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JANUARY 30, 1954

Fabulous

LAS VEGAS *Magazine*



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FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

- 2 -

JANUARY 30, 195

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IN THE FIRST years of the new town of Las Vegas, from 1905 when the town was born, to along in the 1920s, the idea of city parks in Las Vegas was a little bit ridiculous. There we were with the whole outdoors in which to hold our picnics and why should we spoil the greenery Mother Nature had provided for us by trying to grow grass and plant trees?

There were the two great and beautiful springs three miles west of town from which a wonderful stream of water gushed. That stream watered a large area of land which was green the whole year round, and had enough water left after creating "Las Vegas" "The Meadows" to make a fine stream flowing through the desert toward the east until it was lost in the sands down where the mesquite forests grow, four or five miles east of where the town now is.

Along the whole length of that stream great cottonwood trees were growing so there was grateful shade under which we could find shelter from the heat of the sun.

There were occasional bathing places along the stream and along its banks under the cottonwoods many of the railroad men pitched their tents and made their homes in the shade when the whole area of the new townsite of Las Vegas was exposed to the direct rays of the sun—and the oldtimers who were supposed to know all about this country told us that cottonwood trees would not grow on the mesa because there was no water there and we'd better start the new city in the lowlands down below the old ranch where we knew there was water.

It sounded reasonable, but the railroad had built its track and established its townsite up here on the barren, seemingly waterless mesa.

Among those who bought lots at the railroad company auction sale was a Mrs. Smith. She bought the lots on Second Street where El Patio Hotel now is. She immediately, that is along in May and June 1905, built what I think was the first two-story building in town and called it The Palace Hotel. That same structure still stands and is now part of El Patio Hotel.

The Palace Hotel, when it was new, was visible for miles in every direction and we residents of the new town were proud of it. Mrs. Smith and her son Lloyd were enterprising citizens who took the lead whenever there was any public enterprise.

Among her activities, Mrs. Smith needed some strong posts to support her clothesline in the back yard of The Palace, so she hired an old fellow to go down to Las Vegas Creek and get some cottonwood poles. The old fellow cut some good strong poles, and planted them in the yard back of the Palace as supports for the clothesline.

A month or two after that, when walking down the center of Fremont Street (there were no sidewalks then) I noticed something that looked like a bouquet tied to the top of one of the posts. I walked over to see what it was and found a bunch of green twigs growing out of the top of one of the poles.

After that we watched those particular cottonwood poles and saw them de-

(Continued on Page 29)

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FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

The Adventures of Dave Barry



I AM SITTING by the pool here in Palm Springs, shaking from the cold. Now I know why so many blue bloods are down here. They weren't born that way. It was frozen in Palm Springs. This is a beautiful city when the dust parls. I'm getting a speckled tan. The sun sets so fast down here you have to race it around the mountains

This is the only place where you get a moon tan. You don't realize it. One minute you're sitting out in the sun, the next thing you know, a friend in a topcoat comes up to you and says "Hey! Where did you get that beautiful pale?" It's from the moon. It sneaks in faster than a one dollar bettor while the sun sings faster than a buck on the hard eight.

But don't get me wrong. I love it down here. I came down here for a short engagement at a great nite spot, the PALM HOUSE. I wish it could be longer, but I'm due in Las Vegas on January 13 and, by the time this column is printed, I'll be reading it there myself. Probably the only one, too.

Incidentally, a sort of friendly rivalry exists between Palm Springs and Las Vegas. Operators down here put on some darn good shows, serve delicious food and offer some terrific accommodations but they find they're bucking the "bucking" in Las Vegas.

The only gambling down here is whether or not the sun will come out.

Current shows down here include Dorothy Shay at the Chi-Chi, the Four Jokers at the Saddle and Sirloin, Page Cavanaugh Trio at the Howard Manor, the Duncan Sisters at El Mirador and Yours Truly at the Palm House.

The pace, naturally, is different from Las Vegas. Your vacation down here is designed for relaxation. Seriously, the weather most of the time is gorgeous. The average temperature is in the low 80s and my golf in the low 90s. My golf is so bad every time I take a swing I can hear one ant say to another: "Let's get on the ball before this guy kills us!"

But this is the only town where they sell shade oil and moon burn lotion. The sun does set early, sometimes as early as 3 o'clock in the afternoon. At first I didn't believe my watch. I figured the local storekeepers had lassoed the sun and were pulling it down from the other side of the mountain. You see, after the sun goes down, there is mass exodus into town.

Everyone goes shopping for things they don't need. They stare in the windows for hours, at things they've seen in the city and wouldn't give a second look. But here it costs twice as much. That's different!

The wife is generally three steps in front of the husband. He hates shopping. He'd rather be at a bar somewhere, eating a pretzel and watching a wrestling match on TV. So when Mama goes shopping, she drags ol checkbook along and takes a great delight in watching Papa wince every time she looks at a piece of jewelry.

I wouldn't say that things are expensive here in Palm Springs but I ordered a \$4.50 dinner the other day and the waitress asked me: "How do you want it, on white or rye?" It's not a very good joke, but you should have seen the sandwich. It was a piece of tomato, smothered in lettuce. The bread was so thin it must have been sliced with a razor blade.

There was a piece of pickle that looked like it was photographed on the plate. I didn't mind this, however, as I was feeling bad anyhow. I walked around town and listened to the idle chatter of passersbys and heard such gems slip like: "Gee, this is a beautiful day, wasn't it?"

I guess the people down here are happy. It seems to be a city where everybody comes down to either relax or live or go into business. The movie stars who live down here have the most beautiful rentals you ever saw.

I don't know why they build such lovely, expensive homes. Maybe it's because the plans come complete with a rental agent. The people who come down here to live, go into some business so they can make enough money to go somewhere else on a vacation.

Well, no matter what your reason is. I recommend Palm Springs as a swell place to visit. It's a magic wonderland, surrounded by majestic mountains, looking down on hundreds of unpaid mortgages, that are dotted with glittering swimming pools around which are neatly piled the frozen guests.

So we reluctantly bid farewell to Palm Springs. As the sun suddenly drops into the West, we look forward to the moon, and we hope that some day soon we shall return to this palm littered paradise, and I hope I don't forget to bring my sun-lamp!

FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

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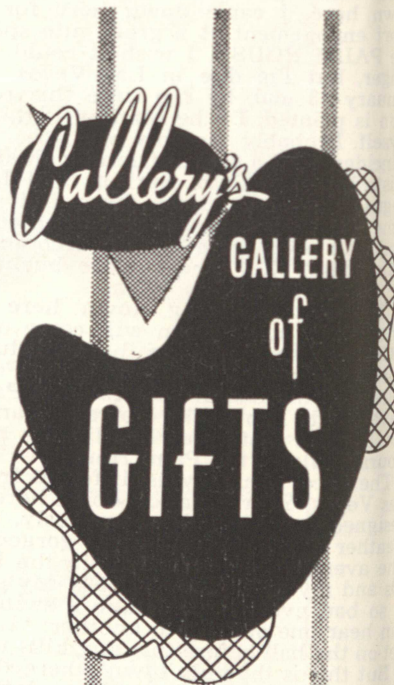
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EVERY DAY AN OCCASION

THAT'S FOR SURE...
BY
Jack Borky

THIS YEAR the film industry will devote most of its publicity concentration in behalf of two streamlined beauties who will vie for the beauty crown of 1954. It will be the battle of the blonde against the brunette. The light-haired contestant is MAMIE VAN DRENN, a frequent visitor here. Her dark-haired opponent is sultry ELAINE STEWART. You've seen photos of both these lovelies. We'd hate to be the judge at a beauty contest between these two.

Seen at WILBUR CLARK'S DESERT INN was HAROLD SMITH, owner of the famous Reno spot HAROLD'S CLUB. Mr. Smith is a one-man campaign committee to increase business for our sister city. He has extended a remarkable offer to San Franciscans. In exchange for \$25 a native of that city receives the airplane trip to Reno, along with a three-day stay at the FONY MOTEL, limousine service and afternoon cocktails. Not a bad bargain! Incidentally, when we saw Mr. Smith our local weather was rather chilly. Hence we wondered why the club owner was sporting a Palm Beach outfit. Could he have been trying to suggest the weather man into providing summer evenings in January?

Well, DONALD O'CONNOR has set a record that can't be beaten at the HOTEL SAHARA for his four week engagement. Perhaps another performer could equal it—but not top it. Every evening of his appearance saw a solid sell-out, with many, many folks being turned away. Such a record was never previously established in any local hotel by any other showman. Donald performed to virtually 50,000 people (just about the local population). What a trouper! And—what talent!

When localites learned that KEEFE BRASSELLE had been booked into the FLAMINGO HOTEL they were mighty merry about the management's judgment. For some reason most supper-clubbers believed Keefe was nothing more than a pantomimist, a presumption based upon his screen characterization of EDDIE CANTOR. But it wasn't long before crowds discovered they were radically wrong and Braselle was here to stay, according to his own ability and showmanship.

From out Chicago way, we have been receiving quite a bit of correspondence from friends who have joined the "Kannon Rave Parade." JACKIE KANNON is very well-known and admired locally. The comedian never fails to draw highly favorable comment in any town where he is booked. Jackie just went into the Windy City and created a little storm of his own. Both BILLBOARD and VARIETY covered his brow with laurels. There is no dissension among the critics when it comes to hailing Kannon as one of the top comics of our time.

It looks as though EARTHA KITT may make a slight change in her private life before she arrives in Las Vegas for a local booking. Her romantic inclinations for SAMMY DAVIS JR. (now at the HOTEL LAST FRONTIER) will probably be culminated on the orange blossom road. Miss Kitt is currently appearing in San Francisco in the play "New Faces."

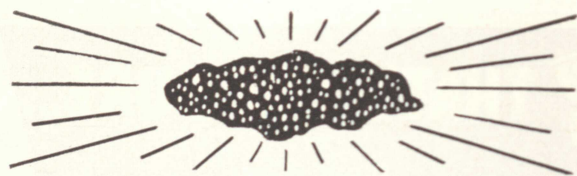
Even though EZIO PINZA has remained at the SANDS HOTEL for another two weeks we're sorry that our buddy-columnist-comedian DAVE BARRY couldn't linger longer. Also. Unfortunately, Dave has picture commitments to fulfill in Hollywood and couldn't be released to play the extended engagement here. However, we're hoping the lad will return in the very near future. He did a wonderful job and we will love him.

Lovers of things western should circle this Sunday's date (January 31) on their calendar. That is the day upon which you will be able to see the Sheriff's Rodeo at the OWENS RANCH. Tickets sell for one dollar with all proceeds going into the Sheriff's Relief Fund. It would be gratifying indeed if Las Vegas turned out in full support of this worthy event.

JACK CARSON is scoring a tremendous success locally. Not only is he great on the stage at HOTEL EL RANCHO—he's just as nice to know, out of the spotlight. Folks around the hotel enjoy the comedian's company and salute him as a "regular Joe."

It certainly warms the cockles of Ye Editor's heart when our readers begin discussing the various ads in our publication. An ad that appeared in last

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VEY

JOHNNIE
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FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

— 10 —

JANUARY 30, 1954

An Accurate Glimpse of the Future



CRISWELL PREDICTS



WHAT PEOPLE WILL DO: Senator McCarthy and Senator Jenner will astound the world with new evidence concerning communist infiltration in our government agencies in the very shadow of our Capitol dome . . . American doctors will be quite confounded by a very strange epidemic which affects the stomach, bowels and the temperature . . . President Eisenhower will take the public into his confidence and explain the new terrors of the hydrogen bomb! . . . The life of the late Death Valley Scotty" will be made into a Grade-A western adventure film by Hollywood with John Wayne in the title role . . .

Your local water company will soon increase your water rates about 17 per cent . . . There will soon be an investigation company which will operate for women clients who will wish to look into the character and the credit reference of men before they marry them or a very nominal fee. This will save such a heartbreak and misunderstanding later . . . Senator Kerr of Oklahoma will be named as the vice presidential candidate for the Democratic Party in 1956 . . . Queen Elizabeth II should watch her health . . . Shelton Martin, the insurance king, will soon offer a new policy which will pay all doctor, hospital and funeral bills at need . . .

Las Vegas will boom as a convention city in 1954 . . . Irene Castle will open a nationwide drive against useless vivisection of animals by the medical schools and colleges which will prove most successful in every way . . . Ginger Rogers will divorce her recent groom when she returns from Paris next month . . . Vice President Nixon will have his own mansion furnished by our Government this summer!

WHO YOU WILL TALK ABOUT: Gov. Tom Dewey and the announcement that he will run and be elected in New York state . . . Madame Pandit and her quick withdrawal from social life . . . Gen. Omar Bradley and his new bid to become a political light for the Democratic Party to offset the personal growing popularity of President Eisenhower . . . Rita Hayworth and her coming divorce from singer Dick Haymes due to "career" trouble . . . Cigarettes and the sharp decrease in their use because of lung cancer and

other ailments definitely blamed on tobacco . . . Jo Stafford, the singer, and her new style of delivery which will be widely copied by the other singers . . . Sen. Margaret Chase Smith from Maine and her coming bitter fight for equal rights for women in all states . . .

Ray Milland and his coming court battles . . . Leni Riefenstahl, who was Hitler's old girl friend, and her return to professional life as a motion picture producer . . . Edna Ferber, the novelist, and her newest work soon to be published which will deal with a famous murder trial at the turn of the century . . . Rosa Ponselle, the famous prima donna and star of the Metropolitan, and her farewell concert this spring . . . Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, the widow of the late President, and her interesting life story soon to be syndicated . . . Detroit and its many strikes . . .

Helen Kane, the doopadoop girl of the 1920s, and her popularity this coming fall . . . John Phillip Sousa, the bandleader, and the revival of his stirring marches . . . Our high schools and the organized gangs of hoodlums who headquarter and use this as a base of operation . . . Bible study and its return to the public schools!

COMING HUSH-HUSH EVENTS. Television is soon scheduled to become the No. 1 Detective of the Nation for apprehending wanted criminals and missing persons. Through a vast coordinated set-up, the wanted person's picture will be flashed on your TV set as a public service venture, and the picture will continue to remain programming until the clues given by you viewers will capture the culprit. This step in crime control will be a portion of our daily life in 1956 . . . An old law on the books which placed theft as a major crime will be dusted off in many western cities to deal with the fraudulent radio and television offers which hold the announcer as responsible as the manufacturer and the station. This will be fought by lawyers as an "outdated" law, but it will stand.

WATCH OUT FOR THIS FRAUD: Your telephone will ring and a charming male voice will invite you to view a new model home in your area. You attend and sign a guest card which turns out to be a contract on which you

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FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

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JANUARY 30, 1954

AN OPEN LETTER TO MRS. JACK CARSON

Dear Lola:

Your husband has just finished the nicest, most pleasant, and most successful engagement in Las Vegas so far.

He wants to thank Beldon Katleman, Tom Douglas, and all the others who have helped make this stay at the Hotel EL RANCHO VEGAS so completely wonderful.

He loves them, and he loves you, too!

Sincerely,



I'M GONNA BE STRONG this week and make no mention of the lack of results from those so small deposits, so tediously tendered to Mother Earth! All I can say is that everyone else in my block has got little green stuff all around their house . . . and the only little green stuff around my house is ME . . . with ENVY! . . . As Larry Storch would say, "Lord, I don't know! I've tried! I've tried! I HAVE TRIED!"

There's BIG BINGO every night at RAILROAD PASS CASINO if you're in the mood for a little drive, with something to do when you get there. The Pass, you know, is about a twenty-minute drive out the Boulder Hiway toward Boulder City. I drove out the other evening to see my old friend LES JONES and I had trouble finding a place to park around the spot. Les told me that it was nothing compared to last week when the money and the numbers were 'way up. They've got a progressive game that goes up \$20 every night, and adds another number every tenth night . . . Makes it pretty interesting after a while. At least, a lot of other folks seem to think so. Then there's dancing every week-end, to the music of TOMMY NELSON and his orchestra. A couple of friends of yours bought out Fleet Martin a while back and are on the job every evening. . . . BILL AITKEN and AL DEAN are in there now with LES JONES. About this bingo, though! You pay \$2 for a card, which is good for all 10 games during the evening. It seems to me that the way it all works out, what with the pay-offs each games, practically all of the money taken in each night is given back out to the winners of the games. Not much profit but a lot of volume, I guess!

And then there was BERT COURTNEY with the classiest clothes in captivity at his shop in the COLONIAL HOUSE. You may think that this is just the beginning of a plug, but I mean every word of it! Bert has some of the finest clothes in his shop that I've ever seen . . . and, believe you me, when Bert fits you with something you've been fitted properly. And TASTE is another thing! He's got the best! If you're in doubt as to just what you want . . . listen to what he tells you. He's not going to sell you some-

thing just because he's had it on hand for a long time and wants to get rid of it. He has your appearance and welfare in mind . . . and you'll wind up being a regular customer of his . . . Wise?

Had another session out at HULIHAN'S SHANTY last Tuesday night. The joint didn't really get to jumping until late on account of the Sauter-Finegan Concert the same night . . . but it got to . . . and it jumped! Didja ever hear a hot oboe? RALPH GARAFOLLO was there with alto and oboe! Unusual at local sessions was two trombone men! One from the Four Freshmen and one from the Al Jahns organization, now vacationing for two weeks.

PAT BUCKLEY made it into town . . . and on the day he was supposed to arrive . . . a thing almost unheard-of to date! He's put on umpteen pounds during his sojourn in the East, but says all he has to do to lose weight is to come to Las Vegas, and voom, the waist wastes. Well, he keeps so busy here that he doesn't have time to eat . . . or is that the reason?

BILL BORDEN has taken over the active management of the EMBASSY CLUB in North Las Vegas! As of last week JOE BAILEY went on the road to seek out the best he could find in the kind of shows they intend bringing you at their club. Opening next Monday night, February 1, is TANA, who was here a while back and was one of those that everyone wanted to be held over. You go see her when she opens at the club and you'll see why! A new comedian is slated to open on the same bill . . . a fellow by the name of JOEY CARTER, and if he IS what he's been SAID to be . . . he alone will be worth going to see! The EMBASSY's real late show at 4:15 in the ayem, which should be late enough for all you late workers to get to in time to see. . . .

It was another girl for the JESPERSONS last Monday afternoon 'long about 2:30 . . . JEANNE presented CHARLIE with a 9 pound 2 ounce future bathing beauty, and mom and pop are stuck for a name for the little bundle. They'd set their minds to nothing but a BOY. This is how gals wind up with boys' names every so often, you see. This makes the third little girl for these two lucky people. Mother

(Continued on Page 36)

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FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

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JANUARY 30, 1954

WHAT'S DOIN' DOWNTOWN...

by HARRY INGRAHAM

IT WAS A TYPICAL WET, dreary day in June of 1953 that I discarded my boat and foul weather gear and decided to "take my place in the sun." I'm not really putting Seattle down because, at least, they have the most accurate weather bureau in the United States. If it isn't raining, they can always predict rain and come out 100 per cent.

Actually, it was the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, the Resort Hotel Association, the Race Track, the abundance of beautiful women, and the never ending night life that lured me to this "FABULOUS" DESERT SPA.

Shortly after the demise of the Las Vegas Jockey Club, where I was employed, I met Jack Cortez. A few days later I was working for Fabulous Las Vegas Magazine and the people of Las Vegas. The enviable reputation and the high esteem that Fabulous Magazine holds throughout the world makes me very proud to be a part of this organization.

Now, only a few short months after my start with this magazine, Mr. Cortez has asked me to write a column. Bearing in mind the title "FABULOUS LAS VEGAS," I see it only fitting and proper to keep you informed, to the best of my knowledge, on "WHAT'S DOIN' DOWNTOWN." My thanks to JACK CORTEZ for this wonderful opportunity, and I only hope that in the future I may do justice to his magazine and to Las Vegas.

Be prepared for a big surprise when the CALIFORNIA CLUB reopens soon. A peek the other morning proved that this will definitely be one of our finest downtown clubs.

If you haven't seen WILD BILL DAVIS and his Trio at El Cortez you have deprived yourself of the entertainment treat of 1954. CRAZY CHRIS COLUMBUS on drums, WONDERFUL SMITH and his guitar, and of course WILD BILL DAVIS at the organ, give out with the "craziest" jazz this side of the Solar System. That's in the PIRATES DEN til 5 a. m.

I don't write show reviews but, while I'm on the subject, I will tell you about a show stopper at the GOLDEN NUGGET. It's JOHNNIE TURNER and his TWO GUYS AND A DOLL. Here is ventriloquism at its best. What this artist can't do with these dolls just can't be done. . . .

THE EMIL GRAY TRIO has left the GOLDEN NUGGET after 23 weeks and is now playing at the SOMMERSET HOUSE in Riverside, Calif

If everything goes according to plan, the CITY OF LAS VEGAS will be represented in the world famous Indianapolis speed classic held in May of this year. The car will be a KURTIS, winner of this race for the past three years. Backing will come from the Resort Hotel Association and the Chamber of Commerce. . . .

The SHANGRI-LA CAFE, across the street from the postoffice, serves some of the finest oriental cuisine I have ever had the pleasure of eating. As BUDDY HACKETT would say . . . "They selve evelyting flom won ton to sprit peas."

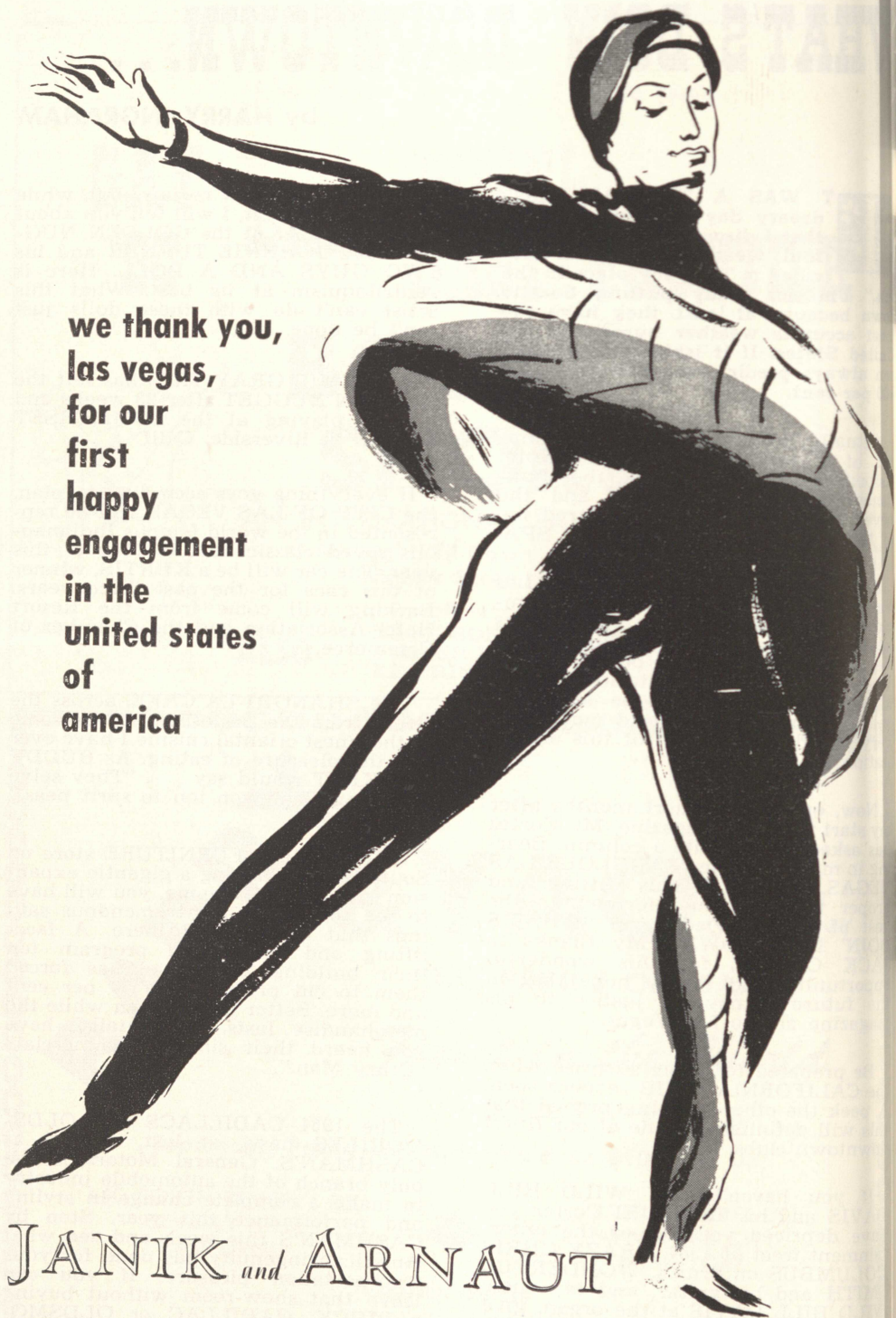
SHEPPARD'S FURNITURE store on South Main is having a gigantic expansion sale and, believe me, you will have to see to believe the tremendous savings that can be had there. A face-lifting and remodeling program (on their building, of course) has forced them to cut prices up to 50 per cent and more. Better hurry down while the merchandise lasts. Incidentally, have you heard their singing commercial? "Crazy Man." . . .

The 1954 CADILLACS and OLDSMOBILES have, at last, arrived at CASHMAN'S. General Motors is the only branch of the automobile industry to make a complete change in styling and performance this year. Stop by CASHMAN'S this week and see what American ingenuity has done for your transportation pleasure. If you can leave that show-room without buying a BUICK, CADILLAC or OLDSMOBILE you're a better man than my BOSS.

FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

- 15 -

JANUARY 30, 1954



we thank you,
las vegas,
for our
first
happy
engagement
in the
united states
of
america

JANIK and ARNAUT

Hotel LAST FRONTIER

"CURTAIN TIME"

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

Flamingo

January 21 thru February 3

SHOW: Keefe Brasselle, King Sisters with
Alvino Rey, Gene Wesson, 3 Ds

LINE: Flamingo Starlets, a Ron Fletcher
Production

ORCH: Torris Brand

You'd never guess that KEEFE BRASSELLE was a newcomer to the realm of nightclub entertainment! This is his first attempt in the field, and he acts like a veteran! This brilliant young star of the smash film "The Eddie Cantor Story" works like a Trojan in every phase of his routines and has proved beyond a doubt that he has "the makin's". . .! We especially liked his "Dixie-fied" number, "Crap-shootin' Rag," and the way he handled the

(Continued on Page 35)

LAST FRONTIER

January 11 thru January 31

SHOW: Will Mastin Trio, starring Sammy
Davis Jr.; Janik & Arnaut

LINE: The Adorables, featuring Bob
Peoples

ORCH: Garwood Van

If you haven't caught this show, better hurry—you only have this evening and Sunday in which to do so. All of the WILL MASTIN TRIO are a riotous group of song and dance men. SAMMY DAVIS JR. is the newest skyrocket to blaze across the theatrical skies. He burns up a world full of energy in his non-stop 45-minute rou-

tine. His impressions are excitingly accurate. He has the ear of Toscanini. Sammy can duplicate any human or animal sound once he hears it, perfectly, in the pitch, and with perfect nuance. The half pint of dynamite has not only learned the triggerlike turns of heel and toe—he has captured the liquid body movement (of Bill Robinson), the lightning-like thrust of arms and legs, the amazingly rapid twist and turn of body and the thrill-packed finale that inspires the burst-of-glory ending. . . . JANIK & ARNAUT, an unusual European novelty dance team making their first American appearance, will be the talk of this nation. Janik, the feminine member of the duo, will be the Ophidia of our generation and as famous as another reptile who conned Eve into snaring Adam, Costumed in a skin-tight green interstriped affair, molded to her sensuous,

(Continued on Page 23)

El Rancho Vegas

January 20 thru February 2

SHOW: Jack Carson, Connie Towers, the Four
Freshmen

LINE: Dot Dee's Dancers

ORCH: Bob Ellis

The "Gentleman from Hollywood" is not only repeating his previous successes—he's increasing them with this current engagement, his third in this room. JACK CARSON is a complete master in the art of timing in comedy and, combining this with his great personality, all goes toward making him one of the top comics of our day. One thing that surprises most people is his singing voice which, when linked to clear diction, allows him to do some difficult material in fast tempos and still get the punch phrases over to the folks out front. . . . Appearing again this year with Mr. Carson is the beautiful CONNIE TOWERS. That one word describes Miss Towers in every way! Beautiful of face, figure, voice, and as a person. You'll thrill to her rendition



"CURTAIN TIME"



of "Clare de Lune," as we did. Miss Towers later does a bit of comedy with Mr. Carson, in which he interprets her foreign lyrics . . . in his own way, of course! . . . THE FOUR FRESHMEN do a spot in the show that is altogether too short. These four young men are

(Continued on Page 35)

Willner Clark's
DESERT INN

January 5 thru February 1

SHOW: Frankie Laine, Jack Durant, Rudy Cardenas, Carol Lynne

LINE: Donn Arden Dancers

ORCH: Carlton Hayes

There are just two days left in which to see and hear FRANKIE LAINE, one of America's greatest and most popular song stylists. Here is "Mr. Rhythm" himself. Naturally, an evening with Laine wouldn't be right without an inclusion of songs he personally brought to fame. Frankie is a sparkling performer. When this lad is onstage, his infectious personality spreads through the audience, firing everyone with pulsating rhythm and stimulating the senses to complete enjoyment. (Frankie is accompanied by talented CARL FISCHER at the piano.) . . . JACK DURANT is an old-time favorite whose popularity will never be extinguished. One of Broadway's leading citizens of comedy fame, Durant doesn't hold back one iota when it comes to delighting your sense of humor. He even tosses in his well-known pratfalls to punctuate his humorous tales. There's nothing this performer won't do to bring the gleam to your eye. . . . RUDY CARDENAS is a juggler extraordinaire. There are jugglers and there are jugglers—but Rudy is in a definite class of distinction. He is one of the fastest jugglers on any nightclub stage. This wiry little gent accomplishes amazing feats of balance and precision manipu-

(Continued on Page 37)

FABULOUS LAS VEGAS



SAHARA

January 5 thru February 1

SHOW: Donald O'Connor, Sid Miller, Scott Man Crothers, George Prentice

LINE: Moro-Landis Saharem Dancers

ORCH: Cee Davidson

DONALD O'CONNOR has certainly made history in show business. We doubt that any other star ever made such a successful bow into the supper club field. This youngster has the stage mein of a seasoned performer and the talents most youthful dreams entail. His ability as a showman is absolutely amazing. Believe us when we say everyone is happy the lad appears intermittently throughout the entire revue. You just can't seem to see

(Continued on Page 23)



The Sands

January 13 thru February 10

SHOW: Ezio Pinza, Georgie Tapps and His Dancers, Professor Irwin Corey

LINE: COPA GIRLS

ORCH: Ray Sinatra

The management is proud to announce that EZIO PINZA will appear for another two weeks, even though there is a change in the balance of the show line-up. The star of the Copa Room revue made such a lasting impression upon supper clubbers during his last engagement folks travel great distances to see and hear him again. Mr. Pinza makes any evening an enchanted one with the magnificent projection of his voice and his wisely-

(Continued on Page 37)

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JANUARY 30, 1954

Thunderbird

January 21 thru February 3

SHOW: Sauter-Finegan Orchestra, Helen Gallagher, Pepper Davis and Tony Reese

LINE: Kathryn Duffy Dansations

ORCH: Al Jahns

The great SAUTER-FINEGAN ORCHESTRA . . . described as "new directions in music," which is absolutely right . . . these modern men of music will travel any route to achieve the end of realism which they feel and hear for their unusual arrangements. NINETEEN musicians will play over 88 various instruments (at last count) during their numbers. It's difficult to say which of the sections of the band are outstanding, as they all turn in great performances. However, the most unusual feature about this band is their percussion department composed of three men. Their area is as busy as a grammar school corridor during re-

(Continued on Page 27)

El Cortez

January 28 thru February 10
(Not a Review)

SHOW: Ben Yost Royal Guards, Olivette Miller, Barbara Davis, Wild Bill Davis Trio

ORCH: Eddie Skrivanek and his Sextette From Hunger

The ROYAL GUARDS are a group of male singers who have traveled the world over. Their singing prowess has brought them to be the guest stars on most of the top radio and TV stations throughout the country. Their reper-

(Continued on Page 23)

FABULOUS LAS VEGAS



SILVER SLIPPER SALOON

January 8 thru February 4

SHOW: "Carnival of Fun" with Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom, Hank Henry, Eugene Jackson Trio.

ORCH: George Redman.

The first production of the year in this fabulous room is a gala presentation by Eddie Fox, "Carnival of Fun," a title that fits the series of situations to a tee. Show consists of a number of blackouts and scenes which feature the various members of the Silver Slipper Stock Company. . . each a specialist in their particular field and each a big contributor to the fast growing, nationwide reputation of these riotous laugh riots. . . New to the room is SLAPSIE MAXIE ROSENBLOOM, who fractures

(Continued on Page 36)



GOLDEN NUGGET

January 21 thru February 3

SHOW: LaMarr and Poppy, Jimmy Vey, Johnnie Turner

ORCH: Joe Venuti

Headlining the current laff riot in this room is the comedy duo of LAMARR and POPPY, who have made their mark in almost all forms of show business. If at some time you might recognize a certain voice during their routines . . . it's Poppy's. Her voice has been dubbed into many, many of Walt Disney's film shorts. Their knockabout

(Continued on Page 23)

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JANUARY 30, 1954



Siri
"The Dutch Doll"

★
with my
greatest appreciation
to Bill Borden

for making my Embassy Club engagement
a pleasant one to remember



THE
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○—— FRONT COVER ——○

★
MEET . . .

Marvelous and Blonderful JOYCE NIVEN . . . currently in Hollywood making a niche in the film capital . . . We wish her great success and predict a brilliant future.



RAYMOND I. SMITH, general manager of HAROLDS CLUB, was informed this week that details have been completed for the filming of the story "FIVE AGAINST THE HOUSE." A fast moving fiction story, it tells of a group of college students who get the idea of holding up the world's largest gambling house. An exact reproduction of the inside of HAROLDS CLUB is being built in Hollywood where the interior shots are to be filmed.

Several hundred feet of filming will take place in Reno, however. The outside scenes, showing the escape and capture of the students, will be taken on the streets and alleys near the club. The story was featured in serial form in Good Housekeeping last year, and the film rights were purchased by DOYLE PICTURES. That organization plans to send several of their technicians and actors to Reno to attend the school operated by HAROLDS CLUB for gambling dealers and other club personnel.

Several present employes of the club will be used in the picture. The story is highly complimentary to the people of Reno, as well as the Reno Police Department . . .

AGVA: JACK E. LEONARD, the "Humbolt Flash," as he was known around the west side of Chicago, sure does a great job in the new musical "THREE SAILORS AND A GIRL" . . . the MILLS BROTHERS set for the next show at the RIVERSIDE . . . RAY Sawyer, one of the most popular organists to play in Reno for some time, is doing a great job nightly at the MERRY-GO-ROUND on Second Street . . . a Los Angeles Times travel promotion crew is in the RENO AREA to film a half-hour TV short, to be called "Call of the Open Road." They plan to take several hundred feet of Virginia City and the Slide Mountain Ski area . . . The University of California Glee Club set for a concert here on February 1 . . . Old Man Winter dumped another 15 inches of snow on Donner Summit and about a foot on Mt. Rose over the past week-end . . .

EDDIE FITZPATRICK and his boys, together with MERV GRIFFIN, star of the SKYROOM show, did a good job entertaining the boys at Vets Hospital

on Friday afternoon . . . "GIGI," an adult comedy, is current at the RENO LITTLE THEATRE . . . COL. H. J. COX, wealthy oil man from Texas, is building a new 3-million resort on the north shore of Lake Tahoe (on the Nevada side). To be started in the near future, the building will be on a 13-acre tract that Colonel Cox has had for some time. A 100-room hotel, with several guest bungalows, swimming pool, casino and dining rooms, in all a modern Nevada resort . . . ARTHUR ALLEN, manager of the RIVERSIDE HOTEL, off to Phoenix with MRS. ALLEN for a winter vacation . . . RAY PETERSON of RENO was reelected president of the International Rodeo Association. It will be his second term as pres . . . If you notice the WALDORF CLUB "jumping" look inside—you will see ELLA MAE MORSE clowning with GLEN RALFSON at the piano bar, GLEN is in his third year there—a great entertainer at a great club . . .

CURRENT SHOWS: The GOLD ROOM opened with LYNNE CARTER and his FOUR CARTIERS on Wednesday of last week, set for two weeks. This should be a great show. With LYNNE in this presentation are TED SMITH, comic, and the dancing of BARBARA PERRY plus STERLING YOUNG and his orchestra.

THE MAPES SKYROOM opened a new show on Thursday, headed by JACK MARSHALL, the rubber faced comedian. The show includes MURRAY ANDERSON and his Tingling Tunes, EDDIE FITZPATRICK and his orchestra and the MAPES SKYLETS . . .

THE THEATRE RESTAURANT of THE RIVERSIDE is in the second week of the JACK HALEY SHOW. JACK, star of many motion pictures, gags and sings his way into the hearts of his audiences, bringing back touches of nostalgia with his presentation of the old tunes, many of which he introduced in musicals a few years ago. Supporting MR. HALEY in this show are the acts "GAUTIER'S STEEPLECHASE" and the magic of MARVIN RAY, plus the RIVERSIDE STARLETS and the fine music of BILL CLIFFORD and his orchestra . . .

See you next week . . .

—ART STEAGALL, Reno 2-9736.

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CONTINUOUS ENTERTAINMENT
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ERNIE STEWART TRIO
GENE ENGLUND TRIO

HOT HORS D'OEUVRES SERVED AT 5:30 P.M.


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\$1.50
A DELICIOUS ASSORTMENT OF CHINESE
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Directions: Take West Charleston to Arville
Road - Turn left and Straight to Shanty



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GOLDEN NUGGET:

(Continued from Page 19)

comedy here is just one situation after another, all of which amount to a lot of laughs . . . With us again is a young fellow described as "the daring young man on the flying xylophone," JIMMY VEY. He plays a lot of xylophone before going into his dancing, and winds up the sessions by playing and dancing at the same time. His comedy lines, thrown in from time to time, bring out a few gems! . . . Then there's JOHNNIE TURNER . . . and his "Two Guys and a Doll" . . . Here is a clever young man with ventriloquism who puts his talkative friends through their paces with such realism that you actually feel as though they were human . . . and pulls a few tricks that you've never seen done before . . . JOE VENUTI, his swing violin and orchestra are still the main stays of these shows with their fine backing, and for the part they play their own spot of music during the evening . . . It was a big opening for the new group of LISA ALONSO and her TROPICALES at the Nugget this past week . . . a return engagement for them, but their first appearance in the new room. Here are the rhythms of the Latin countries played in all their reality . . .

LAST FRONTIER:

(Continued from Page 17)

lithe body realistically, the beautiful French danseuse moves sinuously around, slithering within and around the entwined arms, legs and body of her partner. Arnaut, with eerie flutes whispering excerpts from Debussy's "Syrinx," hypnotizes the audience into rapt attention. . . . THE ADORABLES add the light and gay froth to a well-integrated show, featuring BOB PEOPLES, while GARWOOD VAN continues to carve a niche for himself and the band among nightclub habitués. . . . Opening February 1 is MARILYN MAXWELL and the KIRBY STONE FOUR.

EL CORTEZ

(Continued from Page 19)

toire consists of tunes from Broadway shows, operettas and the classics, with great showmanship and choral effects. . . . OLIVETTE MILLER is one of the very few jazz harpists in the country today. Reviewers from coast to coast have acclaimed her not only for her rare musical ability, but also as a very attractive woman. Her fine showmanship and entertainment potential should have patrons calling for more.

. . . Lovely BARBARA DAVIS has danced in most of the country's smart nightclubs from coast to coast, and dances in the acro-moderne-fantasy vein. Miss Davis has been dancing since she was 3 years old, and at one time was the youngest member of A.G.V.A. . . . Your favorites, and mine, EDDIE SKRIVANEK and his SEXTETTE from HUNGER remain to back the shows in their usual capable manner. . . . Appearing as an extra added attraction in the Pirates Den is the well-known jazz trio of WILD BILL DAVIS, with CHRIS COLUMBUS on the drums, WONDERFUL SMITH on the guitar, and WILD BILL DAVIS at the Hammond Organ. Here is rhythm beyond the rafters. . . .

SAHARA:

(Continued from Page 18)

enough of him. He inspires a friendly warmth and completely ingratiates himself with his audience. Following his pattern of different entertainment. Donald scores the highlight of the evening with his interpretation of "Me and My Shadow," with a startling climax. We can safely say that Donald O'Connor can write his own ticket in the supper clubs across the country. . . . SID MILLER is another stage personality who is gifted with versatility. He works with Donald on skits that literally have "em rolling in the aisles." What a terrific team they make! In his own right, Mr. Miller proves to have a wonderful sense of comedy. His impersonations are uncannily accurate. He has marvelous sense of timing and is no slouch when it comes to drawing raves from audience and critics alike. . . . SCAT MAN CROTHERS is one of the most hep performers you can witness. He is a jive artist from the word "go" and sings it as though he had created it himself. Man! Cool is the right word for the beat that comes out of Scat Man's throat. If you can sit still while this fellow is in the spotlight, that's ice water you have, brother! . . . Rounding out this elite program is GEORGE PRENTICE. Here is an act that sends the kiddies squealing with delight and tugs at the hearts of the adults. Mr. Prentice presents the "Punch and Judy" routine with lifelike animation. We guarantee you'll like him. . . . Adding colorful beauty and graceful charm to the entire presentation are the gorgeous MORO-LANDIS SAHAREM DANCERS with their spectacular sequences. . . . CEE DAVIDSON and his orchestra wrap up the perfection of the revue with a wonderful musical background. . . . Opening Tuesday, February 2, is MISS KATHRYN GRAYSON.



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Coming Attractions

ON THE FABULOUS STRIP



Flamingo

FEBRUARY 4 THROUGH
FEBRUARY 24

FREDDY MARTIN

DESERT INN

FEBRUARY 2

JACKIE MILES
LES CHARLIVELS

LAST FRONTIER

FEBRUARY 15

RONALD REAGAN
THE CONTINENTALS
HONEY BROS.

SAHARA

FEBRUARY 23

SONJA HENIE
AND HER
COMPLETE ICE REVUE

Thunderbird

FEBRUARY 4 THROUGH
FEBRUARY 17

DIOSA COSTELLO
and SLATE BROS.

El Rancho Vegas

FEBRUARY 3

HARRY JAMES
& HIS ORK

The Sands

FEBRUARY 10 THRU MARCH 9

TALLULAH BANKHEAD

MARCH 10

ROBERT MERRILL



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TUTOR PREDICTS!

200,000 Population
for Clark County, Nevada
by 1960

THUNDERBIRD:

(Continued from Page 19)

cess! Starring with the band is Miss SALLY SWEETLAND, who lends her sweet, soft and marvelously controlled voice to renditions of such as "The Falling Leaves" and "April in Paris."... Brooklyn-born HELEN GALLAGHER makes a return engagement to this room after almost three years, during which time she worked her way up to the starring spot in such a great Broadway musical comedy as "Hazel Flagg." Hers is a cute musical comedy voice of which you don't tire to hear. Her great talents don't end here, however; this little gal is not only a fine singer of songs, but a great dancer as well and a fine actress. She's a natural for such a star builder as PHIL MOORE, who has done her material. . . . New to us in the West is the Eastern comedy team of Pepper DAVIS and Tony REESE, but of whom we are certain to hear a lot more as time goes along. These fellows sing, dance, do acrobatic tumbling, and are the acme of life while on stage. Highlights are Pepper's interpretation of a punchy pugilist . . . and both men shine in their artistry on the twin drums. . . . The KATHRYN DUFFY DANSATIONS have set a couple of routines to this big, new music, one of which features the ballet accomplishments of Miss CHRISTINA CARSON.

open a service for you women only, where all questions concerning your finances will be privately answered . . . You women will soon start an outraged boycott against a certain so-called woman's magazine for its continued affront to the sanctity of marriage, the home and morals . . . Natural brown rice will become a favorite for stuffing fowl, for that extra vegetable and also for the dessert when flavored with sorghum molasses . . . A new paper thin pie-crust which can be sweetened to taste and requires one minute's baking will soon be on the market . . . In 1956 you will use a push-button system on your telephone rather than your present dial . . . Your latest Bruno-designed fashions from Berlin will give all your skirts the short dance-hall flare . . . Arlone Twyman, the interior decorator's interior decorator, will soon issue a home kit of pastel shade paint so that you may tint your light bulbs to match and to flatter your complexions according to her personal chart . . . Unsweetened applesauce eaten before each meal hastens digestion and will cause you to loose about one pound a day if carefully regulated . . . Stoles of flowered cretonne will be the fashion rage this summer.

CRISWELL PREDICTS: Japan enters new era of world power . . . Peace treaty signed with Austria and Germany . . . 5000 ardent Stalinists purged in Russia . . . Revolts sweep South Africa . . . State of Michigan in hysteria over flying saucers . . .

FOR PEOPLE AND PLACES: New York: A huge theft ring will be uncovered which has been dealing in stolen furs . . . Marilyn Monroe: Your screen popularity is on the wane because of poor taste in publicity . . . Peoria: You can expect a tragic fire . . . Secretary of State Dulles: You can expect a turbulent March in international affairs . . . Detroit: New violence will flare in labor circles. Oscar Strauss: Your musical life will be filmed . . . Alaska and Hawaii: You will both become states in 1954 . . . Doctors: Expect an important announcement on public medicine by April 1 . . . Hollywood: You will face the wrath of the Church and the Parent-Teacher Association through your willful violation of the Johnson Code of Decency with 11 coming films . . . Sabena Air Lines: Your new travel rate to Europe will prove a boon to Holland . . . Claudette Colbert: Your next film will be based on the Halo Meadows' play "April Snow" . . . Kansas: You will be the No. 1 aircraft manufacturing state in 1955 . . . The Duke and Duchess of Windsor: You will sensationally seek a separation in court by July 1 . . . Rev. Eileen Bennett: Your new memorial service to be read in

CRISWELL PREDICTS:

(Continued from Page 11)

promise to buy one of the "labor-saving" items you have seen demonstrated in the house. These crooks have filled in an amount above your name, and the fine print on the side of the card, which looks like decoration purposely at first glance, is truly binding. This same ceremony will appear at home demonstrations which your friends or even you may hold through the insistence of a salesman. Remember: These crooks do not advertise in this magazine for they would be refused by your publisher, but rely upon the telephone or personal contact. So please beware!

FOR WOMEN ONLY: One of the best ways for you to make money for your church or club is to have a "kiddie party" where every one must come dressed as a child. Children's games can be played, a raffle held or, the most profitable of all, auctioning of dolls, toy pistols, etc.! Even the most reserved citizens will welcome a short return to childhood, so raise money for this privilege! . . . Your local bank will soon

(Continued on Page 29)

"Carnival of Fun"

A REVUSICAL COMEDY

STARRING

"SLAPSIE" MAXIE
ROSENBLOOM

AND

HANK
HENRY

featuring

THE EUGENE
JACKSON TRIO

AND

SILVER SLIPPER
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LAST FRONTIER
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--- Once again
it was my
pleasure to play
for the wonderful
audiences of
Las Vegas ---

JOHNNIE
TURNER

AND HIS

2 GUYS and A DOLL

POP SQUIRES:

(Continued from Page 5)

velop into thrifty, fast growing trees. We all felt, after that, that cottonwood posts cut from the young trees growing along Las Vegas Creek might be the solution to our shade tree problem.

Some of us had already brought in pepper trees and eucalypti from Southern California, only to learn that it was too cold for them.

Along during the years of early Las Vegas the women of the Mesquite Club sponsored Arbor Days, which we called sort of a holiday and contributed a little money from each person with which we bought and planted cottonwood trees along the streets.

To make sure the young trees had enough water to keep them alive through the heat of the summer months, some of those Mesquite Club women took their garden hose and dragged it along the streets to wherever there was a hydrant near the young trees.

It was a hot, dirty and dusty job, but the women kept our trees alive. Among the active hose-draggers were Delphine Squires, Mrs. David Farnsworth, Mrs. W. N. Schuyler, Mrs. J. M. Heston, Mrs. John S. Park and a few others.

Those trees, many of them, still provide shade along Second, Third, Fourth and other streets until replaced by Japanese umbrella, Arizona ash, elms and other varieties of shade trees until Las Vegas, instead of being a treeless desert, has become a bower of beauty.

Of course we men encouraged the tree-planting movement and helped a little, but the Mesquite Club women really did the job. And finally, along in the early 1920s as near as I can remember without a lot of research, it was suggested to the railroad company that they did not need that land adjoining Clark's Las Vegas Townsite and lying between Stewart Street and Vegas Creek (which by that time was becoming a nuisance of dry, waste land) and Main and Fifth streets.

The argument on our side was that some day Las Vegas would be enough of a city to justify a public park. On the other hand the railroad company could look into the future far enough to see that this particular tract of land might cost them considerable in city taxes down through future years; besides, if anyone was to spend money to make a public park, the city should do it. So very soon the railroad company conveyed 35 acres of land to the city for park purposes only and we really did not know quite what we could do with it.

The first practical use we put any of this land to was as a site for the pro-

posed Federal Building. There was no other site available so a group of men proposed a tract of several acres (the more the better as the Government always kept the ground surrounding its public buildings well landscaped).

The city commissioners agreed to convey the ground necessary for the Federal Building to the Government and also agreed that the redlight district on First near Stewart, which Government agents declared was too near the site, would be moved or done away with. The railroad company agreed to the conveyance of the Federal Building site, and everything was O. K.

The American Legion was later granted a site for their Memorial Auditorium, which was finally conveyed to the city as part of the City Hall property. Other uses were found for portions of this City Park property, the latest being the site for Las Vegas Public Library.

So perhaps, considering the many activities of the Mesquite Club of which Delphine and I were boosters down through the years, it is not too inappropriate that Mayor Baker and the City Board should honor us by naming this parcel of land which contributed so much to the city "Squires Park."

At any rate we thank them for following the suggestion of members of the Mesquite Club in so honoring our "Delphine."

CRISWELL PREDICTS:

(Continued from Page 27)

place of the present funeral service will be adopted by many churches . . . Shreveport, La.: A huge manufacturing plant will soon provide much work in your area through government contracts and private demands . . . Charles Evans Hughes: Your official biography will be issued by late spring and will reveal to the American public many unknown facts of your active life . . . Arizona: Beware of another invasion of beavers . . . Jane Wyman: Your next groom will be from Wall Street!





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Pepper DAVIS and Tony REESE

THANKS TO

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for these 2 great weeks
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.

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of working with - - -

GAIL ROBBINS
SAUTER — FINEGAN



it has been

A PRIVILEGE

and you've made it

A PLEASURE

EZIO PINZA

my sincerest thanks to
the entire show cast,
the patrons of, and the management of
this beautiful hotel —

The Sands

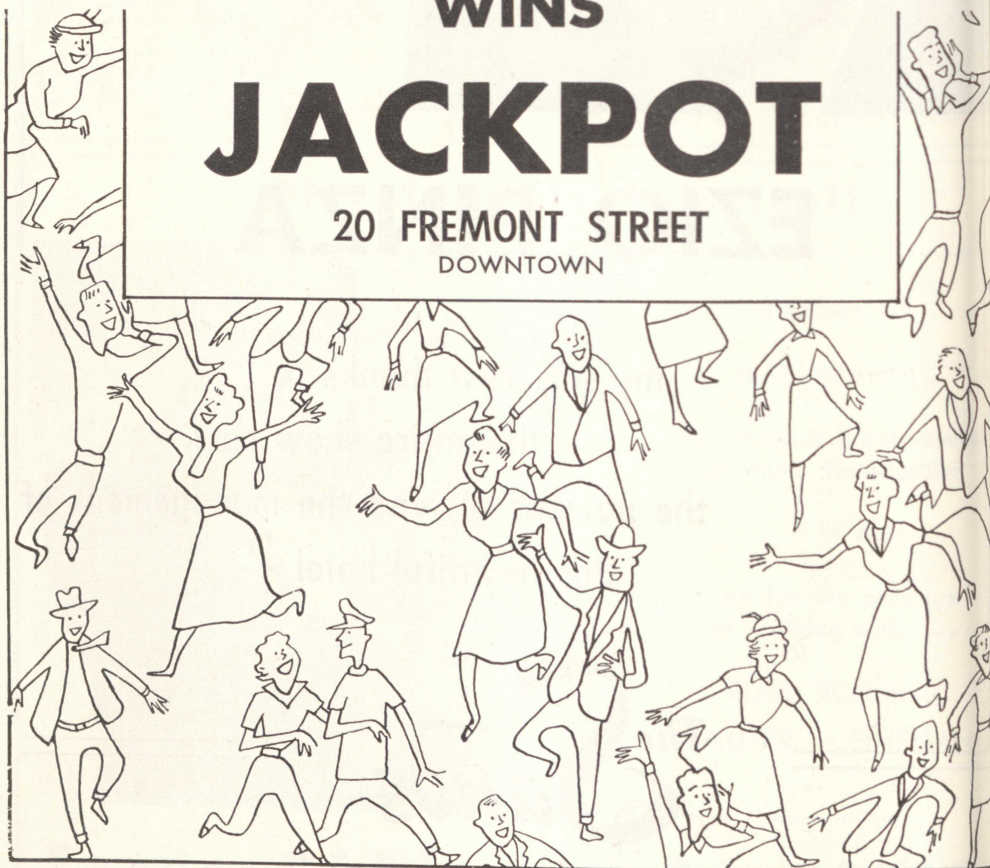
BUCKLEY'S

ANY THREE OF A KIND

WINS

JACKPOT

20 FREMONT STREET
DOWNTOWN



THAT'S FOR SURE:

(Continued from Page 9)

week's issue for the first time has stirred up the conversation dust hereabouts. It highlighted the LOUNGER originals, bearing the BRASS ASS trademark and designed by THELMA and CLAY MILLER. We predicted these designs would revolutionize the industry and it looks as though the revolt will begin right here in our fabulous town. Another ad is located in this edition. Oh, lest we forget, all of these lounge sets do not run as high as the one we're running currently. There are others less costly but just as highly styled. They will appear in future printings.

Our sincere congratulations to JEROME MACK, newly installed president of the local B'NAI B'RITH. Mr. Mack took over his new post at formal proceedings at the SILVER SLIPPER January 24.

When DOROTHY and ED CALLERY began opening parcels at their GALLERY OF GIFTS last week they discovered their new spring assortment of jewelry had arrived. Before the couple could complete their display of this line they were all sold out. The customers who entered the establishment during the unpacking operation were so delighted with the jewelry they just grabbed it—but fast. Now the Callerys are off to Los Angeles to replenish the supply.

On January 27 JERRY and MRS. MACK had a bon voyage party (in Los Angeles) aboard the ship that is heading for Honolulu. The party also honored NATALIE FAYMAN'S birthday. The Faymans and Macks are very good friends and STAN FAYMAN (owner of BOND'S JEWELERS) has a very novel gimmick cooked up. Stan and Natalie stood at the docks and waved farewell to the Macks as the ship left the port. What the Macks didn't know was that the Faymans later boarded a plane headed for Honolulu. We'd like to see the expression on the Macks' faces when they are greeted in Honolulu by the friends who waved goodbye in Los Angeles. We hope someone has the aspirin and smelling salts handy.

Looks like one of our localites is on her way to "making good" in Hollywood. DOLORES FRAZZINI appeared on the TV COLGATE HOUR January 17 and was seen on millions of sets across the country. Now she has been signed to appear on EDDIE CANTOR'S TV shows and the future has a bright outlook for the brunette lovely.

GENERAL IRA HAMILBURG was in town a few days, looking very well and happy over seeing his local friends. We're just wondering if his visit had

anything to do with the race track situation?

Here is an outfit that is really a musical treat, whether you're a long-hair or a bopster. We're referring to the WILD BILL TRIO over at the HOTEL EL CORTEZ. This group can satisfy any of your musical whims.

Seen ringsiding at the DESERT INN were lovely JOAN CAULFIELD (of screen and TV fame) and her husband, FRANK ROSS, producer of the outstanding film "The Robe." The couple expressed great enjoyment over the excellent singing of FRANKIE LAINE. Incidentally, "The Robe" is providing the biggest money-maker since "Gone With the Wind" and just might beat the \$26,000,000 intake chalked up to the Rhett and Scarlett flicker.

CURTIS BRYANT, pit boss at the HOTEL SAHARA, was chuckling softly to himself and we demanded to know the reason. He told us that folks predicted an early end to his marriage when he and his ARLENE became man and wife. Seems that Mrs. Bryant was scheduled to walk the aisle with another man. About a week before that ceremony was to materialize Curtis and Arlene met and discovered life without each other would be pretty barren. So, they were married and spectators claimed it wouldn't last. That was 25 years ago, come February 24. Pretty short marriage!

Everyone is happy that the management of the FLAMINGO HOTEL has picked up the option for the THREE DONS & GINNY. Now the singing group will remain in the Stage Bar until April—or so says the contract. There's no law against picking up the next option, is there?

We would like to send a van load of good wishes to a dear friend in New Jersey. (Brrr! Just the mention of that state brings chills. Wonder how brisk the wind is in that state at this moment?) February 2 is not only Ground Hog Day, it's also the birthday of MARY V. WOURMS, a livewire in the realty line. Many happy returns of the day, Mrs. W. Still sorry we won't be able to share that delicious cake with you and the boys.

There has been a lot of local hulla-baloo, publicizing RONALD REAGAN'S alleged engagement at the HOTEL EL RANCHO VEGAS. Now we learn the handsome Ronald has been booked by the HOTEL LAST FRONTIER, instead. He will open there on February 14, along with THE CONTINENTALS, THE HONEY BROTHERS and the BLACKBURN TWINS. What a wonderful line-up of talent! Oh, here's good news for the MARY KAYE TRIO fans! The group will be back in the Gay '90s Room some time in June.

(Continued on Page 34)

THAT'S FOR SURE:

(Continued from Page 33)

JAKE FREEDMAN proved a highly affable host when the JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE held its annual MARCH OF DIMES cocktail party at the SANDS HOTEL January 24. Mr. F. never fails to display his expansive personality for all charitable events.

Attention, dog lovers! A good friend of ours has a standard, male French poodle she would like to present to someone who could give him a good home. The dog is in perfect health and answers to the name of "Pierre." The gal who has him loves canines but has too many others to take care of at present. So if you're interested in acquiring a pedigreed poodle, call us at 4922 and we'll pass along any information you may desire.

According to our humble observations, Hollywood had better call in more script writers to insure more of a variation in their screen stories. Correct us if we're wrong. We've noticed that three different flickers have had virtually the identical plot. They are "Sahara," starring HUMPHREY BOGART—"The Last of the Comanches," starring BRODERICK CRAWFORD—and "El Alemein," starring SCOTT BRADY. In the latter (recently at the FREMONT) some of the fighting scenes are familiar enough to have been taken from the Crawford starrer. Oh, well! We could be mistaken—or else someone is trying to cut down expenses.

HARRY LEVY, owner of the two FOOD CENTERS, credits his physical stature to marriage. When Harry was married at 19 he was 5 feet 2 inches and weighed a scant 120 pounds. Just one year later the statistics grew to 6 feet 2 inches, with the scales tipping the 200 mark. At present Mr. L. is mighty close to 240 pounds with a chest that would make a wrestler swoon with envy—59 inches. Man! Mrs. Levy certainly must have fed him some vitamins!

Watch for FRANK SINATRA'S new recording, "Young at Heart," bearing the Capitol label. It looks as though it will be one of the best selling discs of 1954.

In view of his serious illness last year, we're happy to report that BENNY GOODMAN is ready to give fall concerts. His outfit will consist of six men, featuring clarinet solos by the maestro. Scores by Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms will fill the program.

CHUCK BENNETT, pit boss (graveyard) at the SANDS HOTEL, has returned after a four-day vacation in Los Angeles. We wouldn't be too surprised if Chuck devoted his vacation to escorting lovely singing star HELEN O'CON-

FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

NELL. This still looks like a serious duo. Another vacationer returned his pit boss post at the same hotel. IRVING DEVINE is back from a journey to TUCSON. Mr. D. is wearing a deep tan and seems to favor western outfits now. Could that be because he goes horseback riding daily? (Irving also associated with the NEW YORK MEATS & PROVISION CO.)

EDDIE FISCHER really selected a true-blue champ when he hired an advance publicity man for himself. The fellow whose services the singer was fortunate in acquiring is BARNY ROSS, a personality who is known to all.

Singer BOBBY SHORT is really shattering the applause meter in the Gay '90s Room of the HOTEL LAST FRONTIER. The lad is an international favorite and last appeared in the Paris spot "Spivy's" before returning to the States. His recordings preceded him here and his personal appearance is chalking up another city of supporters on his fan list.

We don't know! Sometimes we just can't believe the things we learn about folks. KEEFE BRASSELE (currently at the FLAMINGO HOTEL) recently celebrated his 29th birthday. Of course this is far from being a remarkable incident. However, during his young life he also celebrated his 14th wedding anniversary. Most amazing of all, he and his charming frau weren't even born in the hills of Tennessee. How about that?

Another lucky fellow who recently terminated his vacation is HANK CULLEY, graveyard pit boss at the HOTEL EL RANCHO VEGAS. Hank is another believer in the old saying: "It's nice to have a vacation but it's nicer to be home again." And they are the same sentiments of his fellow employees and friends who missed the lad during his nine days of freedom.

Songstress MAE WILLIAMS is being currently hailed as the most individual stylist in her singing and performance by artists, critics and supper club owners. She is presently appearing in the Boulevard Room of the HOTEL JEFFERSON in St. Louis, Mo. From collective reactions, it looks as though this will be THE year for Miss Williams.

For the first time in Las Vegas supper clubbers will be able to see an entirely British revue. The management of the HOTEL LAST FRONTIER has booked the "Piccadilly Revels" for an April engagement.

JOHNNY MATSON (who last appeared here at the SILVER SLIPPER) spent his holidays performing for troops in Austria, Italy and Germany. He is scheduled to return to the States this Spring and will head for Las

(Continued on Page 35)

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JANUARY 30, 1954

THAT'S FOR SURE:

(Continued from Page 34)

Vegas. Seems the lad is chilled to the marrow by the weather "over there" and is looking forward to our thawing sunshine.

Oops! Again we have to confess to being behind the calendar. So, we send belated (but sincere) birthday wishes to JIMMY GRIPPO, who celebrated his natal day, January 25, in Miami Beach, Fla. Jimmy is a wonderful prestidigitator and during our Eastern days we spent many hours watching his magical feats.

While on the subject of Miami Beach, the grapevine informs us that JERRY BROOKS provided an exciting opening night of his new PATIO, located in that southern city. Jerry is associated in the spot with SAMMY SOKOL and the lovely MONA BARRY, of Paramount Pictures fame. PAUL BRUUN, columnist of the "Florida Sun," certainly praised Jerry highly for providing M.B. with three gorgeous night spots. In case you didn't know it, Jerry purchased the old NUT CLUB and replaced it with CIRO'S. Then, he took over the old CHATEAU and erected the LA RUE. The Patio stands upon the grounds that once supported a spot known as MOTHER KELLY'S. We join Las Vegas in sending Jerry wishes for boundless success in his newest venture.

We simply can't allow another week to pass by without sending warm thanks to A. I. RUBENSTEIN, a Denver, Colo. subscriber. This wonderfully thoughtful gentleman never fails to send us clippings of articles (from Denver periodicals), pertaining to Las Vegas happenings. The last one he forwarded was a big spread about a 64 year old janitor who took 35 cents and ran it up to \$20,000, right here in our town. And—it only took six hours to amass this small fortune. Here is the step-by-step development that brought happiness to a deserving man. GEORGE ADAMS mopped the floors for a local horse room. Early one morning he crossed 35 cents down on the Keno counter, in exchange for a ticket that was to win a life of leisure for him. The winning numbers brought him \$110. Adams went over to the black-back table and from 10:15 a.m. until 4:00 p. m., increased his winnings to \$20,000 odd dollars. The story appeared in our local papers but we thank Mr. Rubenstein for the remainder and wanted to pass it along to our out-of-town subscribers.

Beginning with the February show at the HOTEL LAST FRONTIER (when MARILYN MAXWELL opens) the new choreographer at that spot

FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

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will be LOUIS DE PRON. He is the talented gentleman who arranged the choreography for the DONALD O'CONNOR show (at the HOTEL SAHARA) and also for the flicker "Walking My Baby Back Home." On the strength of these achievements, you'll be seeing some mighty fine productions at the Frontier . . . and that's for sure.

FLAMINGO:

(Continued from Page 17)

"Jolson, Durante, Cantor and Me" material. Outstanding in his work with GENE WESSON was himself as the heckling Texan. Besides being "straight" for Keefe, Wesson is your master of ceremonies for the evening. . . . The FOUR KING SISTERS have outdone themselves with their all-new act . . . they sing, dance, do comedy and impressions of famous sister groups (including themselves at a very early age) and, all in all, turn in a fine job of well planned entertaining. . . . Appearing with the King Sisters is the master of the steel guitar, ALVINO REY, who via the steel and string box carries on a lengthy and lovable conversation with one of the beautiful Kings . . . this during the phrases of "Mama Blues". . . . The seven-man combo of Alvino Rey join the Sisters in a combined rendition of the ever-popular "Farewell Blues". . . . choreography and all! . . . The 3 Ds is a fast moving song and dance trio made up of two "hims" and a "her". . . The fellows dance up a sudden storm with all sorts of difficult rhythm patterns, and the little lady sings a rhythm tune like you've never heard before. . . . RON FLETCHER's production of "Having a Ball" is one of his best to date, and is executed in flawless fashion by his fine dancers. The costuming in both productions is great, but it's the dancing that does it! . . . The man with the band is TORRIS BRAND. . . .

EL RANCHO VEGAS:

(Continued from Page 18)

excellent musicians and singers. Their four-part vocals are very clean, and each member of the group is an artist in his own right. You can hear more of them after the show in the Stage Door Lounge. . . . DOT DEE and her EL RANCHO DANCERS do a specialty with Jack Carson which they call a beauty contest . . . for MALE members of the audience, with the participants stealing the show. The cooperation is marvelous. . . .

JANUARY 30, 1954

PAGE 13:

(Continued from Page 13)

and daughter are doing fine, but father could bear a little bit of watching for a few days. . . .

One of the greatest talents in show business today is SAMMY DAVIS JR., and we say that with no reservation whatsoever! Hundreds of times I've heard people agree on the comment that he does a better job than the person he is impersonating, which is true from the top. So why have they been in Las Vegas for what is currently their 15th engagement, and this is the first time they've had top billing? Hoosbin-goofin? Give this young man a chance, and he'll be one of the biggest stars of our times! . . . And on this same bill at the Last Frontier Hotel is one of the most unusual acts you'll ever see in this fabulous town of ours where "we've seen everything". . . . JANIK & ARNAUT . . . this little lady is as limber as the reptile she pretends to be. Equally important is the steel-muscled body of her partner who must furnish a rigid trunk for her slow, smooth, slithering. You gotta see these two!

Within the next couple of weeks or so there will be a driving range in operation for your convenience on The Strip. It will be located, I'm told, behind the Thunderbird Hotel toward Paradise Valley Road. LUIS SALDINI, of the dining room there, will operate the range which will be for daytime operation only, at the beginning until the weather warms up, and night driving will then be ready for your use. Luis has secured as his pro for the range ROSS MONAQUE, from Chicago, Ill., but who has toured the tournament circuits throughout the country and is widely known for his prowess in the field. . . .

Why is it that money goes to money? JIMMY YAO, the "Prince of Pearls," was telling me the other night that his grandmother, who passed away recently, had left him a 2½-million dollar estate in Pennsylvania. This he needs like a cavern in his cranium! He's complaining 'cause he'll have to pay more taxes! Well . . . I'd probably complain, too, under the same circumstances. However, I don't think I need worry my poor little haid about such circumstances in view of current circumscribed currency shortages concerning yours truly. . . . Try buying a house and furnishing it . . . you'll find out what I'm talking about . . . And when you DO . . . let me know, 'cause I don't know what I'm saying! . . .

I'd be willing to say that the jump-in'est room in town, on a night-to-night basis, would be the PIRATES DEN at EL CORTEZ downtown. Have

FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

you heard WILD BILL DAVIS and his cohorts in musical mayhem as yet. These three guys get more rhythm out of their instruments in eight bars than most people could get out of every bar on Fremont Street. Wild Bill plays the Hammond Organ, and right away some of you "sharpies" are gonna back off . . . and only because you haven't heard him play the organ. This man really swings! Wonderful Smith just stands there smiling as he plays, but there's music falling out in all directions from that guitar of his. The animated section of the trio is Chris Columbus. . . . this man is a continual mass of motion while he's playing, and he's getting results from same, I'm here to tell you! This trio plays between shows in the Pirates Den. . . . Catch 'em!

Well, that's got to do it for this week if I'm to keep a smattering of my standing with the printing staff at Marc Wilkinson's. Some day I'll get my column in on time and they'll turn it back to me figuring that I've had a ghost writer do it for me! . . . About the only thing ghostly about yours truly, at this point, is the nothingness in the pit of my stomach. No food since 5 a. m. . . . and it is now the same as of p. m.; same day of course! . . .

I'll be looking for you around the metropolis, so say the good word when you see me! . . . And until then I'm hopin' to be your ever loving . . . JOHNNY.

SILVER SLIPPER:

(Continued from Page 19)

every audience with his "Romeo and Juliet" scene with the beautiful VIRGINIA DEW in the role of Juliet. . . . Featured in the show is the EUGENE JACKSON TRIO with rapid-fire singing and dancing. Young Jackson first attained popularity as "Farina" in the legendary "Our Gang" comedies. . . . One of the greatest comedy men in the business is the master-mugger HANK HENRY, one of the main reasons for the continued success of the shows in this room. When he and the diminutive SPARKY KAYE come together in a scene roars of laughter are assured. . . . For feminine beauty, each scene in which they appear is enriched by Misses VIRGINIA DEW and JOAN WHITE, both very talented and beautiful additions to any show. . . . Also bolstering the scenes with their able and needed assistance are "Smilin'" Jimmy Cavanaugh and Bill Willard. . . . Music for all these Silver Slipper revues is arranged and supplied by GEORGE REDMAN and the members of his fine group of musicians.

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JANUARY 30, 1954

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YOU SEE IT WITHOUT SPECIAL GLASSES

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Screen Play by TALBOT JENNINGS, JAN LUSTIG and NOEL LANGLEY - Based on Sir Thomas Malory's "LE MORTE D'ARTHUR"
Directed by RICHARD THORPE - Produced by PANDRO S. BERMAN

SANDS:

(Continued from Page 18)

chosen repertoire. He chooses favorites from leading Broadway musicals and spices them with his inimitable interpretations of classics. Mr. Pinza needs and uses no artifices to capture his audience. His voice is magnetic and inspires complete attention and admiration. . . . Although GEORGIE TAPPS has appeared locally before, we must confess he is returning with a new type of act which we haven't seen previously. Because our publication goes to press before we have had the opportunity to catch his opening we can't pass along any definite run-down. However, knowing the wonderful showmanship Georgie has always displayed, we're certain that this group will prove tops. . . . Rounding out the bill is our old friend PROFESSOR IRWIN COREY. This comedian never fails to cast hysterical stitches throughout the audience. His interpretation of the old absent-minded professor has instigated complete enjoyment in audiences from coast to coast. New York's "smart set" was notoriously known for its suppression of blatant reaction. However, we used to see the highbrows let down their mink eyebrows every time Corey

FABULOUS LAS VEGAS

- 37 -

was in the spotlight. His disjointed sentences really fracture you. His entire act is cleverly framed by his baggy trousers and ill-fitting jacket. . . . The COPA GIRLS look very chic in their beautiful costumes and greatly heighten the success of the show with their beauty and grace. . . . RAY SINATRA and his music makers provide the ultimate in musical backgrounding.

DESERT INN:

(Continued from Page 18)

lation. . . . Lovely CAROL LYNNE is well known to eastern audiences. Her ice sequences display an admirable versatility, embellished with charming grace. She is a real trouper. . . . The DONN ARDEN DANCERS present two more of their stupendous productions. One is a beautiful spectacle on ice, featuring Miss Lynne, Flo Walters and Jimmy Baron. The other is an African background with torrid rhythm. . . . As usual, CARLTON HAYES and his men deserve the highest commendation for their marvelous musical contribution to this four-star show. . . . Opening Tuesday, February 2, are JACKIE MILES and LES CHARLIVELS.

JANUARY 30, 1954

... in the Fabulous **COPA Room**

JACK ENTRATTER
PRESENTS

MR. EZIO
Pinza

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GEORGE TAPPS
AND
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PROFESSOR IRWIN COREY
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KEEFE BRASSELE
MORTY JACOBS AT THE PIANO
KING SISTERS
WITH
ALVINO REY
GENE WESSON
3 D's
FLAMINGO STARLETS
A RON FLETCHER PRODUCTION
TORIS BRAND & ORK
☆ IN THE STAGE BAR ☆

Continuous Entertainment
FEATURING
3 DONS & GINNY
DACITA and HER LATIN RHYTHMS
BOBBY PAGE & ORK

Phone 4000

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Late Show
Sat. Nite
1:30 a.m.

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"MR. RHYTHM"
FRANKIE LAINE
With Carl Fischer at the Piano

JACK DURANT

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DONN ARDEN DANCERS
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