keeping his parking space filled during the four shows nightly. Also on the bill is cute and attractive MISS DEENAH PRINCE, a perky little red-head who really works like a trouper and does a good show. DOC STARR is your lively, singing master of ceremonies and comic.

(Continued on Page 23)

STOP – LOOK & LISTEN

FOR THE

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ACROSS THE STRIP FROM THE SANDS HOTEL

Open 12 Noon 'Til 5 P. M. Phone 1177-R

THE WATCHBIRD

. . . by LADY MICHAEL (Michael Neale)



WE HOPE you all had a very happy Thanksgiving and by this reading have finally finished up the bird—(turkey hash all next week, oiy) . . . The Desert Inn opening last Tuesday was the most exciting in ages—we oughta know, we were in it! The biggest surprise to the audience was the adorable toy French poodles carried by the show girls. Our own little APPLE enjoyed his show biz debut so much he refused to leave the stage and we had to drag him off sitting down, and since then he has become such a ham he can hardly bear to associate with yours truly any more . . . The troubadour of song, FRANKIE LAINE, who stars in the show, has been signed for a guest appearance on GEORGE JESSELS "All Star Revue" telecast on December 27th . . . This is a personal huge tah everso to PEGGY MALEY from the Donn Arden Dancers for being such a doll. Peggy lent us a $2,000 solid gold embroidered gown which she purchased on her last trip to Egypt, when one of the showgirl costumes failed to arrive. It was worn by MARION COLLIER, who never looked lovelier, or richer!

HERE AND THERE: GYPSY ROSE LEE, America's most successful stripper, bought a $20,000 Rolls while in London and had it shipped back to New York to impress the natives of Shubert Alley . . . ROSALIND COURTRIGHT will make the BETTE DAVIS tune "Good Girls Go To Heaven, But Bad Girls Go To Bergdorf, Bonwit and Saks" the highspot of her special material when she opens in Dallas. No dears, Bette didn't write the song, she merely sang it in her musical comedy "Two's Company" . . . DARVAS and JULIA who were such a smash at the Mocambo (and everywhere else they've played) will return to the Desert Inn in April if they don't sign with one of the two major studios that are vieing for them. Meanwhile, Nick and JOAN BLONDELL are a long-kisstance romance . . . Beautiful JULIE WILSON, who was so nervous about following MARY MARTIN in the London company of "South Pacific" needn't have been atall, according to our foreign correspondent she was a smash and the toast of deah old Blighty . . . JOEL GREY will do a take-off on EDDIE CANTOR on his first TV show since Eddie's illness. Who could be more tailor made for the part? . . . It's bruited about Hollywood that MARILYN MONROE and JANE RUSSELL are bosom pals since they've been working on the "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" set . . .

BITS AND PIECES: Pirrere and Luckman got the contract to refurbish the Flamingo's casino, chuck wagon and dining room to the tune of five-ought - ought-coma-ought-ought-ought, and that's all in dollars . . . And now it's LAURITZ MELCHIOR who prepping a nitery act with Vegas as a breaking in spot . . . BOB GILBERT, who did the choreography for the CHANDRA KALY unit, is doing the production numbers for the Sands Hotel, under the direction of JACK ENTRATTER . . . BELDON KATELMAN has commissioned TOM DOUGLAS to write, stage, design and costume a revue for JOANNE GILBERT, he's THAT impressed with her . . . PEARL BAILEY, who comes back to the Desert Inn in a week, explained her marriage thusly: "Takes two to tango" . . . Has any strip hotel been smart enough to sign the sensational JOSE GRECO troup for a Vegas appearance? . . . That wonder child of the age, LITTLE LINDA, who is with PHIL SPITALNY and his hour of charm at the Last Frontier is only four! Can you believe it? . . . MICKEY ROONEY'S package show, which includes TYRELL and WINDSLOW, is set for the Flamingo January 8th . . .

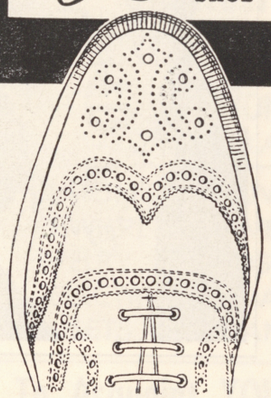
COOSOME TWOSOMES: SHIRLEY JEAN DUGAS, who dispenses good

(Continued on page 21)

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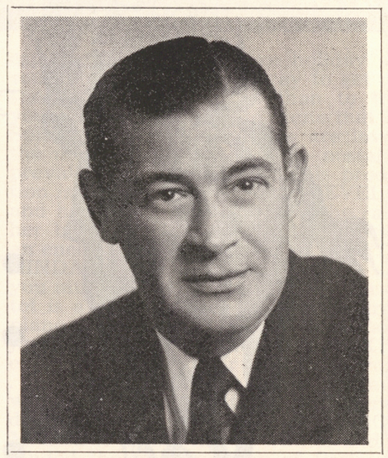
OPEN SATURDAY NIGHTS
UNTIL 8:30

RENO BEAT . . .

by ART STEAGALL

LAST Tuesday ayem, it seemed that everyone in Reno were guests of PEGGY and JOHNNY RHODES at the WEST INDIES, for their annual VENISON DINNER. This popular late eating spot was really alive with people from the entertainment world . . . Singers KAY STARR and PEGGY LEE, band leader BILL CLIFFORD, comedians LARRY STORCH, with the lovely MRS. STORCH, tiny BILLY BARTY and HAL LE ROY, dancers RUTH COSTELLO, IGOR DEGA and THE DUNHILLS, several of the lovely MAPES SKYLETTES and RIVERSIDE STARLETS, the LANCERS great singing group, the ALICE HALL QUARTET; all in all it was a real good party with everyone having a grand time. What a job the chef, BENNY, did on those steaks! He served well over 100 pounds of them.

AGVA: HARRY RICHMAN back from LONDON . . . EDDIE STAR playing for your pleasure at the CHRISTMAS TREE, on Mount Rose Road . . . JIMMY, the popular barman, in the MAPES SKYROOM, back greeting his friends after being away too long . . . Had a swell letter from BILL CLIFFORD, the orchestra leader. BILL, who just closed at the RIVERSIDE and left his favorite state, NEVADA, was a real pioneer in the entertainment field in this state. He has been playing here, off and on, since he was a part of the first big time floor show that played the COMMERCIAL HOTEL, in ELKO, back in 1936 . . . 16 years ago. He tells about being one of the first to play the original EL RANCHO VEGAS HOTEL, in Vegas, then owned by TOMMY HULL. He opened there with his own show, a 20-minute production, consisting of a "line" of four girls and his band . . . Then came the war and four years of service, after which he played at the famous BAL TABARIN in San Francisco, then back to Vegas and the FLAMINGO HOTEL for 18 months and thence to the RIVERSIDE here. All of his many, many friends wish him luck on his new job at the FAIRMONT HOTEL in San Francisco. We'll drop into the VENETIAN ROOM and say hello, Bill, and do hurry back, we know the people of NEVADA will miss you . . . EMORY BRANCH, RENO'S first CITY MANAGER, leaves his post to enter private industry. BRANCH has done a swell job since being appointed in 1947. No successor has been named . . . Congrats to COACH DICK TRACHOK, whose RENO HIGH SCHOOL footballers won their last game of the season,



beating ELKO 28 to 7, to win the NEVADA STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP . . . A note in the mail from BUDDY LESTER g-e-e-e-z happy in his new home in Beverly Hills . . . The recent shows brought out a hurried call to the UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA SKI team . . . United Airlines new CONVAIR now in regular service between here and the BAY AREA . . . SQUAW VALLEY and SKY TAVERN ski area had their formal opening THANKSGIVING EVE . . . RAY PETERSON, head of the RENO RODEO ASSOCIATION, elected president of the INTERNATIONAL RODEO ASSOCIATION, at their annual meeting here over the past week-end . . . HERB PECK JR. off to Winnemucca to address the NEVADA FARM BUREAU CONVENTION.

CURRENT SHOWS: NEW GOLDEN, second week of the show headed by MARGARET WHITING, talented Capitol Recording artist—on the show with MISS WHITING are LARRY STORCH, his trumpet and his comedy, and the DUNHILLS, Broadway's favorite dancers, STERLING YOUNG and his fine orchestra, plus the GOLDEN GIRLS at the Terrace Bar—the THREE GUYS replace the ALICE HALL QUARTETTE . . . Also in the second week: The show at the MAPES SKYROOM is tops. Headed by WILLIE SHORE, Reno's favorite dancing comic, again proves himself a top-flight en-

(Continued on page 33)



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"CURTAIN TIME"

SHOW REVIEWS OF STAGE AND SCREEN PERSONALITIES APPEARING THIS WEEK IN FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

Flamingo

November 27 through December 10

(Not a review)
Show: "Stars in Your Eyes"; Bobby Van; Alan King; Barbara Ruick; The Skylarks
Line: Flamingo Starlets
Orch.: Torris Brand
Mural Room: Bobby Page and Orchestra

"Stars in Your Eyes" is a new, intimate musical revue produced by a fellow who really knows his business, SAMMY LEWIS. In this revue he features three of the fastest rising young stars of the day. BOBBY VAN is a young singer and dancer who has just begun to hit his stride in the realm of motion pictures. He is certain to become one of your favorites in the near future . . . ALAN KING sparks the revue with his own original brand of comedy and proves himself a great asset to any bill of fare . . . For the feminine touch there is blonde, and beautiful, BARBARA RUICK who is a singer of songs and a delightful eyeful from any angle . . . Appearing as an extra added attraction in this revue are your old favorites and mine, THE SKYLARKS. We say "old favorites" because this is the fifth trip to our town for this talented group; each successive engagement surpassing the previous. Three lads and two lassies who have just returned from a successful tour of England . . . This new show also marks the opening of a new orchestra to local listeners, TORRIS BRAND, with "your 'brand' of music."

LAST FRONTIER

November 28 through December 25

(Not a review)
Show: PHIL SPITALNY and his HOUR OF CHARM All Girl Orchestra
Intermission: Don Baker at the Organ

Come Friday night, everyone will be trying to get into the Ramona Room to see this show, one of the finest that could be witnessed anytime of the year, especially for this festive holiday season. There is no better way to get into the spirit of Christmas than to treat yourself to the exquisite scene that Mr. Spitalny unveils. The girls are lovely, the music beautiful and the nostalgia, prevalent . . . Starring in this production is the charming, talented EVELYN and her Magic Violin. When she raises her bow, Evelyn leads her listeners to an enchanted land of music . . . LITTLE LINDA is a wonder child with a skill you must see to believe. The 4-year-old tot is a show stopper . . . At the grand piano is LOUISE. Piano keys fairly jump beneath her touch . . . MAXINE enthralls you with her distinctive voice. . . . JANET and her golden trumpet will amaze you. VIOLA and her 17 drums is incomparable . . . ROSE MARIE is a gold medal winner and attended the Conservatory of Paris . . . An extra-added attraction is ROBERT & AIDA, superb Flamenco dancers of South America.

El Rancho Vegas

November 26 through December 9

Show: Joanne Gilbert; Doodles and Skeeter; Allen and Ashton; Carmen D'Antonio; Johnston and Midell
Line: El Rancho Dancers, featuring Bill Damian
Orch.: Ted Fio Rito
Intermission Music: Guy Landis and Jim Di Stephano
At the Bar: Paul Gardos and Chuy Miranda

TOM DOUGLAS presents a WINDMILL REVUE that is causing a complete sensation in local circles. The cast consists of youthful, versatile performers who possess the skill and showmanship of old timers . . . Heading the list is JOANNE GILBERT, a young lady whose dramatic presentation of song held first nighters within the clutch of complete attention. Miss Gilbert, dressed in the unusual stage garb of soft shirt and "pedal-pushers," relied entirely upon her striking voice. She didn't need feathers or frills to embellish her sensuous numbers. Her vocal interpretations are magnificent and impressive. We heartily agree that a star was born when Joanne Gilbert stepped into the spotlight . . . To watch



DOODLES and SKEETER is a treat that doesn't present itself often enough. We have seen other record pantomimists but this duo is superb. They are perfectionists, with precision of lip movement and mugging. They introduce a different style that is completely refreshing and highly desirable. Their comedy antics were rewarded with near-hysteria . . . ALLEN and ASHTON are a handsome young couple who appear throughout the production in musical comedy fashion. Miss Allen deserves bouquets for the vivid performance she gives. When joined by her capable partner, Ashton, the resulting dance sequence is nonpareil . . . CARMEN D'ANTONIO offers a highly emotional effect. Her physical gyrations are torridly effectual . . . JOHNSTON and MIDELL are two of the finest exponents of the dance. Their exhibition of the superior phases of this art sets them apart from others. When Johnston and Midell perform back-flips from the top of a piano, you realize that they are masters of precise timing . . . Bouquets to Tom Douglas and the entire cast for the most refreshing production of the day. Added laurels to the genius of Mr. Douglas for his creation of the outstanding sets.

Wilbur Clark's DESERT INN

November 25 through December 8

Show: Frankie Laine; Paul Gray; Tommy Wonder and Margaret Banks
Line: Donn Arden Dancers
Orch.: Carlton Hayes
Lady Luck Lounge: Grover-Shore Trio; Danny Cassella Orchestra

FRANKIE LAINE is singing greater than he has ever sung in his life! "Mr. Rhythm" has also become known as the No. 1 interpreter of the recent trend in modern folk songs. At the same time he still manages to bring down the house when he sings the all-time favorite, "You're My Desire." Frankly there isn't too much left of the first Frankie we knew. What with all his picture work, personal appearances, and a tour of the continent he has acquired a polish, and mannerisms, that make him appealing in his work, not only to the younger set, but to men and women of all ages as well. Yes, we'd say that FRANKIE LAINE is really "arriving" . . . PAUL GRAY comes into this show with a wealth of new material and with his usual manner of presentation that knows no mimic. Show people look on Paul as one of the top comedians of the time. As he will tell you himself, he looks more like an undertaker than a comedian, which might prove a good sideline for him. You'll die laughing! . . . TOMMY WONDER and MARARET BANKS open the show with a fast repertoire of dancing styles that will hold your attention every minute. Watching Tommy dance you will find it hard to believe that he has never studied dancing. With him it is really "doing what comes naturally." Margaret is beauty personified in her ballet and toe interpretations . . . The DONN ARDEN DANCERS have outdone themselves this show. Each girl is beautiful, talented, and their perfection is a tribute to MISS BONNIE HUNT who set the routines for them. With great pleasure we welcome them back to the local scene! . . . What more can be said about the way CARLTON HAYES and his ORCHESTRA conduct the show musically. They're GREAT!

SAHARA

November 18 through December 1

Show: Buster Keaton: Day, Dawn and Dusk; Dolinoffs and Raya Sisters
Orch: Cee Davidson
In the Casbar: Mike Werner and His Ork—Red Norvo Trio

After many years of screen stardom, Hollywood's Buster Keaton is making his nightclub debut in the Conga Room. The comedian offers a variety of humor-filled skits. His type of comicry brings entertainment to all age groups . . . A favorite singing group in our local circle are DAY, DAWN & DUSK. One of their most popular requests is their stimulating calliope song. The boys are show-stoppers. When they team their talents with the SA-HAREM dancers, the resulting minstrel production is loudly applauded. The boys turn out some mightly smooth music. Everyone appreciates their renditions of modern ballads and spirituals. Their special material draws raves. Don't miss them . . . The DOLINOFFS & RAYA SISTERS offer deception in motion. The foursome have an extremely clever manner of presentation. Through the use of lighting effects and stage props, they create illusions that cause you to blink in wonderment. You will be completely intrigued until their finale, when the mystery is revealed . . . Impressive is the only word we could summon to best describe the magnificent job performed by GENE NASH in the production numbers. His rendition of "Granada" is beyond criticism. Loaded with talent, Gene is also a wonderful dancer and stardom "material."

Thunderbird

November 27 through December 17

(Not a review)
Show: Tennessee Ernie; Irene Ryan; The Martels & Mignon; The Marvels
Line: Kathryn Duffy Dansations
M. C.: Johny O'Brien
Orch.: Al Jahns
Lounge: Jack Martin's Orch.; Normandie Boys

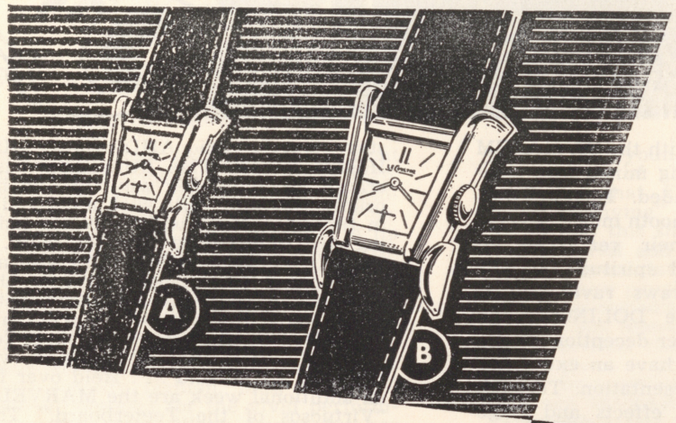
"Turkey Time" found the "Shotgun Boogie" boy blasting his way right into the hearts of all listeners in the Navajo Room last Thursday night. TENNESSEE ERNIE is here again with his down to earth humor and a "tall hill twang" in his speaking voice. Not so in his singing voice, however! This handsome young feller sings up a storm! We recall when he made his night club debut in this room. Everyone expected to hear nothing but western and hill-billy. He set them back in their seats by singing every type of tune in the book! . . . Teamed with Ernie once again on the same bill is the premier comedienne of stage, screen, radio AND teevee, MISS IRENE RYAN. This little lady wisecracks and mugs her way through her original material with such a perfection in timing that she will have you holding your sides before she is finished . . . The MARTELS and MIGNON also are making a return engagement to this room. Billed as "Dance Sensationalists" they do adagio work that is the epitome of perfection. The way those three fellows toss that little girl around will hold you spellbound . . . Held over for an additional week are the MARVELS, "Virtuosos of the Teeterboard." This troupe of artists do a great job in this room. They leave after this one week holdover to do some picture work in Hollywood.

SILVER SLIPPER SALOON

Show opened November 7

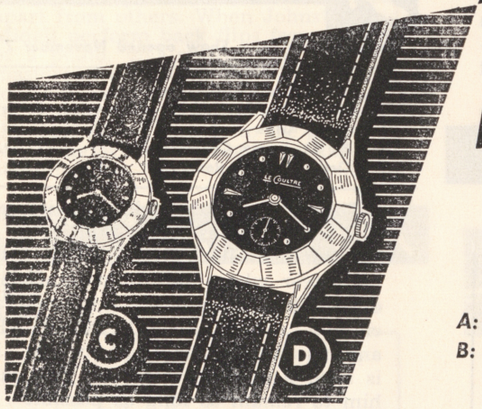
Show: Las Vegas Follies
Line: Wanda Smith's Hollywood Cover Girls
M. S.: Jimmy Cavanaugh
Orch: George Redman

This is the final week in which you can see the "Las Vegas Follies" . . . Heading the bill is RUSS CLARK, the puppeteer whose skillful manipulation of manikins is winning him local acclaim . . . You all know HANK HENRY and his unlimited store of comedy. He is such a favorite, his fans just want him to remain as long as possible . . . WOO-WOO STEVENS best exemplifies that community enjoyment is highly desirable. His songs and humor are appreciated by his followers . . . THE BEAU JESTERS are wise in their knowledge of song favorites. Listen to them and you ride the wave of nostalgia . . . GENII YOUNG and her exotic dancing relaxes your tired eyes and stimulates your appreciation of the arts . . . JO ANN MALONE is developing a greater sense of comedy and patrons are well aware of her many talents. Also B. Willard.



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THE WATCHBIRD:

(Continued from page 13)

spirits at the House of Good Spirits, is bound for the moon over Miami and her fiance RAY CHAMPAGNE on December 16th, and the days refuse to go by fast enough till she gets there . . . SANDY ROSEN, daughter of pit boss George Rosen of the Thunderbird. and DANNY KOLOD, son of Ruby Kolod pitboss of the Desert Inn are bossing each other around in a very loving way . . . BUDDY HACKETT and MARCIA GILBERT will be married in June. The bride-to-be, who has just turned seventeen, is now under contract to Mervin LeRoy. The darling story of how they met goes as follows: Marcia's dad is a barber, and one Sunday he was called to BOB GOLDSTEIN'S home to give him a shave and brought his daughter along to assist him. Buddy, who just happened to be there, flipped, proposed, and the marriage date was set. Barber's assistants seem to be lucky. Isn't that how Garbo was discovered? . . .

A certain blonde cocktail waitress, working the pit during the busiest hour, was told by the pit boss to bring a round of drinks for one of the crap tables. She went around the table and arked everyone including the dealers, and waited patiently for them to give their order. When she was called down about it her excuse was that she just couldn't tell the difference between the dealers and the customers. So if you see any dealers wearing red carnations while they're working, you'll all know why . . .

TWA and United can now load and unload passengers in Vegas, which should certainly speed up getting people in and out of town fast. Maybe now Western will drop it's attitude that the customer is always **wrong** . . .

The Miami Beach season has officially opened now that NINO The Great YAKOVINO has arrived . . . DEAN and JERRY (Matin and Lewis) open at the Copacity in January. Stop pushing—plenty seats. They'll go from there to the Palladium in London—where everyone breaks someone elses record. Watch this one! . . .

CHICAGO: TROXIE and DAVE HALPER (he's the director for the Chez Paree) are the proud parents of a daughter after fourteen years of marriage. Troxie started her career in showbiz as a straight girl for Bob Hope . . . Speaking of fourteen year marriages, how about a "Honey" with ten fingers and ten toes for DOROTHY and JACK EIGEN? Maybe it'll be catching around the Chez—Huh? . . .

(Continued on Page 33)

BIOGRAPHY OF JOANNE GILBERT

JOANNE Gilbert's skyrocketing success makes the old Cinderella story sound like a feeble fable. An unknown without previous professional experience, she was signed to a Paramount contract on her 20th birthday in mid-1952.

Three short months later she was the toast of Hollywood, the talk of the town, acclaimed alike by fans, critics, studio executives. It is one of those warm, exciting, overnight success stories that still makes Hollywood the end of the rainbow.

Joanne, a beautiful brunette vocalist, has been planning a career as a singer and actress for several years. In July, she made her first public but non-professional appearance on a charity show at the Mocambo, plush Hollywood night spot. She sang three songs, was heard by a Paramount talent scout and almost immediately signed to a studio contract. Since then she has been in training at the studio.

Then, on one never-to-be-forgotten night in late October, a star was born.

Joanne returned to the Mocambo to make her professional debut as a singer. She was the one act on the bill, backed only by the night club's orchestra. It was a precedent-breaking booking for an unknown, one that aroused curiosity and made top columnists and studio executives turn out to see why this 20-year-old had been given such an important spot.

Joanne proved it was no fluke. She had beauty, style and a great singing voice. She was simply terrific.

The next day all Hollywood was raving about this surprising and sensational newcomer and Paramount announced she would be teamed with Donald O'Connor in "The Big Song and Dance," an outstanding upcoming musical to be produced by Robert Emmett Dolan.

And Joanne's dreams had become an electrifying reality.

The only child of Ray and Dorothy Downey Gilbert, Joanne first opened her big hazel eyes on July 17, 1932, in Chicago. Her father is a well-known song writer and the author of such top tunes as "You Belong to My Heart," "Cuanto le Gusta," "Baia" and the Academy Award-winning "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah."

Perhaps influenced by her father's musical background, Joanne decided very early in life to become a singer. She was encouraged by her dad who spent considerable time with her, teach-

(Continued on page 31)

ROUND THE CLOCK . . .

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THANKSGIVING DINNER AT THE HORSESHOE

Stuffed Celery en Branche — Cheese Tidbits
Ripe and Green Olives — Green Onions
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Roast Young Goose, Wild Rice, Giblet Gravy 2.25
Roast Tom Turkey, Sage Dressing, Cranberry Sauce 2.00
Broiled Whole Lobster, Drawn Butter 2.50
Grilled Prime New York Cut Steak Bordelaise 4.50
½ Spring Chicken, Pan Fried Country Gravy 2.25
Roast Prime Rib of Beef au Jus 3.35

Whipped Potatoes — Sweet Potatoes
Tossed Green Salad, French Dressing
New Green Peas or Baby Green Lima Beans
Spiced Pumpkin Pie — Home Baked Layer Cake
Ice Cream — Fruit Jello
Coffee — Tea

BENNY BINION'S

Horseshoe

DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS

WHAT'S DOIN'?

(Continued from page 11)

An old friend of ours came back to the fold just recently and joined BOB LEE'S BAND here at THE EMBASSY CLUB; a young man by the name of FRANK AYRAUD; clarinet and sax. Welcome home, Frankie! . . . Received a little card from MISS FLO ASH a few days ago from L. A. where she recently was sponsored by the L. A. Chamber of Commerce during the opening of the new CBS TV studios at TV City. Not too long ago Flo was dancing nightly in the revues at the Silver Slipper in the Last Frontier Village. During this opening she acted as the "Spirit of TV." The whole thing was filmed by Movietone News so you may get a glimpse of her with Jack Benny and others when the film hits town . . . Good news for you "diner outers"! RALPH WOOD and JOHNNY DeMASI have had the good fortune of securing the services of THOMAS CHIAPELLO as their new chef at their all new VILLA VENICE out on the hiway. Until recently Thomas was with the IMPERIAL HOUSE in Chicago, Ill. He left Chicago this week and will take up his duties at the new Villa Venice come next Monday, December 1 . . . Also someone new at the Villa is BUDDY TAYLOR, who took his stand behind the bar a week ago. Buddy has a lot of friends and followers who will be glad to hear where to find him . . . I might also add that the Villa Venice is also putting out some of the best all around food there is to be found around these parts. . . . VEGAS VALLEY DEVELOPMENTS now has offices . . . 725½ South Fifth street . . . but you know somethin'? I just now realized that I don't know their phone number! Oh, well, "Information" will know! Keep your eye on these lads who operate this new firm. If all goes as is planned. I look for them to become something big . . . JACK SNYDER finally got all of the negotiations made for his new quarters and it looks as though he may be into them right after the first of the year. He's movin' next door; from 421 to 417 South Fifth street. He'll have the largest tailoring shop in Southern Nevada and he plans to do one of the biggest jobs in the same territory. Look for more news later about SNYDER'S SLACKS . . . Here's a cute bit! You know the monkeys, TIPPY and COBINA which recently closed at the Desert Inn with the International Revue? They have MUSICIANS CARDS. Local No. 365 in Huntington, W. Va. On the face of each of their cards it has their names, and in parenthesis, the word (monkey). They also hold a lot of other honorary cards from all over the country. This is a wonderful act! . . . One of the proudest papas in town this week-end will be ARNOLD ECKHARDT who is the deputy on the front door at the new SAHARA. His lovely daughter, BEVERLY, who was known as "Miss Riverside, Calif.," in the 1952 ROSE PARADE, is coming up to spend Thanksgiving and the week-end with her Dad. She is attending the Riverside Junior College at the present time and working as a model in her free moments. Pappy is THAT PROUD of her, and just as proud of his young son, BARRY, who is age 7 . . . We were so sorry to hear of our friend JOE PETTI being in Barewood Hospital in Pasadena, Calif., where he will be for the next six weeks for a forced rest. Joe's wife, WINNIE is a food waitress in the Caravan Room of the Sahara and is the lonesomest gal in town. It's the first time they've been apart since they were married some years ago. Hurry up and get better, Joe, or you'll have company down there! . . . About foruntyixel years ago on November 27. a couple of proud parents celebrated Thanksgiving by having Nick 'n Fracka'zzini! And haven't celebrated the two events on the same day since. Last Thursday. November 27, was NICK FRAZZINI'S birthday, and believe you in me, there was never a bigger hearted man ever born to this earth by **any** proud parents. A little bit of a belated "happy birthday" to a good man! . . . And if I don' get this missive to the printer within the next few minutes. I may never live to see many more birthdays of my own. See you all later! . . .Your ever lovin' . . . —JOHNNY.

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THE

? DOLINOFFS ?

AND THE

RAYA SISTERS

"Dancing Deception"

WATCH FOR

"Weak-Eyes"

SPECIAL

NEXT WEEK!!

HOLLYWOOD HAPPENINGS ... by MARTIN LEWIS



WITH THE exception of those who saw BETTY HUTTON at the New York Palace Theatre a few months back, the Hutton gal is familiar to us mostly as the bubbling blonde who is so terrific in her latest technicolor musical "Somebody Loves Me." It should be of interest, therefore, to hear first-hand what the British think of Betty Hutton, and accordingly, we quote from a prominent newspaper column there: "London, October 24th. BETTY HUTTON brought down the curtain on the final show of this year's vaudeville season at the Palladium last Saturday night with a demonstration of audience affection that really knocked her dizzy and brought tears to her eyes. It was truly something. After the sensational trapeze routine that finishes her act, the hepped-up customers just would not let her go . . . so back she came, climbed onto the piano in the orchestra pit with her mike, and sang number after number with the audience finally joining in lustily. I've seen scores of first nights and dozens of last nights, but I've never seen anything like this before. Move over, Danny Kaye; Betty Hutton is now right beside you!!"

LINE FORMS TO THE RIGHT

You can't even FIGHT your way into Hollywood's famed night-spot, "The Mocambo" these nights. The reason? A breath-takingly beautiful singer named JOANNE GILBERT. Ever heard of her before? The chances are that you haven't . . . but you WILL! Joanne's Dad is the famous song writer RAY GILBERT. A few months back, Joanne suddenly said: "Dad, I'd like to be a song-stylist." "You WOULD, would you?" said her father, "Well . . . let's hear you sing a little." Joanne did, Ray got enthused, and the next thing you knew, Joanne was booked for her first night-club appearance at the Mocambo. She's now the sensation of Hollywood . . . and at Paramount, where Joanne recently signed a contract BEFORE becoming so famous, the word is out that she'll be co-starred with DONALD O'CONNOR in her very first movie, the musical soon to go before the cameras called "Big Song and Dance!" Once more Hollywood is thrilled because a new "Star is born!"

PORTRAIT OF A STAR

The making of a motion picture needs more than just the director, the story and the stars. There are hundreds of men employed at each studio known as "the crew" on a picture. These men see gorgeous beauties day in and day out and rarely bat an eye. Therefore. when it became noticeable that the crews on the various pictures at Paramount were doing MORE than just batting an eye when a certain young lady strolled around the lot, you could be sure this gal had something special! And she has, too! She's breath-takingly beautiful for one thing, but more than that, she has poise, dignity and that certain something which spells stardom. This, in

(Continued on Page 29)

OUR FRONT COVER

JACK METLER came to Las Vegas four years ago last September to become a part of the casino management of the newly opened Thunderbird Hotel and has been there in that capacity ever since. Jack came here from Detroit, Mich., where he had been connected with gambling for almost 25 years previously. He and his wonderful wife, SHIRLEY, have two children of whom they are mighty proud; ALICE and LARRY. They, in turn, have a Daddy of whom they may well be very proud. JACK METLER is everybody's friend, known and loved by all.

Thank you,

JAKE KOZLOFF,

for an

extremely enjoyable

FOURTEEN WEEKS

IN THE

RAMONA ROOM

OF

HOTEL

LAST FRONTIER



★

GARWOOD VAN

AND HIS ORCHESTRA

★

SPECIAL THANKS TO

EDDIE FOX

FOR HIS HELPFUL COOPERATION

THAT'S FOR SURE:

(Continued from Page 9)

slacks for her night-club debut at the MOCAMBO, a few weeks ago. A few hours before her public appearance, her agent decided slacks wouldn't be "the thing." So—a seamstress was called in. She cut the slacks down and —voila!—pedal pushers. The audience was amazed at the apparel but applauded Joanne. Next day—you guessed it—every girl was searching for unique pedal pushers. Joanne can currently be seen at the HOTEL EL RANCHO VEGAS. May we add, her salary is "Fabulous" for a gal who just decided to be a singer a few months ago!

We'd like to hazard a guess that there isn't another shoe salon in the country that carries as many famous lines of shoes as our own BILBRAY'S on Fremont Street. Our belief is supported by the fact that out of town patrons rely upon Ann and Jim to ship personal orders to them. When the best dressed women of our nation visit Las Vegas, Bilbray's is a "must visit" on their list. We can't blame the women for sort of going overboard when they look at the stunning accessories available. If you husbands are wondering what to put under the tree for your wives, drop in and have a consultation with Ann.

Speaking of trees, Christmas is really in the atmosphere at STAN FAYMAN'S BOND'S JEWELERS. The decorations that were carefully chosen remind us of the Fifth Avenue (New York) shops. Back East, the merchants introduce the glitter of this beloved holiday well in advance, in order to remind folks that shopping time is at a minimum. We're glad that Stan is following this policy also. Say, do you realize, it really won't be long before the trees are adorned and packages are wrapped. Gulp! Where does the time fly?

We were struck with the humor of this bit of news. CHUCK DRESSEN, manager of the BROOKLYN DODGERS, spent a short vacation at the HOTEL SAHARA, recently. The smile was stimulated by the fact that the hotel was built by DELL WEBB, a co-owner of the NEW YORK YANKEES. If you're a baseball fan (who isn't?), you'll know the irony lies in the fact that the Yanks beat out Chuck's team for the World Series pennant.

Another recent visitor in town was JACKIE COOGAN, famous child star of yesteryear. He spent many hours of reminiscence with his buddy, BILL KOZLOFF, of the SILVER SLIPPER.

If any current romance might head for a local altar, we're ready to say that the AVERIL KNIGGE-JACK DENISON combine will be the one. Jack (Silver Fox) is the handsome maitre d' of the FLAMINGO HOTEL and Averil is confidential secretary of JAKE FREEDMAN (SANDS HOTEL). Miss Knigge worked with Mr. Freedman for six years in Texas before she accompanied him to Las Vegas. Since her arrival, Mr. Denison has been experiencing the symptoms of love. The PATIO FLOWER SHOP has a standing order (placed by J. D.) to deliver flowers to Miss Knigge, daily. How nice!

Aside to HELEN VALENTINE, food cashier at the DESERT INN: We certainly hope that your wish will be realized.

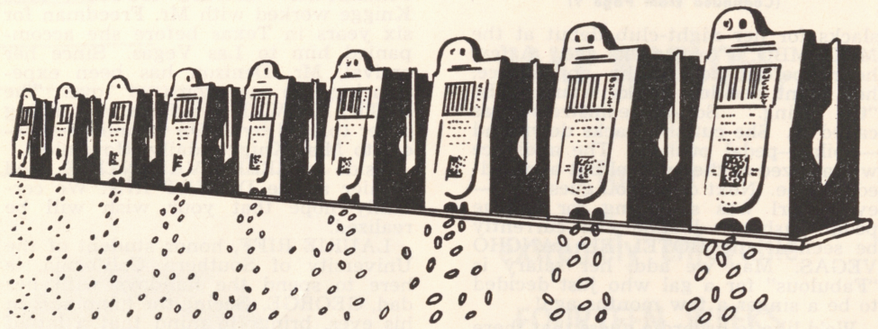
LAURIE RIFF, honor student of the University of Southern California, is here to spend the holidays with her dad, GEORGE. Seeing the happiness in his eyes, brings to mind that a lot of local parents are experiencing the same family camaraderie. All of the school age folks who are attending out-of-town educational institutes are here or on their way and with them they are bringing the cheer and conviviality of family unison.

The current show at the HOTEL EL RANCHO VEGAS deserves huzzahs. It consists of new faces in showbusiness. BELDON KATLEMAN, wealthy playboy-owner, commissioned top-flight designer TOM DOUGLAS to stage and do the sets for JOANNE GILBERT. With the revue is GIL JOHNSTON, the remarkable performer who danced with the JEAN DEVLYN revue. He is back in town with a partner. If this WINDMILL REVUE proves successful, there will be more sequences to follow. We're always happy to see someone hand out a couple of "breaks" to youngsters of the spotlight world.

With each passing day, everyone realizes that ABE SCHILLER (Director of entertainment and public relations head of the FLAMINGO HOTEL) is really a leading ambassador of good will for Las Vegas. While bringing nation-wide attention to the Flamingo, he does the same for our fabulous town. Recently, three out-of-state ROTARY CLUBS asked Abe to appear as their guest speaker. His first speech will be made in Los Angeles, the third week of January.

While watching television. Hollywood's famous LAURITZ MELCHIOR got an idea. He noticed that people are being "conditioned" to expect rapid changes in pace, in their entertainment. He made note of the fact that T. V. provides new faces, every half hour, providing song, dance, story-telling, drama, etc. After discussing it with his wife, he decided to plan a revue to travel the states. That is our good fortune—for—the first week in January, Mr. Melchior will bring his "gang" to the HOTEL SAHARA for a one week en-

(Continued on page 31)



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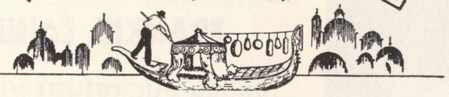
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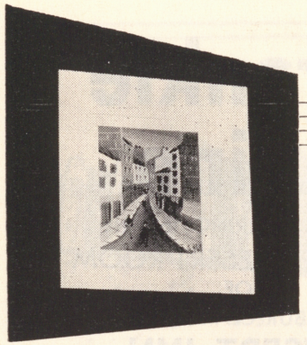
HOLLYWOOD HAPPENINGS:

(Continued from page 25)

short, sums up Paramount's newest find . . . JOAN TAYLOR.

Joan makes her screen bow for Paramount with CHARLTON HESTON in the exciting, colorful adventure - movie, "The Savage," which was filmed in technicolor in South Dakota earlier this year. It's a story of a white man brought up by Indians to live and think like an Indian. Joan plays "Luta," a beautiful Sioux Indian girl, a rather exacting role for a newcomer to the screen, particularly since it calls for Joan to do much more than merely look beautiful!

The Taylor lass is quite frank about her aspirations. Her movie career was not something which was thrust upon her suddenly out of thin air; it was something long held as a goal. As Joan herself says: "Ever since I can remember, I've wanted to be an actress. In fact, I've been working and studying hard with only that one thought in mind."



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TOMMY WONDER
AND
MARGARET BANKS

THAT'S FOR SURE:

(Continued from page 27)

gagement. There's a show we **definitely** want to see.

ROSEMARY CLOONEY'S first two pictures, "The Stars Are Singing," and "Here Come the Girls" are still unreleased. Accordingly, she is classified as an "unknown." However, for an "unknown," Rosemary is certainly known to national publications. At present, she is featured in articles in LOOK, LIFE, TIME, NEWSWEEK, VOGUE, QUICK, PEOPLE TODAY, and others. Last week, she was on the cover of COLLIER'S. It won't be long before Miss Clooney returns to Las Vegas for an engagement at the THUNDERBIRD HOTEL.

On Thanksgiving eve, quite a few friends turned out to help lovely BETTY LYNN (Showgirl with the MORO-LANDIS troupe) celebrate her birthday. The event began at 2:00 a. m. We still haven't heard what time the shindig terminated. Belated greetings, young lady. We're sure that everyone had a wonderful time!

While on the subject of birthdays, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to NICK FRAZZINI for being such a wonderful friend and to say we hope he had the finest birthday celebration on November 27th. (He is a deputy sheriff at the HOTEL LAST FRONTIER.) Nick was born on Thanksgiving Day and his dad always celebrated both events on the same day, even though the dates differed.

Another romance that is fast approaching the serious stage involves PATTY DAY (daughter of DOC STARR) and ROCKY CARR, the very popular Hollywood "Tiny Mite" agent. Patty became a familiar face to patrons of the DESERT INN when she appeared there in the last MINSKY'S FOLLIES revue. The lovelight looks like the real thing.

Just one month ago, a surprise ceremony welded TED BRISKIN and JOAN DIXON. However, a short time later, the couple announced the marriage was a mistake and the knot would be unravelled in the divorce courts. This is one incident where hasty action caused slow regret.

A figment of an over-anxious reporter's mind caused undeserved bad publicity for IRENE DUNNE recently. The imaginary article claimed that Miss Dunne was in Puerto Rico where she arrived in her million dollar yacht. It went on to state that a priest had intervened and prevented her from entering a church in slacks. It's unfortunate that the press has to contend with such dreamers. Miss Dunne has never been in Puerto Rico and does not even own a fabulous yacht of that description. Furthermore, she is too refined to enter a place of worship in such attire.

MR. KOFF, well-known local painter, is thrilled to the point of humbleness. His son RAYMOND just returned from Korea. It is the fellow's third return from the scene of conflict. We're hoping there won't be any more trips overseas for this lad who certainly has done his duty for our country.

In case you haven't heard, BLOSSOM SEELEY is back in show business again. She and hubby BENNY FIELDS opened their night club tour at Hollywood's Cocoanut Grove. The inspiration that brought Blossom back to the spotlight was BETTY HUTTON'S portrayal of the star in "Somebody Loves Me." Both Benny and Blossom are wonderful people . . . and that's for sure.

BIOGRAPHY:

(Continued from Page 21)

ing all he knew about the business. The family moved to Hollywood in 1940 when her father was signed by Rio Brothers to write special material for their opening at Slapsy Maxie's night club. Joanne attended Le Cont junior high school and then entered Hollywood High.

During her first year at Hollywood, Joanne met a woman who was staging fashion shows at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Impressed with the youngster's beauty, the woman hired her to model 'teen-age fashions at the hotel for a month. This led to a contract with the Mary Webb Davis agency and for the next five years Joanne was in constant demand as a fashion model.

Her photo appeared in several local and national publications and she attracted the attention of a prominent Hollywood agent. Convinced she was a good bet for pictures, he took her to Paramount for a screen test. Only 17 at the time and lacking professional experience, she was advised to wait for a while. Talent department officials felt she had definite screen possibilities, however, and promised to follow her career. They made good this promise three years later when she appeared at the Mocambo.

Although she dabbled in dramatics at Hollywood High, Joanne did not seek any professional engagements, preferring to work in private with her father. A few months ago, her agent decided she was ready to tackle pictures again and introduced her to Joe Pasternack, M-G-M producer, who suggested she sing at the charity show at the Mocambo. Joanne sang "Looking for a Boy," "Singing in the Rain," and "I've Got Rhythm." And her career was off to a fast start.

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POP SQUIRES:

(Continued from Page 5)

A drive to the head of Black Canyon then was no small job. The road was only a wagon track, with no improvements. It crossed the Vegas Valley two or three miles east of the present site of Henderson; then climbed the mountains through Hemingway pass, about two miles north of Railroad Pass.

From the pass to Black Canyon the way was long and steep and filled with rolling gravel and the return trip was a strain on the best cars we had, but a procession of cars miles in length made the journey. Members of the American Legion Post No. 8 formed the escort.

Among the leaders of the party were Rev. C. H. Sloan, pastor of the Baptist Church; Rev. Boyd Parker of Christ Episcopal Church; Rev. C. E. Reardon of St. Joan of Arc Roman Catholic Church; Bishop Ira J. Earl of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, and the Rev. C. S. Reynolds of the M. E. Church.

The assemblage knelt reverently on the sand beside the muddy waters of the turbulent Colorado, while prayers of thanksgiving were made by the churchmen. The line of kneeling people was several hundred feet long. Cameras were whirring and several flags were grouped as part of the scenery. It was a wonderful outpouring of the sincere spirit of Thanksgiving, the likes of which we have never known. And from one end of the United tSates to the other Las Vegas and her "Pilgrimage of Thanksgiving" filled the newspapers, giving Las Vegas her first exuberant shot of publicity.

Our Thanksgiving was sincere and heartfelt and there was no dissension among us. It was an event unique in the history of towns and is deserving of being told in history along with the story of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock.

Since that first Prayer of Thanksgiving on the desolate sands of the Colorado, Las Vegas has had a thousand reasons for Thankfulness, without the impulse of public celebration. If we were to take sober stock of this great Southern Nevada community, we would realize that Las Vegas today has more for which we should be thankful than ever before.

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RENO BEAT:

(Continued from page 15)

tertainer, working through-out the show. WILLIE never runs out of talent and material, he works with little ANGOS PEREZ, the very talented former quiz-kid. This youngster was last seen here with LIBERACE . . . PARK and CLIFFORD, that great act that played the SAHARA in Vegas earlier this month, add much to the show, with their acrobatic and land-lifting routines. . . . I can see why their grace and skill have earned them the title of "Poetry in Motion" . . . The fine music of EDDIE FITZPATRICK and the clever dancing of the MAPES SKYLETTES, joined in the finale by WILLIE SHORE, all add up to one of the best shows to be seen in the SKYROOM in quite some time . . . THE RIVERSIDE opened THURSDAY, Thanksgiving Day, with a new show. The sultry songstress, DOROTHY DAINDRIDGE, comic PAUL GILBERT, TOM and JERRY, and a new orchestra under the direction of BILL HEATHCOCK, the RIVERSIDE STARLETS in another MORO-LANDIS PRODUCTION.

See you next week . . .

—ART STEAGALL—RENO 2-2658.

THE WATCHBIRD:

(Continued from Page 21)

ROBERT EMANUEL is visiting Mr. and Mrs. JOEY JACOBSON in the windy city. Mr. Jacobson is the owner of the famous Fritzels Restaurant there, and Mr. Emanuel is the son of VICTOR EMANUEL, one of America's biggest financiers . . .

Mr. and Mrs. DANNY THOMAS rushed home to Beverly Hills to help their little daughter THERESA celebrate her birthday . . . COREY'S RESTAURANT on Fremont Street is installing a turn table so that customers can enjoy classical music along with a classical lunch . . . PAUL GILBERT is doing very well since he's been doing Buddy Hackett's old act . . . C'est si bon: LEON CHAUVEAU, chef of the Sands Hotel, is a **gourmet.** Loves fine food, fine wine and women . . .

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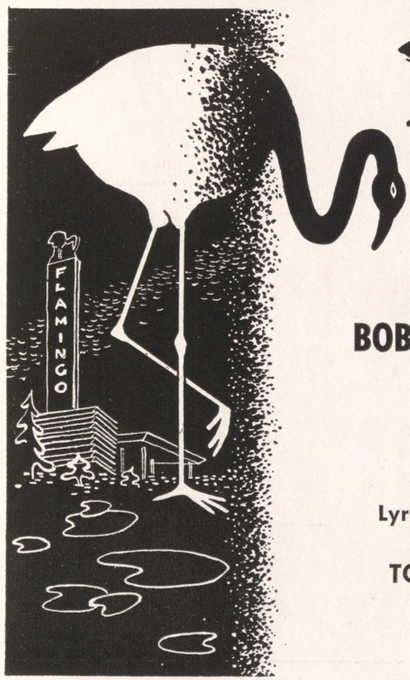
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