FOLLIES TAKES HOLLYWOOD BY STORM

Dreams Come True For Show’s Performers

Most women and men in professional dancing careers are considered too old to perform when they become thirty.

Now, at 50, 60, 70, 80 and even older, they have a second chance to grace the stage, and this time in a place that not only accepts, but celebrates the beauty of their age and experience.

These women are coming back from raising families, second careers not related to show business, or all-out retirement to wait their turn in dance studios in Las Vegas, Los Angeles or Palm Springs and audition in front of a panel of benevolent, yet exacting, critics, who make the final decision as to who will have the chance to become a “Long-Legged Lovely.”

And in the Oscar-nominated documentary “Still Kicking,” that opportunity is a dream come true.

A CONTINUOUS CHALLENGE

But “Still Kicking” does more than chronicle a dream. The Follies dancers interviewed reveal how their self-image and sense of worth have improved because they continually challenge themselves and their bodies.

The film comes full circle as Follies Man Riff Markowitz watches his creation unfold and affect thousands of people, from the women he selects for his cast to the dazzled patrons who shake his hand after every show. Markowitz’s message resonates: Life is far from over when the AARP card comes in the mail. That was the life behind “Still Kicking” producer Mel Damski’s powerful movie.

FOLLIES HAS PLAYED TO MORE THAN A MILLION FANS

Now in its eighth season, The Palm Springs Follies has performed for more than one million theatre-goers from throughout the world.

Each year, annual attendance tops 180,000—more than any other theatre of its kind. Not bad for a jewel box theatre in Palm Springs!

DOCUMENTARY FILM ON PALM SPRINGS FOLLIES WINS OSCAR NOMINATION

A little film.
A big message.
A huge nomination....
And when we say huge, we mean huge! We’re talking Academy Award Nomination, for a short documentary about The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies.

When noted filmmaker Mel Damski approached Follies impresario Riff Markowitz about making a documentary film about the Follies, Markowitz was reticent. Could a film truly capture the spirit behind his beloved Plaza Theatre production? Would the singers and dancers and long-legged lovelies be as captivating in the cinema as they are on stage?

He needn’t have worried. Damski’s film, “Still Kicking: The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies,” proved to be brilliant. It headlined film festivals, came under Academy consideration, and then finally walked off with an Oscar Nomination for Best Documentary Short Subject. As seen through Damski’s lens, beauty and spirit transcend stage and screen.

FILM OFFERS SIMPLE MESSAGE

The message of the film is simple. It’s the same message that Follies audiences have celebrated for years: aging can be sexy, vital and filled with the satisfaction of accomplishment if life still has meaning and purpose. Proof of this message is on the Plaza Theatre stage every day.

The 39-minute film chronicles life at the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies—from auditions to opening night—through the eyes of dancers, singers, choreographers and producer Riff Markowitz. But the issues tackled are much deeper than the normal audition or opening night jitters that plague most performers.

The issues of beauty and aging are debated head on, shedding new light on how society sees our older population. Damski’s goal was to change those views in every person who saw his film.
Your favorite restaurant for a great lunch and dinner in a romantic atmosphere from 11:00AM, 7 days a week!

★ Our famous fresh salads and sandwiches from $6.25
★ Lunch Specialties from $7.50
★ Dinner Specialties from $11.95 (includes your salad & bread choice)
★ Great Sunday Brunch from $6.95

Welcome to our famous "Brown Derby Lounge"
Every Wed. Thru Sun.
at 6:00PM
Live entertainment and dancing with JIMMY FONTANE!
We serve our complete menu!!

Bring in your Follies ticket and with the purchase of lunch or dinner take your choice of a complementary Toll House Pie, Lemon Lush or Apple Crisp dessert.

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Cedar Creek Inn
Palm Springs

JOIN US FOR LUNCHEON FASHION SHOW!
CALL FOR DETAILS
THEATRE GROUP PLANS UNIQUE PLAYHOUSE FOR COMING SEASON

March 25, 1936—Whereas the news of the formation of Little Theatre groups in communities has become the common thing, the inception of the “Palm Springs Experimental Theatre” proves to have real news value and to be unique, something in which villagers should take a keen and active interest.

This organization has as its instigator and director John Harkrider, with eighteen years of theatrical background. For eight years he was associated with Florenz Ziegfeld as art director and co-producer, and is at present art director for Universal and Goldwyn pictures. Mr. Harkrider organized the American Theatre group in East Hampton, Long Island, which is outstanding in its field.

Next season will find in Palm Springs a theatre building of the most modern type, fully equipped for use. No funds are solicited, and it will be a self-supporting non-profit institution. It is only hoped by the organizers that a site may be donated.

In this theatre will be tried out new plays written by leading playwrights especially for this purpose. In each of these plays, the leads will be taken by some star selected for the part, with support to come, as far as possible, from local talent.

Abdication of British King Edward VIII Set for Today

Dec. 10, 1936—Britain and her dominions beyond the sea awaited the announcement today that Edward VIII—the king who never crowned—had decided to give up his throne so he can marry Mrs. Wallace Warfield Simpson.

Press, public and most members of Parliament expected that Prime Minister Baldwin will inform the House of Commons that the King has decided to abdicate. Baldwin has communicated the King’s decision to the British Cabinet.

MASTER SHOWMAN BRINGS NEW LIFE TO YESTERDAY’S MEMORIES

Historic Theatre Now Home to Internationally Famed Fabulous Palm Springs Follies

By Kelly Greene

It takes the mind of a dreamer, the hands of an artist, and the eyes of a child to turn fantasy into reality.

Eight years ago, Riff Markowitz turned his fantasy into the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, quite possibly the most successful theatrical production of its kind. And with the Follies, the fantasies of time long ago become dazzlingly real to thousands of people every year.

DREAMS BORN IN CINEMAS

Born in New York and raised in Canada, Markowitz grew up when the essence of vaudeville had faded from the American landscape. But witnessing the glamour of Old Hollywood in Saturday movie matinees, he fantasized about making his own movies—directing, editing and refining the films he saw on the screen. It was in those cinemas that his show business dreams were born.

And big dreams they were. Markowitz was not content to simply follow convention and become the doctor or lawyer everyone expected. Instead, he chose a very different and colorful route—hearing to run away and join the circus at the age of 15. There was never a more ambitious clown.

From that point on, his career blossomed. Life at the circus was difficult at best, so Markowitz tried his hand as a radio disc jockey. After considerable success, the next obvious step was the small screen.

TV CAREER BEGINS AS WEATHER MAN

Markowitz’ career in the burgeoning television industry began by reading the news and weather for local stations. He then moved on to the big time in children’s programming and variety television. His 40 years in show business include specials starring talents such as Crystal Gayle, George Burns, Wolfman Jack, Tom Jones, Dionne Warwick, Marcel Marceau, Lauren Bacall and Raquel Welch. He also produced several highly acclaimed specials starring comedian Red Skelton, culminating in a Royal Command Performance at London’s Royal Albert Hall. In 1984, Markowitz produced an award-winning, star-studded tribute to Neil Simon.

Just prior to his retirement, he was the creator and producer of the series “The Hitchhiker,” HBO’s award-winning dramatic series, a focus on some of the world’s most successful syndicated shows. Markowitz also co-founded the Canadian pay TV network, First Choice Canadian, and a cutting-edge post-production facility, the Magnetic North Corporation.

But then there came the Follies...

CALLED UPON TO REVITALIZE HISTORIC THEATRE

Markowitz made a valiant attempt at retirement in 1991, choosing to relax poolside in La Quinta.

It didn’t last. Fortunately, members of the Palm Springs City Council asked him and partner Mary Jardin for help. The Historic Plaza Theatre was vacant, and the city fathers were looking for a way to revitalize the former movie house. If anyone could be the visionary Palm Springs was looking for, it was Riff Markowitz—definitely a case of being at the right place at the right time for everyone involved. With a history rich in Hollywood personalities, the Plaza Theatre was ready for a renewal. That renewal, Markowitz realized, could take shape in his concept of the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies.

Eight years and almost a million audience members later, The Follies has proven to be an amazing success.

Now as producer, director and the inimitable Follies Man, Riff Markowitz looks upon the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies as his greatest achievement, a fantasy that is now a remarkable and stunning reality for not only himself, but for everyone who chooses to defy the concept of growing old and embrace age...and dream.

Operation Halts Girl’s Laughing

March 3, 1936—Ten days of spasmodic laughing ended today for Teresa Hawkins.

The 19-year-old brunette business college student rested comfortably today after an abdominal operation to relieve a psychoneurotic condition.

She had been laughing and gagging since February 28, when the attack seized her while she watched a show.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hawkins, said that their daughter should be well enough to leave their Palm Springs home and return to college within two or three weeks.

Dr. Harold Frinley, who performed the surgery, said “Everything went better than expected and we’re all pleased with the result.”
In the 1930s, America began to sing along with the movies, and the problems of the Great Depression suddenly disappeared into the kaleidoscope patterns of women and costume and the heart-stirring music of Irving Berlin.

The 1930s was the start of the lavish Hollywood musical. The advent of the talkie picture not only made dialogue and music staples in feature films, but suddenly tap dancing, production numbers and special effects could make a movie transcend reality and take audiences to a world where life was a song and every story had a happy ending.

In the real world, life was not the bowl of cherries that the screen portrayed, and audiences looked for the escape that the movie musical could provide. In the 1930s, the Great Depression extended across an entire nation, crushing hopes, life savings and the ability to find work. People traveled across the country to find jobs to support their families and the Dust Bowl brought thousands of farmers from Oklahoma and Arkansas to California, where they could find jobs as migrant farm workers, menial laborers, or maybe, if they were lucky, a job in a Hollywood studio.

But even when spirits were down, music could still cheer a nation. During the 1930s, happiness came in the form of Irving Berlin.

America's most prolific songwriter was born in 1888, near Siberia, Russia. From the most inhospitable of surroundings came the most lovable of songwriter, a man who was not only admired for the music he wrote, but for the inspiration he gave America.

The son of a cantor, Berlin came to the United States at the age of five. Living on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, he sang in the streets for pennies before he realized he had a penchant for writing songs.

His first published song, "Marie from Sunny Italy" was sold while he was working as a singing waiter, but by the time "Alexander's Ragtime Band" came along in 1911, his restaurant days were over, and he devoted himself full-time to music.

Through the course of his career, Berlin wrote more than 1500 songs for his music publishing house, stage musicals, and later, films. That is a great career for any writer, but for a man who could only write and play in the key of F#, it was an amazing feat. (Berlin had a special contraption built onto his piano that could transpose his compositions into any key.)

Berlin's awards and honors were plentiful. He received the Medal of Merit for his stage and screen musical "This is the Army," the Congressional Gold Medal for "God Bless America," an Academy Award for the song "White Christmas," which he wrote for the film "Holiday Inn," and the French Legion of Honor Medal.


In 1936, when he was 96 years old, Berlin received the Medal of Liberty from President Ronald Reagan and two years later, he was the grand guest of a star-studded New York gala benefit in the honor of his 100th birthday.

The movie musicals that took the sting out of the Depression for Americans were mastered by Busby Berkeley, who, as choreographer and later director, pushed the envelope of possibility and turned the small Broadway stage into the endless and gigantic soundstage, layering sets, props, costumes, dancers and stories into the production numbers that became his trademark.

Berkeley came to the Warner Brothers Studio in 1933 and began his experimentation with the technology that later transformed into his kaleidoscope patterns of women's bodies, huge staircases and waterfalls. Berkeley was also an innovator, developing new camera angles, incredible travel shots and the incredible travel shots and the

1940s Jukebox Jitterbug

The Jukebox, the icon of American culture in the '40s, provided music to American teens—and for the fighting boys and girls overseas, the jukebox represented a moment of home. The Jukebox could not go deep in the European and Pacific theaters, but the Jitterbug could—through the facilities of the USO and the Armed Forces Radio.

While America and its Allies were fighting a war in Europe and the Pacific, teens were discovering that the new music coming out over the airwaves made them want to grab a partner and dance until they dropped.

The Jukebox entered the soda shops, juke joints, roadhouses and clubs of Middle America, and finally, young people could choose exactly what songs they wanted to hear by inserting a nickel and waiting for their selection to play. Every gathering place in America, it seemed, sported a jukebox, because band members had been drafted to serve (or play) for their country overseas. Songs like "In The Mood," "Sing, Sing, Sing," "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree," and "It Don't Mean A Thing" were just as recognizable, or even more so, than the "Star Spangled Banner."

Young people in the United States were having to face the horrible reality of war and the fact that they, too, would soon be asked to join up in the armed forces and fight for their country. Women who stayed stateside worked with the USO and Jitterbugged with the troops at dances, to give the boys one last taste of American hospitality before they were shipped off.

The Jitterbug was the last bastion of couple dancing before the 1950s brought in the "Twist," when suddenly, all of the cool cats danced alone. But the Jitterbug was always the style that kept any dance contest going, whether the contest benefited the kids, or the boys overseas. Contests lasted up to 48 hours, with languid, exhausted teens leaning on each other to stay on their feet.

The end of World War II did not mean the end of the Jitterbug. Bobbysoxers danced well into the 1950s, and even now in the 1990s, with the resurgence of swing and the Jitterbug, bobbysoxers old and young can remember the dances that made them glad to be alive.
May 3, 1936—Construction began today on the Plaza Theatre, one of the major units of the Palm Springs Plaza project. The new theatre, unquestionably the finest in this county, will have 350 seats and will cost about $53,000, which, with the cost of the land it will occupy, will be an improvement valued at well over $60,000.

Schenck & Williams, architects of Dayton, Ohio, have incorporated some features not to be found in any theatre in the West.

Seated in the huge auditorium, one will have the feeling of being seated beneath the blue dome of the sky, in the heart of a large, illuminated city, for the walls will consist of skyscrapers, faint lights of the windows illuminating the auditorium, while indirect lighting on both sides will reflect the light from the sky-blue ceiling, flecked with tiny stars. All lighting will be indirect; not a light will be in view.

The building will be very large, 68 by 158 feet in size, and will be in the northwest part of the Plaza development. It will set back 40 feet from Palm Canyon Drive.

In front, adjoining the theatre will be H. E. Patterson’s Plaza Pharmacy; on the other side will be another shop corresponding in design and architecture.

Entering through a picturesque patio, one first enters the large theatre lobby and then the main foyer, flanked on each side by rooms such as the press office, where newspaper reporters can make themselves at home to interview celebrities; the lounge alcove; theatre manager Earl Strebe’s business office; men’s and women’s rooms, and in a corner, the janitors’ and ushers’ rooms.

Instead of a break between the main section and the balcony, the seats will extend from the stage to the rear in one solid sweep, 210 of the seats being above the lobby, foyer and rooms alongside the entrance. Entrance to the auditorium will be through tunnels on each side of the foyer. The seating plan insures proper slope so that the screen will be plainly visible from every seat for tall and short alike.

Plaza Project Includes 34 Shops and 29 Bungalows

The Plaza project, under the personal management of Robert Ransom and being built by contractor W. Q. Warner, is now under way in earnest and is scheduled to be completed by September 15.

Thirty-four shops and 29 bungalows will be under construction within the next few months. The 115-car garage is nearly finished; the 350-seat theatre has been started; next will be the great public market on Indian Avenue, the pharmacy and two-story office building on Palm Canyon Drive, the large restaurant in the center of the project; the service station on Indian Avenue; and the large storage building on Indian Avenue back of the theatre and on the northeast corner of the property. The 34 shops and 29 bungalows are in addition to these.

Ten of the shops will front on Palm Canyon Drive and the balance will face the 100-foot plaza. In back of the shops will be the bungalows, abutting the garage and theatre, with an interesting little patio and lawn for each, with vine-covered archways over the entrances from the street.

In the center, near the restaurant and sidewalk cafe, will be a beautiful fountain in one side of the plaza and another to correspond on the other side, near the theatre. Most of the trees that stood originally on the property have been transplanted to the permanent locations, and others are boxed to be placed in the ground at a later date.

Manager Earle Strebe has leased the theatre, H. E. “Pat” Patterson will operate the drug store, and manager Ransom announces that most of the shops have been leased.

Allan Jones Attends Desert Riders Dinner and Party

Dec. 5, 1936—On Monday night at the Field Club the Desert Riders provided a grilled chicken dinner for more than 70 Riders and guests. Lots of fun was had by one and all, with an old-fashioned hoedown following dinner. There was singing, music, and Indian dances by White Flower, who was there in full regalia and her accompanying accordion. Among the singers was Allan Jones, lead in “Show Boat,” in which he sings the Kern and Hammerstein songs as though they were written just for him.

Following dinner and dancing, the party broke up, with one section off to the Racquet Club and other guests heading to the Ransom hacienda, where more singing was done by Allan Jones. This time, he was quite visible to his appreciative audience, unlike his “invisible” appearance in “The Great Ziegfeld,” in which he supplied the off-camera singing voice for Dennis Morgan.

Famed Ventrioloquist Makes National Radio Debut

Dec. 17, 1936—Edgar Bergen, a frequent visitor to Palm Springs, and Charlie McCarthy appeared on radio for the first time, debuting on The Rudy Vallee Show on NBC.

Film Star Returns to Palm Springs Home

April 12, 1936—Harold Lloyd, popular film star, and his wife, the former Mildred Davis, returned to their Palm Springs home today after a week in Los Angeles, where Mr. Lloyd had been attending a production meeting at Paramount.

His latest picture, “The Milky Way,” is scheduled to begin its run at the Plaza Theatre in two weeks. The film has been well received by audiences.

Plane Service Christened by Palm Springs Air Lines

May 15, 1936—Inaugurating a new plane service with the Palm Springs Airlines, T. W. A. officials arrived in Palm Springs Sunday. Traffic Manager George T. Cussen, Publicity Director C. W. Dayhoff, and C. S. Pullerton were present, as well as nine Hollywood beauties.

The inaugural trip is in connection with the new service now in effect by the local airlines, connecting desert resorts to transcontinental plane routes.

Leaving Palm Springs at 3:15 p.m., a plane arrives at Grand Central Airport at 4:15 p.m., connecting with the T. W. A. Sky Chief departing for the east at 4:30 p.m.
For the best in Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Glenn Miller, Patti Page, CBS Network News and nationally syndicated “The Osgood Files”............. Listen every morning to the one and only............

AL LOHMAN

PLAZA THEATRE WILL OFFER HALLOWEEN TREAT

June 1, 1938—The Plaza Theatre has announced a special one-night showing of the classic 1921 film “Nosferatu” this Halloween evening.

The black-and-white early German silent horror movie stars Max Schrek in the title role, giving a portrayal of a vampire that is one of the most blood-chilling ever portrayed. Featured with Mr. Schrek, whose vampire is the ugliest and most terrifying ever seen, is Greta Schroeder.

Because of the extreme intensity of the brilliantly eerie picture, The Plaza Theatre will permit attendance only by those who are over 18 years of age.

There will be just one showing, starting at 9:00 p.m.

In addition, the theatre will provide free popcorn to the first 100 patrons and, further, will have a doctor standing by in the event the faint-hearted are unable to stand what’s happening.

Coming to Palm Springs Markets?

June 4, 1937—Residents of Palm Springs may soon discover that shopping for groceries is easier than ever.

The first supermarket carts were put into service today at the Humpty Dumpty store in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The wheeled carts are like a large wire basket into which shopping selections may be placed. Several local stores have expressed interest in the innovative carts.
TALENT, SKILL, EXPERIENCE COMBINE TO SPELL SUCCESS FOR PALM SPRINGS FOLLIES

So...how did the Follies create a fabulous show, and succeed beyond anyone's expectations? Certainly, a powerful part of the behind-the-scenes mix is sales and marketing. And, to find out about the how-to of marketing eight straight sell-out seasons, look no further than Mary Jardin.

As Follies Co-founder and Executive Director of Sales and Marketing, Mary Jardin has helped to lead the Follies through continual years of phenomenal growth and success through a combination of skill, intuition and years of experience, three things that were required to make a great show into a great business.

Mary's reach extends over all of the sales, marketing and advertising efforts of the Follies. Her Group Sales Department alone now books more than 50,000 customers annually. The Customer Service Team has posted sales increases year after year. Her Media Relations Coordinator has made the Follies famous throughout the United States and Canada, and her Public Relations Team makes sure that every hotel and restaurant guest knows about the Follies.

And that is just a part of her duties.

Palm Springs Prepares For Big Rodeo and Mid-Winter Round-up

Jan. 28, 1939—Cowboys, Brahma bulls and bucking broncs are assembling for the Third Annual Rodeo and Round-Up, Jan. 28th and 29th.

The entire town is turning out in western attire and colorful flags along the streets give our resort a gay atmosphere. The show will be attended by many from the motion picture colony. Robert Taylor, Allan Jones, Robert Young, Charles Farrell, Frank Morgan and Janet Gaynor have already reserved boxes.

Every ad in every magazine and newspaper is carefully designed to her approval. Every publicity photo meets her exacting standards. In fact, every time you see a Follies logo on something, you can be sure Mary has had a hand in it.

A native of Northern California, Mary spent the first part of her career in the airline industry before she co-produced and performed in a touring magical act. She moved to Palm Springs in the 1980s and in 1992, founded the Follies with partner Riff Markowitz. Knowing exactly where to find the best talent, they brought her brother Dan and sister-in-law Terry to the Follies as Associate Producer/Director of Operations and Director of Sales, respectively.

When asked about working with family, she said, "Not only are Dan and Terry's talents real assets to the Follies, it's brought us even closer together. They're terrific!"

Now enjoying life to the fullest with husband and Follies volunteer graphic artist John Greenberger, Mary divides her time between New York City, site of her husband's business, and Palm Springs. But, she is never too far away from her Follies.
Dog Star Retires
March 23, 1940—Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York City, has arrived at del Tahquitz for the rest of the season, bringing with her the famous "Bozo," Boston Bull Terrier, who has been a dog model for many artists, including the late Harrison Fischer.

Bozo also has a colorful movie career to his credit. As a pup he played with Pete in "Our Gang Comedies," later freelancing, dividing his time between Hollywood and New York City, and now, at the meager age of twelve, he has retired from professional life to think back on his career as a canine star and to enjoy the sun-drenched gardens of del Tahquitz with his mistress, Miss Morgan.

Inventive Threesome Together Again to Create Fabulous Music for Follies
The music at The Fabulous Follies is a collaborative effort between three very talented men: Johnny Harris, Follies Music Conductor and Orchestral Arranger; Earl Brown, Follies Vocal Arranger; and Dave Black, Follies Music Layout Artist.

Johnny Harris, 55, arranges, performs, and "conducts" all of the instrumental music. He has worked on recordings for Kenny Rogers, Diana Ross, Engelbert Humperdinck, Sammy Davis, Jr., Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, Vic Damone and Nell Carter; and he produced many of Paul Anka's gold records. He also has won a Clio Award for his work in commercials. And if that were not enough, Johnny finds time to stay young with his wife Laura and their six children, including three-year-old son, Emerson.

Earl Brown, the man who writes and arranges all of the vocals for the Follies, has worked in television, movies and with such stars as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne, Elvis Presley, Andy Williams, Sonny and Cher, and Danny Kaye. He also arranged or composed most of the music for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Finally, Dave Black, 57, Follies music sketch artist, takes the musical ideas of the director and choreographer and puts them to paper. His television work has allowed him to compose and act as music coordinator for the Carol Burnett and Barbara Mandrell Shows, and work with such stars as Diana Ross, Florence Henderson, and Jim Nabors. He was commissioned to write two pieces for the re-lighting ceremony of the Statue of Liberty and he recently coordinated all of the music for the movie "Out To Sea."

Vallee Welcomed to Palm Springs
Popular band leader Rudy Vallee arrived in Palm Springs yesterday with his entire orchestra to broadcast their radio show from The Racquet Club.

Mr. Vallee (center) is seen here with Ralph Bellamy and Charlie Farrell, owners of The Racquet Club, with a welcoming cake sent by Al Wertheimer, owner of the Dunes Club, wishing every success to Mr. Vallee on tomorrow's radio broadcast.

Le Vallauris
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Walking Distance From the Follies

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EXTRAORDINARY EIGHTH SEASON

Dolores Del Rio, top-billed star of "Flying Down to Rio" and one of the most beautiful women ever to grace the screen, and her husband, art director Cedric Gibbons, are house guests of Jean Lafeet, well-known Palm Springs podiatrist.

Fire Destroys Garbage Truck
March 12, 1940—Harry N. Williams, Palm Springs' garbage contractor, lost a truck last Friday afternoon, March 8, when the vehicle stalled over a heap of burning rubbish at the city dump. The truck was a total loss.

As the city dump is located several miles from the fire station, Palm Springs' usually efficient fire equipment arrived at the scene of the blaze too late to save the burning garbage wagon.

MARX BROS.
A DAY AT THE RACES
ALLAN JONES
MOURINCE O'SULLIVAN

Brought Back in Response to Popular Demand!
MONDAY AND TUESDAY ONLY
Palm Springs Theatre
The Melody Lingers On ...

Beautiful Music
KWXY AM FM
1340 98.5

For the Prime of Your Life
VIVIEN LEIGH, 26, PORTRAITS SCARLETT O' HARA IN NEW FILM

March 30, 1940 — Vivien Leigh portrays Scarlett O'Hara in David O. Selznick's production of Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind," which opens at the Plaza Theatre on Sunday. The local engagement is limited to a one-week run and will be shown twice daily with all seats reserved. Clark Gable, Olivia DeHaviland, Leslie Howard and Hattie McDaniel are in important roles.

"Gone With The Wind" will not be shown anywhere, except at advanced prices, until at least 1941, and is being presented in Palm Springs in its entirety, exactly as shown at its famed Atlanta premiere.

Miss Leigh was selected after a world-wide search for an actress to play Scarlett O'Hara. Her agent submitted her name to the widely publicized search for a female lead but his request was returned with a reply from David O. Selznick: "I have no enthusiasm for Vivien Leigh. Maybe I will have, but as yet have never even seen a photograph of her."

After an introduction to Mr. Selznick by her agent on the first night of location shooting, she did screen tests for her dream role. Both Selznick and the movie's director, George Cukor, were impressed by her talent and beauty and chose her for the part.

Craving Love, Young Man Drinks Clorox

Sept. 18, 1941 — Louis Hernandez, 22, will have misery in his stomach for many weeks to come as a result of an unusual love potion which he drank in an effort to win "sympathy" from his young wife. Hernandez drank a bottle of Clorox. When he collapsed, writhing with pain, police were summoned and administered emetics in sufficient quantities to clean out the interior of the suffering young husband. He was taken to Coachella Valley Hospital where he managed to escape hospital authorities following a heavy shot of sedative. Fearing he would pass out on the highway and be run over, Indio police rounded him up and returned him to the hospital.

Mrs. Hernandez, who is expecting the birth of a child in the near future, is said to have been softened by her husband's act of devotion.

French Painter Holds British War Relief Exhibit

March 20, 1941 — Jean de Bottol, famous French artist, will hold an exhibition of 20 of his paintings in the Bridge Room of El Mirador Hotel this weekend. This showing is being held for the British War Relief and 30 percent of the sales will go to them.

Mr. de Bottol was appointed official painter of the Coronation by King George, and has done portraits of all the Royal Family. In the exhibit will be drawings of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, whose signature appears on them. Many scenes of the Coronation will be shown, as well as the English hunting pictures of which Mr. de Bottol is famous.

The exhibition at El Mirador will close March 25, as Mr. de Bottol opens another in Hollywood on March 26.

Amos n' Andy Return To Broadcast Here

March 9, 1940 — Amos n' Andy are back! Yes, Monday they move into the El Mirador Hotel for their first broadcast of the season from the desert. They will be there for the next six weeks, giving their program twice daily from El Mirador Tower.

More formally known as Freeman

New Monument Completed


It was dedicated March 3, 1933 and completed by Gutzon Borglum's son James after his father died eight months before it was finished.
Many Prizes Offered For Plaza Pet Show

March 30, 1940—Entry blanks for the Pet Show to be held in the Plaza during Circus Week are being distributed and entries point to a very successful show, with youthful pet owners literally standing in line to register.

The committee, Allan Hunter of the Plaza Office, Miss Katherine Finchev of the Grammar School and Morris Richardson of the High School report that due to the many entries and the quick response of Plaza merchants, the number of prizes—including two bicycles—has been raised to one hundred and twenty-five and that many contestants will be prize winners.

Enthusiasm is running high among entrants and entries are still being taken. Blanks may be obtained from the High School, Grammar School or Robert Ransom's office in the Plaza.

Orson Welles in "Citizen Kane." "Citizen Kane" Will Open Plaza Oct. 31

Oct. 16, 1941—Palm Springs theatre chain owner Earle Strebe announced today that the Plaza Theatre opens October 31 with "Citizen Kane," starring Orson Welles, a frequent Desert Inn guest last season. An outstanding schedule in which three or four premiers will highlight the season is planned for the Plaza, which leads in the pictures presented and a brave turn-out of dinner coats and evening gowns.

In recent survey of all of the motion picture houses in the U.S., the Palm Springs Theatre and the Plaza Theatre were those mentioned equipped with the latest type sound, projection and setting, as well as architectural beauty, Mr. Strebe said.

Rikki Lugo

Choreography is a difficult art, a blend of creativity, skill and endless patience. But when you are surrounded by seasoned professionals who have dedicated their lives to dance, suddenly creating a production number becomes a great deal of fun.

With 42 years of professional experience, Rikki Lugo, 59, brings a wealth of talent to her role as one of the Folies extraordinary choreographers. She began her long and successful career as a dancer, starting her training at the age of four in ballet, tap, jazz and numerous other dance styles.

She started her professional career on the road with Lola Montes and her Spanish Dancers, before she moved into stage work and choreography. As a dancer, she has performed in numerous musicals, feature films, nightclubs, and television. She was a can-can dancer in the famous Disneyland Golden Horseshoe Revue, did a one-year tour with the Ice Capades as a ballet dancer and was a featured dancer in Ann-Margret's Las Vegas show.

As a choreographer, she has worked with such talents as Donald O'Connor, Elvis Presley, Liza Minnelli, Dean Martin and Julie Andrews, to name just a few. She is currently the resident choreographer for the Music Theater of Southern California in the Sun Gabriel Valley, which began its 15th season in 1998. She has choreographed more than 45 musicals for the company and has won six Drama-Logue Awards, five Robby Award Nominations and one Robby Award for her innovative vision in dance.

She has worked as a director and choreographer for resorts in Lake Tahoe, Reno, Florida, Mexico and Las Vegas, choreographed numerous television shows, including specials for Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm, and has worked on recent films such as the Academy-Award-nominated "Secrets and Lies" and "Something Wicked This Way Comes."

If this experience weren't enough, she has also been on the dance faculties of numerous schools, including the University of Redlands and Cal State Northridge, and has a total of 37 years of teaching experience. Rikki currently lives in Southern California with her husband Bill Van Buskirk and two daughters.

The other of the Folies' two brilliant choreographers, the English-born Joan Palethorpe, 57, brings talent with a flair to her role at the Plaza Theatre. She began her dance training at the Royal Ballet School in London before moving on to the Italia Conti General Stage School. By the age of sixteen, she was already touring Europe as a featured dancer, which led the way to roles in several London West End shows. She danced in two Royal Command Performances and spent five years as a dancer with both the BBC and the ITV television networks in Great Britain.

Joan came to the United States in 1965 and worked with Ron Lewis in the highly acclaimed "Vive Les Girls!" and "Casino de Paris" as a lead dancer and assistant choreographer. During that time, she won two AGVA Awards for Dancer of the Year. In 1974, she began teaching at the Backstage Dance Studio and became owner and president in 1977. She and her partner recently opened a second dance school for children.

In 1973, Joan began a creative alliance with Miller-Reich Productions and has since choreographed shows for major U.S. resorts, including Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe, Atlantic City, New York, Miami Beach, Montreal, Nassau, Puerto Rico, The Royal Caribbean, Billy Joel and Cruise Line, and national television commercials.

Since then, she has had the privilege to choreograph several numbers for the stage act of the incomparable Liza Minnelli and was selected as the first female co-choreographer of the "Lido de Paris" in Paris, France. Her latest endeavor was Sun City, South Africa. This is her first season at the Folies.

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Moocher Gets 30 Days For Mooching
April 24, 1942—Ernest G. Onn, who bedded down in the lobby of the Tahquitz Hotel one evening this week, got new sleeping quarters in the city jail after a sentence of 30 days, suspended on condition he leave town. He did. In a notoriously generous resort, Mr. Onn had mooched too many drinks for his own good, had mooched food, and finally mooched a very fine and luxurious place to sleep: on an old davenport in the hotel's lobby.

Hope to Entertain Troops
Dec. 23, 1942—Bob Hope announced today that he will be leaving for Alaska to entertain U.S. airmen stationed there.
"I do expect this," he said, "to be the first of many Christmas shows that I'd like to do for the American armed forces stationed around the world."

Air Raid Wardens Will Meet on Tuesday
Feb. 27, 1942—Palm Springs Air Wardens will meet Tuesday night at the grammar school at 7:30 to refresh and re-organize their efforts in blacking out Palm Springs. According to Mayor Philip L. Boyd, the recent blackout was "unsatisfactory" due to a lack of co-ordination between wardens and populace, with many wardens unsure of their exact duties owing to the fact that the only other blackout was so long ago everybody has forgotten the procedure.

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Clippety Clop, clippety clop—and all that precious rubber is rolling on to Palm Springs for the much talked of season. What with rodeos, kangaroo courts, cocktail parties and the Big Top Ball at the Racquet Club (with Gus Arnheim's orchestra) everything should be happy this coming week.

As for this week: the Racquet Club couldn't have been gayer, what with Rita Hayworth sunning herself by the pool just like any other normal human being. Charles Butterworth playing tennis without getting a laugh, and Artie Shaw having dinner with his wife instead of playing for it with his famous orchestra. Mr. and Mrs. Franchot Tone staying a few days at the Club so quietly that no one would even think to ask for an autograph, Dorothy Lamour dining with Guy Waggner without bursting into a hit song at the drop of a champagne glass, Mr. and Mrs. Hoagy Carmichael dancing quite happily to someone else's hit tune, and Chester Morris drinking a quiet cocktail with his wife and two away for the eagle eyes of two lads in uniform. Purposefully and more than a little bashfully, the boys approached the table and asked for autographs. Barbara Stanwyck and Mr. Taylor smilingly complied, and asked the soldiers to sit down and have a beer. They accepted, but refused the movie stars' invitation to dine with them.

Movie Stars Give Two Young Soldiers Thrill of Their Lives

May 22, 1942—In the books of two young soldiers from the Indio area, the names of Robert Taylor and Barbara Stanwyck will be inscribed in bold letters as not only two of moviedom's most important stars but also as two swell guys.

The lovely Barbara and her handsome husband Bob were dining at the Village Coffee Shop last Saturday evening. Sitting rather far back from the street, they were not too hidden

SPENCER TRACY FAMILY LEASES HOME HERE

Noted Star to Spend Season in Palm Springs

Feb. 13, 1942—Spencer Tracy leased a home for the season here through the office of Robert Ransom. Mr. Tracy, his wife and his daughter expect to remain through the Circus and Horse shows, the tennis matches at the Racquet Club and so to the end of the season.

Sliced Bread and Hot Dogs go to War

Jan. 18, 1943—Word from Washington today is that a wartime ban on the sale of pre-sliced bread in the United States—aimed at reducing bakers' demands for metal replacement parts—has been ordered into effect.

Earlier this week, the Office of Price Administration announced that standard frankfurters will be replaced by "Victory Sausages," consisting of a mixture of meat and soy meal. Both regulations will be in effect for the duration of the war.
Blue Jackets Ball Held at Desert Inn

March 13, 1942—A successful and decorative party was given Friday night at the Desert Inn for the benefit of the local chapter of Bundles for Blue Jackets, of which Mrs. King Charney is chairman. With considerable fun for everybody, much cash was raised for the cause.

Above, from left, Juanita Crockett, Dorothy Boyd, and Harriet Henderson review Friday's receipts.

Police Chief Gets Salary Raise

March 6, 1942—Chief of Police Lyle Sanard came in for well-considered praise Wednesday night from Councilman Bacon L. Clifton, who described him, “as the most efficient chief of police we’ve ever had here.” Councilman Clifton asked for a resolution raising his salary fifty dollars a month in view of this fact.

Nite Spot Is Open Once More

June 11, 1943—Specializing in real Italian spaghetti, fried chicken and fried rabbit dinners, the Nite Spot, once one of the better-known Village eating places, has been opened once more.

The cafe is located at 693 South Palm Canyon Drive. One of its most attractive features is that it opens at 600 p.m. and closes at 4:00 a.m., providing Palm Springs with its nearest approach, at present, to an all-night restaurant.

Air-cooled, the Nite Spot is operated by Bill, a well-known Villager.

Rose Rose, who created quite a stir in city court when pleading a case.

Fowl Odors Foul Court

June 21, 1942—It was a big smell in city court on Monday, due to defendant S. Litman being charged with setting up a variety of stinks in his incinerator. But pleading the case for Papa Litman was his daughter, Miss Rose Rose, who is as sweet by any other name, or something. Rose (Portia) Rose created quite a sensation, addressing spectators, jurors, City Judge Pinney and City Attorney Roy Colegate with temperamental fervor during the prolonged case, in which City Judge Pinney, himself, did so much talking that he lost his voice for 48 hours.

Miss Rose informed all and sundry that “Papa” couldn’t have been burning rabbit entrails and chicken feathers in his incinerator, because he was Jewish and kosher and you couldn’t get kosher chickens and rabbits in Palm Springs!

Cartographers Solely Needed by WAC

March 17, 1943—Patriotic women skilled in making maps are urged to make use of their knowledge by joining the WAC. Women clever with drafting instruments are needed as cartographers, and may be assigned to the U.S. Army Service Forces or the Air Forces.

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Donald O’Connor and Peggy Ryan

O’Connor Hit in New Pic

July 1, 1943—“Top Man,” now playing at the Plaza Theatre, has firmly established Donald O’Connor as Universal’s hottest new young star. The musical film is a lively comedy in which Mr. O’Connor, who stars opposite Peggy Ryan, plays a teenager who takes over as head of his family when his father is recalled to active duty.

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WANDERING AROUND WITH MARJ AND DOT

WE SAW...

✦ Absorbing ultra violet, funnyman Jack Benny at the Colonial House.
✦ Also taking the sun there, none other than Gene Tierney.
✦ Strolling into The Palm Springs Drug Store, Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Zanuck.
✦ Dropping into the Dunes, rapidly rising star of the screen Paul Henreid; same spot, escorting a gorgeous blond and an equally gorgeous brunette, John Wayne, who has taken a house in the Village.
✦ Causing heads to turn as they walked across the Desert Inn lawn toward Bullock's, the Fred Allen.
✦ Chatting with friends at the Saddle Bar-X, Sgt Desi Arnaz of movieland. Dynamic red-haired Lucille Ball was also a Village visitor this week.
✦ Eddie and Ida Cantor stopping for a hello with friends as they entered the Chi Chi for dinner. There, too, the Bill Powells, Warner Baxter, and Ricardo Cortez.
✦ Villager Paul Lukas proving himself to be just as down-to-earth as the next person as he stopped by Manuel the Tailor to pick up his cleaning.

New Postal Rates to Take Effect Next Sunday

March 24, 1944—New postal regulations, providing for an increase in local and other mail rates, will go into effect next Sunday, said Postmaster R.M. Gormum.

Letters for local delivery, formerly requiring two-cents postage, now must have three cents or the same amount of postage used on mail going out of the city, he stressed.

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Comedy Rocks Plaza Theatre Audiences

April 12, 1944—A hilarious new comedy from director Frank Capra is wowing movie-goers at the Plaza Theatre. "Arsenic and Old Lace" is a tale about drama critic Mortimer Brewster (Cary Grant), the frantic, distraught nephew of the two gentle, sweet old Brewster sisters, Aunt Abby (Josephine Hull) and Aunt Martha (Jean Adair), known for their many charitable acts in their Brooklyn neighborhood. One of their acts is to poison lonely old men with their homemade elderberry wine (mixed with arsenic) to end their loneliness, and then bury them with a proper Christian ceremony in the cellar. They are assisted by their eccentric nephew Teddy "Roosevelt" (John Alexander), who charges up the staircase at every opportunity, believing it is San Juan Hill. Panama Canal-building Teddy assists them in digging graves.

Mortimer stumbles upon a dead body in the window seat. When Aunt Abby tells Mortimer they know about the body, he is shocked.

The lunacy is enhanced by additional crazy characters: demented plastic surgeon "Doctor" Einstein (Peter Lorre), and Mortimer's insane, murderous, long-lost brother Jonathan (a "Boris Karloff" look-alike), played by Raymond Massey.

Local Lad Awarded Purple Heart

March 24, 1944—Many a former high school mate and Village friend of Ted Ashley is feeling an extra fine tinge of pride this week.

Ashley, former student at the local high school, has been awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded in a recent action in the South Pacific. Son of Herbert Ashley of Palm Springs, he is the first student from the high school to receive the award.

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Palm Springs After Dark

Clockwise from the top, enjoying an evening of dancing at the Chi Chi are Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Scott, Howard Duff and Jane Alyson, and Mr. and Mrs. Clark Gable.

The hottest favorite of the Palm Springs after-dark set is M. Arcwitts, French charmer and the world's only six-fingered accordionist, who plays and sings nightly at "Le Jardin de Marie," the newest club in town.

No slouch when it comes to jitterbugging, Bing Crosby shows 'em how to cut a rug!

Blue-eyed blonde M.G.M. singing star Jane Powell enjoys a late supper at the Doll House with actor Pat Nierney.
The Follies Company in days gone by

"Life is just a memory
Filled with everything you know"

— Harry Nilsson

Riff Markowitz, age 15

The Rios Brothers, Michel, age 21 and Mehdi, age 18

Donald O'Connor, age 28

Ken Prescott, age 25

Glenda Guelfoyle, age 18

Maryetta Evans, age 35

Jill Owens, age 34

Leila Burgess, age 6

Dan Westfall, age 7

Dorothy Kloss, age 19
Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart, at the Racquet Club tennis tournament, are joined by popular Polish businessman Mar Kowcz, in town seeking investors in his company’s new fragrance, “Eau God, the Heavenly Scent.”

At the Racquet Club, actors Charlie Farrell and Errol Flynn get a few pointers from Alice Marble, Wimbledon winner and four-time U.S. tennis champion.

Dawn Zurylyte, songstress who sang the national anthem at the tournament’s opening, joins film stars Paul Lucas and Reginald Owen.

Cuban band leader and conga player Desi Arnaz helps comedic actress Lucille Ball over the net. They met on the set of “The Fuller Brush Girl,” where they were co-stars, and were married within a year. While here, the couple are house guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Greenberger.

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You know what they say — life is meant to be enjoyed. And boy do the kids at Sun City Palm Desert know that. Fun is ready to be had at this active adult playground, where sun-shiny days are filled with everything you could ever want. In fact, one recent visitor was overheard saying, “Oh my, what shall I do first?”

Well, you can work up a sweat — or, for you ladies, allow yourselves to glisten — in the fabulous fitness center, which includes an aerobics studio, a cardiovascular room, and therapy spas. You can get in the swing of things on our Billy Casper-designed signature golf course. Show your fantastic form on our regulation tennis courts. Or, spend your leisure time relaxing poolside, enjoy an exciting game of billiards, or kick up your heels learning a new dance. Whatever your fancy, you’re sure to tickle it at Sun City Palm Desert.

These are only a few reasons we’re the talk of the town, and once you see our beautiful homes and meet and greet Sun City’s friendly neighbors, you’ll know why we’re considered the best community around. In fact, we’ve been named one of the “20 Best Retirement Communities in America” six years in a row by New Choices magazine. So come up and see us sometime, and get ready to have a grand old time.

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One of the sweetest ingenues that ever graced the silver screen, Olivia De Havilland, enjoys a game of table tennis at the Ingleside Inn. Playing Errol Flynn's romantic partner in many adventure yarns, Miss De Havilland won an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actress as Melanie in "Gone With the Wind," in which she displayed her considerable dramatic ability.

No slouch herself when it comes to table tennis, Shirley Temple—America's sweetheart—shows fans at El Mirador that she knows how to handle a paddle and ball.

Donna Arwood, beauteous skating queen, tans in the summer sun beside the Biltmore pool while on vacation in Palm Springs with husband John Harris, owner and producer of the famous Ice Capades, in which she stars.

Phil Harris and his wife Alice Faye have purchased 31 acres adjoining their Palm Springs home on Thunderbird Country Club. It was reported that the transaction involved about $80,000.

Jackie Cooper and his guitar lead fellow actors Johnny Boyle, Johnny Pardner, and Art Lake in song at the Smoketree Stables' breakfast cookout last week.

Visiting Palm Springs this week is Mae Questel, better known to movie-goers as the high-pitched voice of Betty Boop. Miss Questel, a guest at El Mirador, also does the voices of Olive Oyl, Casper the Friendly Ghost, Winky Dink, and other popular cartoon characters.
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LINUS PAINTS PORTRAITS OF PALM SPRINGS WINTER GUESTS

Famous Swedish-born Artist Now at Work on Paintings in Nearby Studio

March 17, 1944—While vacationing at Casa del Camino in the Village, Mrs. Alice Kramer, wife of Dr. Charles J. Kramer, prominent Beverly Hills physician, was painted by Axel Linus, famous Swedish portrait artist who now maintains his studio in Snow Creek, near Palm Springs.

Linus is working at present on portraits of several prominent winter guests in the Village, and has had exhibitions in many European museums as well as in America. A number of his portraits, as well as several still lifes, will be exhibited next week at the Giambatista Gallery on North Palm Canyon Drive.

"I am a simple man who lives only to paint," the artist said. "And many patrons who admire my work have given my life meaning."

Mrs. Kramer, who was Alice Greninger of New York before her marriage, has been devoting much of her time and energy to war work for the past two years, serving with the Army Auxiliary Corps and local charity activities.

Farrell Back at Racquet Club

Jan. 7, 1944—It is like pre-war days to see Charlie Farrell back at the Racquet Club, although his stay will be short. For the brief time he is here he has traded his navy uniform for tennis shorts, and spends many sunny hours on the court.

An interesting foursome playing Sunday included Lt. Farrell, Paul Lukas, Harold Hicks and Jo Sawyer.

Leaves Keys In Car, It Disappears

May 10, 1944—Leo O. Donald of 5656 Calle Ajo will never leave his keys in his car again. Tuesday morning when he started for his car, a 1938 Ford coupe, he couldn’t find it anywhere. Someone couldn’t resist the temptation of keys, car and gasoline.

Film Luminaries Visit La Cita Cafe

Jan. 25, 1945—Always a popular rendezvous for Villagers, La Cita Cafe has played host to numerous film stars, who make it a point to visit the attractive restaurant while vacationing in Palm Springs.

Among those dining at La Cita recently were John Wayne, Marjorie Main, Tyrone Power, Lloyd Nolan, Shirley Wright, Rita Hayworth, Marjorie Rambeau and Donald O’Connor.

“A” Gas Ration Book Available by Mail Under New OPA Rule

June 4, 1943—Palm Springs motorists whose “A” coupon books expire on July 21 will be able to secure renewals from their local rationing boards via mail under a new streamlined procedure ordered by the Office of Price Administration, the Automobile Club of Southern California reported this week.

The new procedure works in this manner:

1. Pick up a simple application form any time beginning about June 22 at any district office of the Automobile Club, service station or other conveniently located place designated by the ration board.

2. Fill out the form and mail it to your War Price and Rationing Board together with the signed back cover of the present “A” book, as well as the current tire inspection record showing that inspections have been made.

The back cover of the applicant’s “A” book now in use will be an important part of the application since it will be evidence that the owner held a properly issued ration book and is entitled to a renewal. The new renewal procedure reduces the inconvenience to the motorist. Any motorist who has not had at least one tire inspection by a qualified inspector will be denied a renewal, the Automobile Club warns.

My favorite place to go, before or after the show, is the

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His recent New York designs include “Sally Marr...And Her Escorts” starring Joan Rivers, “Visiting Mr. Green” with Eli Wallach and Hal Linden, “Mere Mortals,” “Robbers,” “The Boys in the Band,” “The Springhill Singing Disaster,” “Political Animal,” “Camping With Henry and Tom,” “The Compleat Works of Wilm Shakspr (Abridged),” “Three Tall Women,” and “The World Goes Round With Kander And Ebb.” He has also designed New York productions of “Godspell,” “Goblin Market,” and “Lady Day at Emerson’s Bar and Grill.”

Phil was the repertory designer for the Berkshire Theatre Festival for the past three years and has also designed productions in Europe and Canada. Additional projects include the opening of Disney’s Animal Kingdom with the show “Journey Into Jungle Book,” and the upcoming national tour of “Goosebumps,” based on the popular children’s book series by R.L. Stein.

New Pen to Palm Springs?

Oct. 29, 1945—It looks like the days of the good old fountain are numbered. The first ball-point pen was sold at Gimbel’s in New York City, at the price of $12.50.

The new type pen is filled with a viscous ink which flows smoothly onto a tiny ball, thereby replacing the old ink bladder and nib.

Though the new pens are somewhat pricy, there is considerable interest in them. A Palm Springs stationery store has announced the placing of an order for a dozen.

Lions To Operate Weekly USO Dances

March 3, 1944—Gordon Feelings, chairman of the USO Council, has turned the Lions loose again to run the weekly Saturday night dance at the Stevens School. Sun and Sand Girls this week come from the metropolitan area of Los Angeles, chaperoned by Miss Evelyn Lewis. The usual Sunday morning breakfast will be staged by Frances Dodd, program director of the USO staff, in charge. The girls’ afternoon time goes to the boys in bathrobes at Tornney where all “co-ed” activities are planned by the Red Cross recreation staff.

HEDY LAMARR BUYS LOT IN RANCHO MIRAGE

Sept. 20, 1946—Hedy Lamarr will become a full-fledged Villager in the near future if plans, recently completed, materialize, reported Don Cameron of Rancho Mirage. The famous film star and her husband, John Loder, last Friday purchased 3/4 of an acre of ground in annex No. 2 of the Ranch Mirage tract and plan to build there as soon as possible. Miss Lamarr was most recently seen in “Her Highness and the Bellboy.”

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Results of Study Released Today

March 17, 1947—The National Public Opinion Research Center completed a survey that showed that sitting down with a newspaper, magazine, or book is still America's favorite pastime—it's the way 41% of adults prefer to spend their recreational hours.

Next in popularity are crafts and fine arts, preferred by 16% of those polled. Then came sports, theater-going, radio programs, and record-playing.

Station Provides 17-Hour Clear Daily Reception for Enjoyment of Villagers

Feb. 6, 1947—For years the people of Palm Springs were confronted with serious radio reception difficulties, due to the “blackout” action of stately Mt. San Jacinto, which lies directly west of the Village. Only under ideal conditions could Villagers listen to their favorite network programs emanating from the Los Angeles stations. This condition was completely altered last spring, however, when RadiOasis, Station KCMJ, began operation. The new station, an affiliate of the Columbia Broadcasting System, was installed especially for the Palm Springs and Coachella Valley area and provides a complete CBS schedule seventeen hours each day “loud and clear.” In addition to the national programs, RadiOasis features special broadcasts of purely local nature, sponsored in most cases by Palm Springs merchants.

One of the most popular daily presentations is a full hour of request transcriptions called “Music for the Party,” in which the listeners request their favorite musical recordings by telephone.

Sally Pulitzer Here to Visit Parents

Oct. 15, 1946—The Harold Behnmans’ attractive sub-deb daughter, Sally Pulitzer, visited her parents this weekend. She is now attending Anoka School for Girls at Arcadia.

During her stay she swam and lunched by the pool at Ingleside Inn, where her parents are making their home this season, and saw a number of her school friends in Palm Springs.

Xmas Seal Sale to Begin Monday in Palm Springs

Nov. 15, 1947—Annual event of the Yuletide season, the sale of Christmas seals to benefit the Tuberculosis Association, will begin in the Village Monday.

This year’s goal for the Riverside County Association is $20,000. The money gained through sale of Christmas seals is used for health education and case-finding progress.

“This is a worthwhile cause and should have everyone’s support.”

Declared Palm Springs Mayor Clarence A. Hyde. Village chest clinics at the health center, scheduled for every other month, are made possible by the annual seal sale.
EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE EXTOLLS FOLLIES

TV, Press hail show here and abroad

After eight years of unprecedented success, sold-out audiences and the tremendous power of word of mouth, The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies crossed the desk of a young writer at People magazine. For this woman, it was love at first sight. And what resulted was a three-page color spread extolling the virtues of life experience, maturity, and the beauty that comes with aging, when life has purpose.

And so, The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies is fast becoming one of the worst kept secrets in the world.

What started out as a little show in a little theatre in Palm Springs, catering to a Secret Society all but ignored in modern entertainment, became a phenomenon, attracting national and international media. The press found a great showpiece and a great story in the Follies, and ran with it.

WORLDWIDE RAVE REVIEWS

The People magazine article is just the latest in a long line of rave reviews from all over the world.

"Vital, vibrant, even sexy!" is what The New York Times said in the first piece of national media for the Follies, when they did a front-page spread in their Living Arts section in 1985. Not a bad way to be introduced to the world. As the bastion of American journalism and with a circulation of 1.1 million in New York alone, plus nationwide syndication, it was only a matter of time before other big media outlets saw the magic at the Plaza Theatre.

And did they ever come. ABC's Day One with Diane Sawyer and Forest Sawyer saw the colors, beauty and magic, and turned the Follies into an 18-minute feature segment on the newsmagazine show.

They told American television audiences what Plaza Theatre audiences knew all along about our female cast members: "The sexiest, most stunning showgirls in the business."

The Washington Post came knocking a year later, when a reporter stumbled on the Follies by accident. And the show again became front page news: "The regular standing ovations suggest that this is the right stuff in the right place at the right time."

FAME SPREADING RAPIDLY

With all of this publicity, a successful show could only become more and more famous. When Modern Maturity, the national magazine of the AARP, sent a photographer into the dressing rooms to do a six-page photo spread, they put the Fabulous Follies into the mailboxes of 22 million retirees throughout the United States.

Talk about touching an audience...

In 1998, during the peak of our seventh season, The Follies received calls from People magazine and The Toronto Globe and Mail, the national newspaper of Canada. They both decided (on the same day, no less) that they wanted to do big pieces on the show.

The Globe and Mail proclaimed: "Riff Markowitz has won a million-and-a-half visitors with corNY jokes and a can-can line of knock-out octogenarians."

Then, with People magazine in May 1998, success came full circle. The cover story of that issue offered an enlightening contrast. In it, actress and singer Cher laments life now that she is in her 50s, saying that she feels like a has-been. What a twist to turn the page to the feature on The Follies and see women 20 and 30 years older, "still kicking—and doing the splits!" and feeling young and vibrant, doing what they do best.

Journalists from all over the world have discovered what we've known for years: That a magical fountain of youth flows freely right here in our Historic Plaza Theatre.

Strange Mystery Of Missing Toilet Solved

Jan. 30, 1948—The most baffling mystery to challenge the Palm Springs Police Department this season was solved by alert officers yesterday when the toilet stolen from R.B. Tiffany's restroom at Segundo Camp was recovered. Pleading guilty to the dastardly theft was one John A. Rodgers, who absconded with the sanitary contraption and sold it to a client in Rancho Mirage for $25.

Commenting on the solving of the crime which has had local citizens up in arms all winter, Chief Ketten said yesterday, "I am glad the case is closed. Unfortunately, we have not yet secured the toilet seat, and Rodgers is unable to remember whether he took the seat or not."

The victim of the theft, Mr. Tiffany, became so distressed over the situation that he advertised in local papers a $25 reward for recovery of his toilet. However, after he had spent $19.80 on advertising without avail, he decided to withdraw the reward.

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Honorary Mayor of Palm Springs Bob Hope, seen here at The Desert Circus festivities, will broadcast from the Palm Springs Legion War Memorial building tonight.

Bob Hope Over The Air Tonight From Palm Springs To Tell Mayor's Tales

Jan. 27, 1948—Bob Hope, master of the airwaves, goes over the air tonight from Palm Springs to tell his 35 million listeners all about his trials and tribulations of being Palm Springs' Honorary Mayor.

Hizzoner Hope has had a rugged time being inaugurated in a full week of zany goings on, and he may be tired, but you certainly can't say he's not game.

Tonight's broadcast goes forth from the Legion War Memorial building at 7:00 p.m. The 400 lucky people with tickets are supposed to be in their seats and stop coughing by 6:40. Doors open for the early birds at 6:20—in this case, they don't get the worm, but they do get the best seats.

Good seats are important because the entire Hope cast will be there—Vera Vague, Jerry Colonna, Les Brown and his Band of Renown and the Merry Wags. The half-hour broadcast will be followed by another hour of top-notch entertainment, which is good.

Sponsored by the Palm Springs Masonic Club for benefit of the Shriners Crippled Children's Hospital, the show will be attended by a capacity audience of 400.

John Archibald, reservations chairman, said tickets are virtually sold out, but that late-comers might pick up a few cancellations by phoning 3222 today. Mr. Archibald added that while cancellations are unlikely, it is certainly worth the chance of trying.

Biggest Contract in Baseball Signed

Feb. 7, 1949—"Joltin' Joe" DiMaggio, it was announced today, has signed with the New York Yankees for $100,000, the first six-figure contract in the major leagues. In 1947, he was voted Most Valuable Player.

Joe DiMaggio

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FILM STAR AND HUBBY VISIT PALM SPRINGS

Oct. 23, 1949—MGM “Sweater Girl” Lana Turner and her husband, millionaire Bob Topping, arrived in Palm Springs (a favorite haunt of both) yesterday for a week of tennis, sunning, dining and dancing.

Legend has it that Miss Turner was discovered by a “Hollywood Reporter” editor sipping a soda at Schwab’s Drugstore on Sunset Boulevard. He recommended her to director Mervyn LeRoy and her movie career was launched.

A top pinup of World War II, Miss Turner may currently be seen in “The Bad and the Beautiful.”

Wandering Around
By Bea Syde

WE SAW: Handsome Cary Grant, who had just arrived in town, at the Doll House, ditto beautiful Marlene Dietrich—she has been guesting at La Quinta, as have Irving Berlin and Norma Krana, who have both been vacationing and working…Mr. and Mrs. Craig Smith—he’s that well-known hotel manager—Wednesday night, saw them enjoying a night’s entertainment…at the Tennis Club…orchestra leader Tex Beneke likewise Doll House, as were Mr. and Mrs. Van Heflin, who were staying at the Racquet Club…Myrna Dell with agent Ed Leshin, the agent who got Charlie Farrell his early film parts…Gwen Hickson and Mary Jane Hicks both wearing a very new look…Barbara Brown with the Dunes’ Fred Wittner…blonde cinema star of “Three Little Girls in Blue” fame, June Haver.

HERE AND THERE…Film favorite Cornel Wilde is back at the Racquet Club, spotted him early this morning doing some tennis playing…Mr. and Mrs. Harold West of Bank of America, Charles and Francis LaRue, at Mr. Dees…Frank and Nancy Sinatra with Jimmy Van Heusen and friends pausing at the Doll House before going out to Charlie Morrison’s The Stables for dinner.

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Freshly made tuna salad on marbled rye bread with herb tomato, lettuce and garnish.
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Dessert
Lemon Pound Cake
$12 inclusive per person

DINNER (from 5pm – 7pm)
Soup of the Day
OR
Mixed Garden Green Salad with Chef’s Dressing
Choice of Entree:
Salmon with Lemon Butter
Roast Turkey & Stuffing with Cranberry Sauce
Prime Rib
Chef’s choice of fresh vegetable and potato with each entree
Dessert
Lemon Pound Cake accompanied by Coffee/Decaf/Tea
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**QUESTIONS? WE’VE GOT ANSWERS!**

Questions, questions, questions. It seems that every day Follies guests find new and interesting questions to ask about the show, the performers, the headliners and The Follies Man himself. To try and get some answers, the Footlighter went to the source and asked Rif Markowitz some of the most popular questions. And he gave some very informative answers.

**Footlighter:** How does the cast perform in The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies every day, sometimes twice a day?

**Riff Markowitz:** A better question would be: Why does the cast do this every day? It is because they must. They have to. They love to practice their art, and always have, and are driven to perform their craft. For many of the cast members, their absence from the stage was enforced—now that they are provided an opportunity upon the stage of The Follies, they rise to the occasion.

**Footlighter:** When and where are the auditions?

**Riff Markowitz:** Auditions are held in London, England; New York City; and Los Angeles. Generally speaking, they are the first two weeks in June, and we audition over four hundred people.

**Footlighter:** Would you ever take the show on the road?

**Riff Markowitz:** The Follies has been privileged to receive many offers to travel, including an offer to take the show to Broadway from no less a producer than Alexander Cohen, who, among his other work, produced and directed more than 20 Broadway shows, numerous West End productions and television specials, and is an innovator in the world of theater. I believe The Follies and the Historic Plaza Theatre are tied together for all eternity and they are synergistic, meaning that they need each other's charm and magic.

**Footlighter:** How do you pick the headliners?

**Riff Markowitz:** Very carefully. The Follies tries to exercise great deliberation and taste in selecting all performers, so as to coincide with the taste of the audience.

**Footlighter:** Are all sets and costumes constructed just for The Follies?

**Riff Markowitz:** They most certainly are. We have considerable construction and wardrobe departments contained within the Historic Plaza Theatre and a great number of our sets and costumes are constructed right here in Palm Springs. The remainder are built in Los Angeles and Las Vegas by the same folks who provide costumes and sets to large Las Vegas and Los Angeles-area theaters.

**Footlighter:** Do you really have a mother and does she meddle with the show as you indicate on stage?

**Riff Markowitz:** Everybody has a mother. I don't know why it is that people think I was raised by wolves. My mother is alive, well and difficult, and divides her time between Toronto, Canada, and Palm Springs, California. Her original opinion of my enterprise here at the Plaza Theatre was that I had ruined a perfectly good retirement. She has come to accept the international success of The Follies and now acknowledges that the show is a hit, although she still feels that most of what I do here is misguided, and had I listened to her entirely, The Follies would be a much greater success.

**Footlighter:** What is the backstage like?

**Riff Markowitz:** Physically, there is no backstage. The Historic Plaza Theatre was originally constructed as a "presentation house."

It opened December 12, 1936 (coincidentally on my birthday) to show movies and the occasional guest speaker or small vaudeville show, most of which were performed in front of the movie screen and the main drape. The miracle of The Follies is that so much of the production is carried on here, in so tiny a jewel box theater. Just in passing, the stage right wings measure twenty feet by six-and-a-half feet, and the stage left wings measure eighteen feet by twelve feet. Set changes and costume changes are done instantly, by magic.  

**Footlighter:** Who writes the show?

**Riff Markowitz:** The answer to that question depends on a great degree on whether or not you like the show. If you do, I write it. If you don't like The Follies, my mother writes it.

**Footlighter:** How long are rehearsals before opening?

**Riff Markowitz:** They begin the first week of September and run until the show opens in the beginning of November. During that time, we're here in the Plaza Theatre, working five or six days a week for eight or ten hours a day. And trust me, this is not long enough. At our age, learning new lessons is not an easy thing.

**Footlighter:** How is the music constructed?

**Riff Markowitz:** After the show has been written, music selections are made from 1930s and '40s, from only those songs that America loved best.

**Footlighter:** Does everyone have an understudy?

**Riff Markowitz:** Yes. The cast is understudied from within the cast. That is to say, if someone is sick, someone else in the cast will play their own role as well as the role of the ill member of the cast.

**Footlighter:** How many cast members get sick during the season?

**Riff Markowitz:** All of us are sick all of the time, or so we complain. This is a function of old age, but age not withstanding, we all manage to go on. The truth is, it is very rare for a cast member to miss a performance.

Generally speaking, they must be ordered by the house doctor to refrain from coming to work. We are of an age where "lying down and resting" is something we'd just as soon put off.

**Footlighter:** Have you ever missed a performance?

**Riff Markowitz:** I have not, and it is unlikely I ever will. I expect to die upon The Follies stage (my mother says it won't be the first stage I've died on).

**Footlighter:** Is there camaraderie among the cast?

**Riff Markowitz:** There is a deep love affair between all of The Follies ensemble members. All share the same goals, have the same fears, and share a full lifetime of theater experience.

**Footlighter:** What are the audition qualifications?

**Riff Markowitz:** Anyone can audition for The Follies who is beautiful, talented, highly skilled, experienced, professional and old.

**Footlighter:** Do other celebrities ever come to the show?

**Riff Markowitz:** All of the time. Some of our visitors in past seasons have been Carol Channing, Kirk Douglas, President and Mrs. Gerald Ford, Jack Paar, Eva Gabor, Gene Autry, Phyllis Diller, Sidney Sheldon, Herman Wouk, Tab Hunter, Bob and Dolores Hope, Robert Wagner, Ginger Rogers, Andy Williams, and many, many others. Most of them were envious, for the Follies is a wonderful opportunity to do what we all love to do, all the time, and we are very lucky to have that opportunity right here in beautiful Palm Springs.

---

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DESIGNER RETURNS FOR FIFTH SEASON

Skilled Artist's Costumes Enhance Long-legged Lovelies

Now in his fifth season with the Fabulous Follies, Costume Designer Daniel Storey, 40, brings a lifetime of theatrical experience to the Plaza Theatre.

He began his career as a dancer and later moved into costume designing as a wardrobe technician in Las Vegas and constructing costumes for productions featuring such performers as Cher, Diana Ross, and Ann-Margret, as well as the "Casino de Paris" at the Dunes Hotel, "Enter the Night" at the Stardust and Don Arden's "Jubilee."

Storey then moved on to design, where he created costumes for "Copacabana," "Conga" at the Las Vegas Rio Hotel and a number of other major stage shows.

His inspiration for the Fabulous Follies "Pretty Girl," where the long-legged lovelies and Storey's talents are at their most beautiful, comes from his desire to recapture the glitz and glamour of the 30s and 40s, a time, amazingly enough, long before his own birth.

Many California Workers Now Get Paid Vacations

April 5, 1950—Holidays with pay, which in the past were restricted largely to white-collar workers, are now enjoyed by a large proportion of the wage earners in California, according to Paul Scharrenberg, director of industrial relations.

Sixty percent of California union contracts now provide for holidays with pay.

A similar study that was made four years ago indicated that at the time only 30 percent of the contracts contained provisions for paid holidays.

The current survey revealed that half of the contracts provide for six or fewer paid holidays, and half had seven or more.

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EITHER HUBBY'S SNORING GOES—OR HIS WIFE DOES

Oct. 23, 1950—If Richard Michalik wants his wife back, he must cure himself of snoring within 30 days.

Mrs. Florence Michalik, an attractive 23-year-old blonde, yesterday told Judge Rudolph Desort she would go back to her husband if he could learn to snore quietly within 30 days.

Mrs. Michalik has a separate maintenance suit pending on the grounds that Michalik's snoring wrecked her health.

Her attorney, Charles Colley, gave Michalik a number of suggestions for curing snoring he said he had received from "several hundred" persons.

Some of the snore lore included suggestions that he take a blood test for possible sleeping sickness, take a "brain wave test" under supervision of a psychiatrist, or place a rubber tube around his neck.

Another person wrote that Michalik's head "is too flat on the pillow. Get a higher pillow." And someone else thought he had anemia and suggested a few blood transfusions.

Judge Desort urged Michalik to try everything to cure himself. Michalik took the list home to start trying.
These original sketches for the current season are the designs of Follies Costume Designer Daniel Storey, who, in his fifth season designing for The Fabulous Follies, continues to create stunning and innovative costumes for The Long-Legged Lovelies.
Dear Mr. Markowitz:

You probably receive hundreds, if not thousands, of thank you letters each year, but my husband and I are among the few "youngsters" who thoroughly enjoyed your New Year's Eve gala so I thought I'd write. We more than thoroughly enjoyed it. We really loved it, especially the "Hollywood Canteen" number.

I am recommending the Follies to all my friends and relatives, regardless of age. As far as we're concerned, it's a must see!

Many thanks,
"Born Too Late"—Susan Kramer, at the tender age of 47

To the Management, Cast and Supporting Personnel of The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies:

We have been singing your praises since 1996, when my wife Shirley and I first saw your show. It lifted our spirits and zest for life ever since! I daresay the audience of the day would have loved to occupy the stage, with all of you sitting in the theatre so we could all express our gratitude for what you gave us in just one performance.

The show opened every window of our life—touching our heart strings, paying tribute to past and current family members and friends, plus uniting so many people throughout the world—and you also managed to make us happy and laugh—at times with tears unashamedly flowing. Thank you all for your gift.

Introducing this gift to our friends is made easy for us by playing the show cassette: the words, songs and music painting a picture of our past.

Warm regards,
Shirley and Robert DeVries

Dear Mr. Markowitz:

We saw your show on Wednesday, February 4th, and enjoyed it immensely. Each year since 1995, I have brought my Japanese friends to Palm Springs specifically to play golf and see the Follies. They have never seen any show that comes close to the Follies. In Japanese society, age and harmony have always gone hand-in-hand. That is, when you reach a certain age, your lifestyle and way of thinking should conform to that age group. The Follies has become an eye-opening intercultural experience for us because it reinforces the belief that age is really just a state of mind. As long as we are healthy and fit, senior citizens should have access to, and the right to do, almost anything. Needless to say, our friends return to Japan with a different perspective of their life and future. Two enrolled in ballroom dancing lessons. Another is taking scuba-diving lessons. And another friend wants to return to college life, which was interrupted by the war. Our friend Etsuko said that "if an 85-year-old woman can have that much fun, then I'm gonna go out and have fun too!"

Sincerely yours,
Dale Araki (85 years old)
and your friends from Japan—Shoko (47),
Etsuko (62), Kenji (66), Reiko (63)

Dear Mr. Markowitz:

I am especially lucky this year in that I will be able to see the Follies twice.

Every year the show is spectacular and I just don't see how you can make a perfect show more perfect every year but you do. The "guys and dolls" of the Follies are just great, as well as the Mercer Brothers and your special guests. Thank you for making a magical evening and transporting me back to a time before I was born. The Palm Springs Follies is the event I look forward to more than any other each and every year.

Sincerely,
Cindy Shank
Security Director
Now in Eighth Year

By Anne Hedonia

Crack investigation and an innovative brand of snooping and espionage are the trademarks of Miss Yankee Doodle, who is now entering her eighth year as Follies Director of Security.

Stationed in her chair at the Follies front offices, she is the first person allowed to inspect visitors entering the inner sanctum of The Follies administration.

Amidst allegations of favoritism, “Doodle” (as she likes to be called) has handled all such criticism with aplomb. Although she is well-connected to the Follies higher-ups, who

Follies Security Director
Yankee Doodle

have been known to throw her a bone just to get her out of the room, she treats everyone (within reaching distance of any kind of food) with the utmost of professionalism and fairness.

As an added responsibility this year, Doodle was in charge of the complete inspection of The Follies long-awaited move to new offices, an adventure she relished, although the escalator leading to the Follies new home posed some problems (“It just isn’t right,” she says). Her fears notwithstanding, she has made many friends and allies on her repeated walks on the sidewalks of Palm Canyon and Tahquitz.

Besides keeping The Fabulous Follies safe for democracy, Doodle’s other hobbies include chewing on rocks and turning around three times before lying down.

Mayfair Markets to Open

Jan. 17, 1951—Mayfair Markets, Inc. will open its new half-million-dollar super shopping center in the Desert Farmers’ Market February the 15th.

This announcement was made yesterday by Percy Herman, manager of the Desert Farmers’ Market. Nat Silverstone, co-owner of the Market, and Edmond E. Herrschel, chairman of the board of directors for Mayfair Markets, Inc. The new market will occupy 30,000 square feet of floor space and a new 80 x 89-foot building is being erected on the Desert Farmers’ Market site for warehousing purposes.

The new supermarket will display meats, groceries, vegetables, bakery goods, liquor, drugs and sundries.

New Champ Crowned

Feb. 15, 1951—Sugar Ray Robinson defeated Jake LaMotta last night in Chicago to win the world middleweight title.

Not only did he win the title but Robinson also made boxing history. It was the first time a welterweight champion has defeated a middleweight champion.

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RISING NEW STARLET VISITS PALM SPRINGS

Enjoys Holiday in Village With Latest Film Now Completed

Sept. 2, 1952—Marilyn Monroe, 20th Century Fox's popular blonde star and Hollywood's newest sex goddess, is in Palm Springs for what she says will be "an entire week of just relaxing."

She has just completed filming on the movie "Don't Bother to Knock," her first leading role. Starring with her are Richard Widmark and Anne Bancroft, who is making her film debut.

In the thriller, Miss Monroe plays an emotionally disturbed—or deranged—girl who gets a job in a hotel as a baby sitter. She terrifies everyone by threatening to kill her charge.

After appearing in a number of well-crafted but minor roles, Miss Monroe's magnetic screen presence first became apparent in "All About Eve" and "The Asphalt Jungle." The following year, she was seen in "Love Nest."

Marilyn met Joe DiMaggio in early 1952. Recently retired from baseball, DiMaggio had expressed his desire to meet this famous star. By February their romance was in full bloom.

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The Fabulous
Palm Springs
Follies

FEATURING
DONALD O'CONNOR
NEVILLE KING
THE RIOS BROTHERS
THE MERCER BROTHERS

AND THE FABULOUS FOLLIES COMPANY
NATASCHA AHILBORN ★ BEVERLY ALLEN ★ BILL BARTLETT
JUDY BELL ★ LEILA BURGESS ★ MARYETTA EVANS ★ JILL GORDON
GLENDA GUILFOYLE ★ LARRY KERN ★ DOROTHY KLOSS
MILDRED LAW ★ JILL OWENS ★ KEN PRESCOTT ★ PHYLLIS SHERWOOD
GEOFFREY WEBB ★ DAN WESTFALL

The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies
is the creation of
RIFF MARKOWITZ
Staged and choreographed by
RIKKI LUGO AND JOAN PALETHORPE
Music arranged and performed by
JOHNNY HARRIS
Set design by
BRADLEY KATE
Lighting design by
PHIL MONAT
Costumes designed by
DANIEL STOREY
Special material and vocal arrangements by
EARL BROWN
Music layout by
DAVE BLACK
Music mixed by
LESLIE ANN JONES
FLYING BY FOIS
FEATURING

DONALD O'CONNOR

Few people have touched the hearts and souls of American movie audiences like Donald O'Connor, who is still proving that a song and a little soft shoe can cheer a soldier, win a war, and entertain a nation.

Born August 28, 1925, Donald made his show business debut when he was three days old, sitting on his mother's lap as she played piano for "The O'Connor Family: The Royal Family of Vaudeville." By the age of three, he was the star of the show.

Hollywood called soon afterward, and he was cast as Fred MacMurray and Bing Crosby's kid brother in "Sing, You Sinners." It was not long before his career took off, with leading roles in film, stage and television.

On the big screen, Donald was the star of the "Francis the Talking Mule" series, which was instrumental in luring audiences back into theaters after the Hollywood economy began to sag. Other films include "Call Me Madam," "On Your Toes," "Anything Goes," "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Ragtime," and "Out to Sea" (just to name a few), and of course, "Singing in the Rain."

He won an Emmy Award for his role in the "Colgate Comedy Hour" and was the host of the first internationally broadcast Academy Awards. He starred in his own series, "Here Comes Donald," and has appeared as a guest on dozens of television shows on each of the big three networks, including recent spots on "Frasier" and "The Nanny." He still makes regular stage appearances in venues across the country, including Las Vegas.

The Palm Springs Follies is not Donald's first appearance on the Plaza Theatre Stage. During World War II, when he was stationed at the local air base, Donald helped to organize WAC recruiting shows at the Plaza and originated the "WAConga Line," which led eligible women right up to the sign-up booth.

Because of his success, he was soon reclassified as Special Services and began to perform for wounded troops in stateside hospitals. After the war, he became a regular vacationer in Palm Springs, and was known to take the stage at the famous Chi Chi Club when the music was just right.

Now, in his season with the Follies, Donald takes a career of stage and screen and turns it into a nostalgic tribute to the magic of the Hollywood Musical.

NEVILLE KING

Direct from olde London-town to the Historic Plaza Theatre comes master ventriloquist Neville King, 70, and his mischievous dummy "Old Boy." Based on a colorful old character King met outside of an English pub, Old Boy and King have been entertaining British and world audiences for 35 years. They have performed on various stages in England and toured for eleven years with The Black and White Minstrel Show, including stops at the Victoria Palace in London, a season in Malta and a record-breaking tour of Australia.

King has had the honor to perform his slapstick ventriloquist routine before Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, former Prime Minister John Major as well as Princess Margaret and Princess Diana in two different Royal Variety Performances at the London Palladium, and has topped the bill in "Let's Have Fun With Those Good Old Days" at the Central Pier, Blackpool, England. Soon after, he headed the cast at the West Cliffe Theatre in Clacton.

He has entertained Her Majesty's Forces in South America, Cyprus, Germany, Holland and Belgium, completed five world tours, including a tour of Canada with the London Palladium Touring Show, and has appeared in cabarets and nightclubs all over the world, including stops in Monte Carlo, Tangier, Johannesburg, Vienna and Malta. He and Old Boy have also been critically acclaimed regulars on British television.

Mr. King now makes his home in Nottingham, England.

THE RIOS BROTHERS

The Rios Brothers, Michel, 57, and Mehdi, 54, grace the Follies stage with what is considered the best Risley (acrobatic foot juggling) duo in the world today. Born in Germany to a Moroccan father and German Jewish mother, they began their training at the ages of 14 and 11, when their father, a former circus performer, realized the unique potential in his talented sons. The boys practiced daily for five years before they went in front of the public.

Since their debut, they have performed all over the world, making the successful cross-over from circus act to show hall headliner to cabaret feature. They have played the Casino de Paris, The Moulin Rouge and Lido in Paris (including five Lido Premiers), numerous hotels in Las Vegas and Radio City Music Hall. Television appearances include "The David Letterman Show," "The Ed Sullivan Show," and numerous other TV specials in the United States and Europe. Their amazing juggling talents have been a feature in the best circuses worldwide, and they have had the honor of performing for the royal families of England and Sweden as well as for Pope John Paul II.

The Rios Brothers, with their wives, have also made a successful foray into show production and were recently employed as the artistic coordinators for the international tour of the Lido. The brothers now live in Paris.
FEATURING

THE MERCER BROTHERS

The “Darlings of the Follies,” Jim and Bud Mercer, have shared more than 66 years together in show business. They began dancing and touring in vaudeville shows during the Depression, including The Earl Carroll Vanities, Stars over Hollywood, the Buster Crabbe Aquacade and the Baggypants Revue.

They later moved into the nightclub circuit after the end of Prohibition. By the late 1930s and the era of the lavish movie musical, the brothers quickly found work dancing for the big studios. Their film credits include “Yankee Doodle Dandy,” “Holiday Inn,” “Rose of Washington Square,” and “Baby on Broadway.”

After World War II, the Mercers moved on to perform at the Palace Theater in New York and then to the fledgling town of Las Vegas, appearing with talent like Frankie Laine and Mel Torme.

Then, Jim and Bud decided to try something new: television. They worked on several experimental TV shows and eventually appeared with Ed Sullivan.

The brothers returned to the stage in the 1980s, developing their own act, “Giggles Galore,” which they toured around the country. The Mercers then finally attempted to retire, but the Fabulous Follies lured them back to the boards.

Still dancing, singing, and playing the banjos, Jim, 82, and Bud, 85, are now in their seventh season with the Follies.

and

THE FABULOUS FOLLIES COMPANY

THE FAMOUS LONG-LEGGED LOVELIES
AND THOSE DASHING DANDIES

NATASCHA AHLBORN, 63, was born and raised in Berlin, Germany, where she began her training in classical ballet. She continued her study after World War II and started to dance professionally, performing as a featured dancer in several European opera houses. She moved into show dancing when her stunning height and incredible dancing grabbed the attention of producers. She performed in the Folies Bergère and the Lido Cabaret in Paris, as well as the Casino de Paris in Las Vegas. She toured world-wide with the Nouvelle Ève de Paris and toured the Far East, Europe and the United States as a high fashion model. Natascha’s mother, also a classically trained dancer, recently retired from teaching dance at the age of 91. An avid mountain biker, Natascha is enjoying her fifth season at the Follies.

BEVERLEY ALLEN made a comeback after a 35-year retirement when she came to the Fabulous Follies last season to become a “Long-Legged Lovely” (not an easy thing to do when you measure only five feet, one-half inch!). Her professional career began at the age of ten, and later she went on to dance with bandleaders Eddie Duchin and Tommy Dorsey and the prestigious Merriel Abbott Dancers. During World War II, she toured Europe with the USO. Always cast as the “little girl next door,” she even appeared in a Jack Benny movie.

Born and raised in Chicago, she danced with fellow Follies company member Dorothy Kloss 50 years ago in the famous Empire Room at the Palmer House. She recently returned to the Windy City for the hotel’s 125th anniversary. Still dancing up a storm at the age of 81, Beverly has two daughters and one grandson.
GLENDA GUILFOYLE, 65, started dancing professionally at 17 as a Radio City Music Hall Rockette before she was hand-picked by Walt Disney to dance at the opening of his Anaheim theme park. After three years performing at Disneyland’s Golden Horseshoe Revue, she went on to appear in such Warner Bros. movies as “The Music Man” and Frank Sinatra’s “Robin and the Seven Hoods.” Guilfoyle’s television experience includes specials with Fred Astaire, Cyd Charisse, Dean Martin, Jimmy Durante, Rosemary Clooney, and Andy Griffith. A proud mother of seven children and a grandmother of four, she has taught at numerous Los Angeles dance academies, including the famous Debbie Reynolds Studio, and has staged dozens of musical fashion shows in Southern California. Guilfoyle also appeared in numerous television commercials, a Debbie Reynolds exercise video and has worked as a successful runway model.

LARRY KERN, 62, a North Dakota native and avid horseman, started his career as a commercial artist before moving to California to study jazz and ballroom dancing. A few short years later, he and partner Lucky Blair won the Golden State Latin Dance championship. Soon after, Larry began appearing and touring in stage musicals from Reno to Puerto Rico, including “Show Me America” at Disneyland. In 1976, he resumed ballroom dancing, won the California State Swing Championships and was a finalist in the U.S. competition. Voted most popular U.S. male dance instructor by Dance Action Magazine, Larry has also appeared in commercials, movies and television dance specials, and placed third and fifth in the U.S. Open Dance Championships in 1991 and 1993. Now living in Laguna Beach, California, this is his fourth season at the Follies.

DOROTHY KLOSS, 75, put her first tap shoes at the age of three and has never stopped dancing. By 15, after only three months at the famous Merriel Abbott Dance Studio, she was dancing professionally in Chicago’s Empire Room at the Palmer House, opening the show in her own featured routine. From there, she went on to headline in major dance halls in Chicago, Atlanta, Mexico City and Rio De Janeiro before touring the United States with band leader Eddie Duchin. She also traveled with the USO, performing at Army and Navy bases and hospitals during World War II. During her 60-year career, she has danced in performances with Charlie Barn, Chico Marx, Liberace, Phil Regan and many others. Dorothy has a son and daughter-in-law, and a granddaughter. This is her fourth season with the Follies.

MILDRED LAW, who credits Bill “Bo-jangles” Robinson for teaching her the routine that fostered a life-long love of tap dancing, joins The Fabulous Follies for her first season at the age of 78. The daughter of a police captain (hence the name “Law”), Mildred started dancing when she was five. She went to New York at 15 and played the Paramount Theater with bandleader Eddie Duchin. She has performed with Betty Hutton, Eddie Bracken, Desi Arnaz, Van Johnson and Gene Kelly.

While under contract with Columbia Pictures, she appeared in “Tonight and Every Night” with Rita Hayworth. Later she moved to television, appearing in shows such as “I Love Lucy,” “M Squad,” and “77 Sunset Strip.” Recently, she had been singing and dancing with Crystal White’s Dance Troupe. She has four children and two grandchildren.

JILL OWENS began her professional career right after high school in Davenport, Iowa, performing for the Aqua Follies in Minneapolis and Seattle. After three seasons, she was chosen to go to Miami to dance and perform for the “Jackie Gleason Show.” On Broadway, she was in “No, No Nanette” with Ruby Keeler and Martha Raye, “Pippin” with Ben Vereen, and “Tip Toes.” Regionally, she performed in productions of “Follies,” “The Milliken Show,” and “Promises Promises,” among others. Jill later moved to television, playing the role of Misty Night on “Blansky’s Beauties,” as well as appearing on “Happy Days” and “Laverne and Shirley.” She has performed as a June Taylor Dancer, a Bob Fosse Dancer, and as a Radio City Rockette. Her film credits include “Young Doctors in Love” and “Pennies From Heaven.”

Now living in Los Angeles, she is 56 years old.

For updates on what’s happening at The Follies, visit our web site at
www.psfollies.com
BILL BARTLETT, 59, in his first season at the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, brings his career full circle, having danced with our own Donald O'Connor in a Gene Kelly television special, back when Bill was just 19 years old.

Born in Salem, Oregon, Bill began dancing at the age of 11, when he went to tap lessons as moral support for his brother—who wanted to date the dance teacher. He studied under such greats as Eddie Gay, Bill Roberts and Don Allen. Bill even taught the dance instructors for the Arthur Murray Dance Studios while just a high school student.

He has performed in television, films, nightclubs and on stage with entertainers such as Sophie Tucker, Carol Lawrence, Gene Kelly, Madeline Kahn, and Martha Raye.

He lives in North Hollywood, California with his wife, Deborah, also a noted choreographer.

MARYETTA EVANS, 86, is the last surviving member of the Four Dancing Evans, the family troupe that danced on the best vaudeville stages, numerous television shows and as USO entertainment for troops stationed worldwide. With her parents and brother Lester, they performed at the Paramount Theater and The New York Palace as well as the great theaters of Europe.

After twenty years of touring and a harrowing crash in the Sea of Japan, Maryetta and the family decided to retire and open a dance school in their hometown of Pittsburgh. At the age of 60, after 20 years of performing in local productions, Maryetta decided to go back to school to earn a degree in theater. She taught drama and dance until her retirement in 1991. This is Maryetta’s third season with the Follies, where she continues to perfect her amazing ‘split.’

JUDY BELL, 61, returns to sing at the Follies for her fifth season after a long and successful career on stage.

For thirty years, The Judy Bell Show, her own musical and comedy revue, was featured at the MGM in Reno and Las Vegas, Harrah’s Lake Tahoe and Reno, the Flamingo, Sahara and Frontier Hotels in Las Vegas, and the Cinegrill Room at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. She also played Annie in “Annie Get Your Gun,” Molly in “The Unsinkable Molly Brown,” Lily Langtry at Disneyland, and was nominated for a best supporting actress award for “Barefoot in the Park.” She was also voted Las Vegas best female performer four times. Judy, a native of West Virginia, has a son, who is a Hollywood stuntman, and a daughter who has blessed her with five grandchildren.

JILL GORDON, a long-legged lovely and deputy dance captain for her second season, started out as a chorus dancer for Moro Landis, touring Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

It didn’t take long before she was selected to be a Jimmy Durante Girl and then dance on Dick Clark’s television show. She also appeared on the Andy Williams and Dean Martin shows and spent a season on “The Carol Burnett Show.” In 1976, she began a 12-year professional relationship with Mac Davis, touring the world dancing and singing. She also worked in his numerous television specials.

From 1988 to 1991, she produced the ’50s revue “Bop,” which traveled with Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello, revisiting the “Beach Party” movies, and she continued working with Frankie Avalon until 1996. Jill is 55 years old and has one daughter, Amy.

LEILA BURGESS, Follies Dance Captain, is returning for her seventh season at the Plaza Theatre. A life-long dancer and graduate of New York City’s famed School of the Performing Arts, she worked professionally for more than five years at the Latin Quarter and made special dance appearances on television’s “Colgate Comedy Hour” and “Naked City.” She was the managing director of the “Latin Quarter Showgirls West” and produced three Latin Quarter Revivals in 1989-1992, the proceeds of which all went to abused and missing children’s charities. Now in the role of Follies Dance Captain, it is Leila’s responsibility to ensure that all of the dance numbers are executed with the same sharpness and energy level from the first performance to the last. With two children and two grandchildren, she is now 63 years old.
Donald O’Connor Stricken With Pneumonia: Dick Contino Assumes Role As Guest Star

His fans knew that it would take a pack of wild horses to drag Mr. Donald O’Connor from the stage, but instead, a serious bout of pneumonia forced Mr. O’Connor to step aside from today’s performances for the sake of his health. In his place is Mr. Dick Contino, today’s new guest star of the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies.

Donald O’Connor is now recovering in Palm Springs, much to the delight and relief of his fans all over the world, who have kept vigil for one of America’s best loved film and stage icons.

Dick Contino, the legendary virtuoso of the accordion, gladly stepped forward when asked by Follies Producer Riff Markowitz to assume the role of guest star at the Historic Plaza Theatre.

Contino, 69, is best known for his record number of performances on “The Ed Sullivan Show” (48 - to be exact), as well as his bestselling recordings of “Lady in Spain,” “Grenada,” and “Tico Tico.”

His career began at the age of 18, when he won the prestigious Horace Heidt Youth Opportunity Program Grand Prize. Since then, he has produced 12 albums, toured Vietnam with the USO and played virtually every showroom in America.

Also starring in films and on national television, Contino recently completed a national tour where he broke house attendance records from coast to coast. Not only is he a renowned musician, but he is also the star of James Ellroy’s novel, “Dick Contino’s Blues.”

Tragedy Strikes Twice - The Rios Brothers return to France due to a serious knee injury - Bob Moore and His Amazing Mongrels step up in their place

Lightning never strikes twice in the same place, except at the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, where not soon after Donald O’Connor’s bout with pneumonia, one of the Rios Brothers found himself battling a major knee injury, crippling their act.

But when the famous Risley Duo was forced to return to France for surgery, former Follies variety act Bob Moore and His Amazing Mongrels were ready and raring to go.

The hilarious dog act, featuring highly trained pound puppies and their high jinks, has appeared on “The Smothers Brothers’ Comedy Hour,” “Dick Clark Live,” and even performed on Broadway in “The Will Rogers Follies.” Bob Moore was also awarded the “Sydney Award” by Priscilla Presley for being a dog act “with a difference.”

Discovered by Walt Disney in the early 1960s, Bob, 54, and the Mongrels began their professional careers at Disneyland and have since toured worldwide.
SCENE THREE

THE '30s: A TRIBUTE TO IRVING BERLIN

Choreographed by Rikki Lugo

Remember My Forgotten Man (Lyrics: A. Dubin; music: Harry Warren) ........................................... Film
Let Yourself Go (Irving Berlin) .................................................................................................................. Dan Westfall and The Company
Shaking the Blues Away (Irving Berlin) ....................................................................................................... Glenda Guilfoyle and The Company
Let Me Sing and I'm Happy (Irving Berlin) ................................................................................................. Ken Prescott
Let's Have Another Cup of Coffee (Irving Berlin) ....................................................................................... Phyllis Sherwood and The Company
Heat Wave (Irving Berlin) ............................................................................................................................ Dorothy Kloss and the Female Ensemble
Top Hat, White Tie, and Tails (Irving Berlin) ............................................................................................... The Male Ensemble
Cheek to Cheek (Irving Berlin) .................................................................................................................. Leila Burgess and Larry Kern
Puttin' on the Ritz (Irving Berlin) ............................................................................................................. Ken Prescott, Bill Bartlett, and The Company

SECOND INTERMISSION

ACT THREE

SCENE ONE

DONALD O'CONNOR

Nothing Can Stop Me Now (C. Mayfield) ★ Can't Smile Without You (G. Morrow, C. Arnold, D. Martin)
★ How Do You Keep the Music Playing? (A. and M. Bergman, M. Legrand) ★
JAM SESSION: Fly Me to the Moon (B. Howard) ★ All of Me (S. Simons, G. Marks)

SCENE TWO

JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT

Choreographed by Joan Palethorpe

Sing, Sing, Sing (Louis Prima) .............................................. P. Sherwood, drums; J. Gordon, J. Owens, and The Company
Jukebox Saturday Night (A. Stillman, P. McCrane) ★ Two O'clock Jump (H. James, Count Basie, B. Goodman) ...........................................
Larry Kern, Beverly Allen, and The Company
Oh, How I Hate to Get up in the Morning (J. Berlin) ★ This Is the Army, Mr. Jones (J. Berlin) .................... Bill Bartlett and The Male Ensemble
Dream (J. Mervyn) ★ I'll Be Seeing You (J. Kahal, S. Fain) ★ What'll I Do? (J. Berlin) ...................... Beverly Allen, Ken Prescott, Geoffrey Webb, Dan Westfall, Larry Kern
You'll Never Walk Alone (R. Rogers, O. Hammerstein) ........................................................................ Judy Bell
Bei Mir Bist Du Shon (S. Cahn, S. Chapin, J. Jacobs, S. Secunda) ★ Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy (D. Raye, H. Prince) ............................. The Mercer Bros. and Dan Westfall
It Don't Mean a Thing (I. Mills, Duke Ellington) .............................................................................. Glenda Guilfoyle, Geoffrey Webb, Leila Burgess, Phyllis Sherwood, Dorothy Kloss, Natascha Ahlborn, Jill Gordon, Jill Owens, Beverly Allen, Bill Bartlett, Larry Kern, Ken Prescott

SCENE THREE

AMERICA

Choreographed by Joan Palethorpe

Battle Hymn of the Republic (J. W. Howe, W. Steffe) ................................................................................. Judy Bell
Stars and Stripes Forever (J. P. Sousa) ★ Yankee Doodle Boy (G. M. Cohan) ★ Star and Stripes Forever Reprise (J. P. Sousa) ............................................................... Dorothy Kloss, Mildred Law, Beverly Allen, and The Company
God Bless America (Irving Berlin) ................................................................................................................ Full Ensemble
The Star Spangled Banner (Francis Scott Key, John S. Smith) ................................................................. Full Ensemble
Auld Lang Syne (Traditional) ......................................................................................................................... Full Ensemble
OVERTURE: JOHNNY HARRIS AND THE FOLLIES ORCHESTRA
That's Entertainment (Howard Dietz, Arthur Schwartz) ★ Don't Rain on my Parade (Bob Merrill, Julie Styne)
Sing, Sing, Sing (Louis Prima) ★ Give My Regards to Broadway (George M. Cohan)

ACT ONE

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD
Choreographed by Rikki Lugo
Dames (A. Dabin, H. Warren) ............. Larry Kern, Geoffrey Webb, Dan Westfall, Bill Bartlett, Ken Prescott
There's No Business Like Show Business (I. Berlin) ★ You Ought to be in Pictures (D. Suesse, E. Heyman) ★
Another Opening, Another Show (C. Porter) ........................................ The Company

SCENE TWO
THE RIOS BROTHERS
The World's Foremost Risley Duo

SCENE THREE
THE MERCER BROTHERS
The World is Waiting for the Sunrise (E. Sela) ★ Dueling Banjos (Unknown) ★ Give Me That Old Soft Shoe (R. Jordan, S. Bass)

SCENE FOUR
A PRETTY GIRL IS LIKE A MELODY
Choreographed by Joan Palethorpe

La Vie en Rose (Mack David, Edith Piaf, Louiguy) ........................................ Judy Bell
I Found a Million Dollar Baby (Billy Rose, Mort Dixon, Harry Warren) ................................ Jill Gordon
Sayonara (Irving Berlin) ..................................................................... Beverly Allen
Let's Do It (Cole Porter) ................................................................. Jill Owens
St. Louis Blues (W. C. Handy) .......................................................... Phyllis Sherwood
Caravan (Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, Juan Tizol) ................................ Maryetta Evans
Oh, You Beautiful Doll (A. Seymour Brown, Nat D. Ayer) .................. Mildred Law
Temptation (Arthur Freed, Nacio Herb Brown) ................................... Leila Burgess
Lover (Lorenz Hart, Richard Rodgers) ............................................... Dorothy Kloss
You Stepped Out of a Dream (Gus Kahn, Nacio Herb Brown) .......... Glenda Guilfoyle
The Most Beautiful Girl in the World (Lorenz Hart, Richard Rodgers) Natascha Ahlborn
A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody (Irving Berlin) ........................................ The Company

~FIRST INTERMISSION~

ACT TWO

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD
Choreographed by Joan Palethorpe
Steppin' Out with My Baby (Irving Berlin) ........................................ Maryetta Evans and The Company

SCENE TWO
NEVILLE KING
Comedic Ventriloquist