

SOUTH COASTING . . .

BILL, KAMI AND LORI SPELL OUT YOUTH AND VITALITY AT MARINER

At nine nightly in the lounge of the Mariner Motor Hotel (2450 Pacific Coast Highway) youth and vitality command time to speed on its way so that an evening passes quickly.

The youth and vitality are contained in the persons of three vocalists presented by host Tom Chevor as the Bill Norvas Revue featuring Kami Warner and Lori Mattis.

Offstage, Bill Norvas is a warm friendly man who says simply, "I don't like to talk about myself."

In Lori Mattis, whose first professional appearance was with Bill Norvas and the Upstarts in Las Vegas, Bill has some one who likes to talk about him.

Bill possesses a solid background of musical experience, not only as a vocalist but also as a composer and lyricist.

Greco Recording

For instance, one of his tunes, "To Be or Not to Be in Love," was recorded recently by Buddy Greco.

Bill collaborated on the musical score of the motion picture "The Big Knife," in which Jack Palance was the star.

Another of Bill's songs, "Make Love to Me," was recorded by Jo Stafford.

Onstage, Bill projects his warmth and friendliness to the audience and those who perform with him to knit together a continued story complete with smooth transitions which lead from one song and one entertainer to another.

For Kami Warner, joining

Bill and Lori (in their second week at the Mariner) last Tuesday night represents a return to a familiar scene because she played at the Mariner two months last year.

She came to Torrance from the Rendezvous in Las Vegas.

Kami's Career

Unlike Lori, who began singing and dancing while in high school, Kami had started a career as a secretary when two years ago the urge to sing professionally became so strong that she resigned her position to strike out on her own as a vocalist.

"I went from place to place trying to get a spot," she said with a rueful smile. "One night, I had a chance to sing with a band in Hollywood. Afterwards, the leader came to me and said that he had a place for me."

From Hollywood, Kami went with the band to Downey and began a succession of appearances which ultimately led to the Mariner in Torrance and her stay last year for two months.

"It was hard," she said, "learning as I went along, but it was worthwhile. I really didn't have any training but I felt in my heart that I had a voice and had something inside me to offer and I was willing to gamble on my ability to succeed as a singer."

Dancing Too

Kami laughed as she recalled, "when I started, I relied as much on my dancing as my singing to carry me through because I was really learning as I sang."

There were days after she quit her job as a secretary when she was broke and discouraged but Kami didn't ever lose her determination and her desire to sing.

Now, after it is all past, Kami remembers the good with fondness rather than the bad with bitterness. Perhaps her first triumph and probably the breakthrough in Kami's professional life came when, after singing just for the opportunity to sing very early in her attempt to make her way singing instead of typing, she asked for money.

"I really didn't want much," she said. "I just wanted to know that I was worth something, no matter how much."

A Warm Feeling

And so a warm feeling came into her heart when Kami heard some one say that she was worth quite a

bit to those she sang to. It was then that she began to earn her first salary from her voice.

It was then that some one else placed faith in her ability to succeed as a vocalist.

"It was wonderful," said Kami. "I'll always be grateful for the many kindnesses and help that people gave to a secretary who wanted so badly to become a singer."

Brunette Kami with the dark flashing eyes and golden blonde Lori are about the same age but, as mentioned, Lori began singing and dancing while still in high school.

"My gym teacher had been an entertainer," said Lori, "and she had a friend who also had been an entertainer. We three started working as a group."

Born in Whittier, Lori crossed Los Angeles west to Hollywood and was able to get acting parts in pictures. Later, she appeared on television, also as an actress.

It seems apparent that Lori prefers to sing.

Lori has sung with the Ann Southern night club act; she was a member of the cast of the Martin and Lewis night club tour. She sang in a picture in which Jack Jones — the son of Alan — also appeared.

She Tells Stories

Lori came to the Mariner from Reno where she played ten weeks at the Golden Hotel.

Other on the bill included Buddy Greco and the Davis and Reese comedy team.

Listening to Lori, she confirms the fact that she loves to sing.

"I tell stories to people," said Lori.

"I'm interested in the spiritual side of people and like to try to help them — to give them a lift," she added.

"Sometimes I see people in the audience and it seems almost as though I know them and what is bothering them," mused Lori. "I try to sing my way inside that person's mind." She paused.

"Sometimes I get," she said, "the feeling that I am interpreting people to themselves and hope they understand what it is that I'm trying to say to them."

Is Lori communicating herself or the song writer? "Both," she replied. "I communicate what I feel about a song. I try to interpret the songwriter, too."

When Lori sings "Summertime," the meaning of what she says is apparent.

There is a story. She tells it, with a youth and a vitality that command time to pass swiftly on its eternal way.



KAMI WARNER tenderly caresses the lyrics of a love song from France Wednesday night in the lounge of the Mariner Motor Hotel. Kami, a secretary who turned singer two years ago, is playing a return engagement at the local oasis of relaxation at 2450 Pacific Coast Hwy., just east of Crenshaw Blvd.



LORI MATTIS AND BILL NORVAS merge talents in an upbeat ballad with Bill in the midst of a note while Lori lends her voice in harmony. Lori began her professional career with Bill in Las Vegas. She came to the Mariner from a ten-week engagement at the Golden Hotel in Reno. The Bill Norvas Revue is in its second week at the Mariner appearing nightly except Sunday in the lounge at 9 p.m. Hootenannies are held Sundays from 6 to 10 p.m. —PRESS photos by Red Lockwood

Special Sun. Art Exhibit Slated Here

An exhibit of original paintings and drawings will be held Sunday, Sept. 22, at La Casa Galerie which is located at 408 via Monte D'Oro, Hollywood Riviera.

The exhibit will be a private showing for one day only. Refreshments will be served.

Evelyn Carpenter of Lakewood will show oils and water colors. She is quite well-known in art circles throughout the western states.

Faculty Member

She is a member of the California Water Color Society, and Women Painters of the West, a member of the Los Angeles Art Assn. and served as faculty member of the Downey Art Museum during the summer.

The awards of Mrs. Carpenter this year include those from the Community Art Assn., Downey Art Museum, the Society of Women Painters of the West, Barnsdall Park, and the Ebell Club of La Mirada.

Pat Pugh who is studying art at UCLA will exhibit drawings and prints in both black and white and color.

Letters

Dear L. Cutler Wayne
As a friend of Billy Franklin's, I want to thank you for the wonderful article you wrote about Billy Franklin in your Wednesday's issue of The Press. Your story really had heart.

Terry Bates
Torrance



CONGRATULATIONS are being given by Robert L. Reis (left), general manager of the Plush Horse Inn, to Billy Franklin on Wednesday's Billy Franklin Night at Caesar's (4111 Pacific Coast Hwy.) in Torrance. Yesterday Billy expressed his gratitude to Caesar's for giving him the opportunity of appearing and thanked his many friends for turning out to greet him. Sylvia Mora and The Indigos are at Caesar's tonight and Saturday night. —PRESS photo by Red Lockwood

Billy Franklin Gets Kudos for His Night at Caesar's

Yesterday morning, bright and early, Billy Franklin the bellman at the Plush Horse Inn was back on the job after singing the night before, which was Billy Franklin Night at Caesar's.

"It was great," said Billy; "to have the opportunity to appear. I'm very grateful to Caesar's and I'd like to thank all my friends who showed up on my 'night' to greet me. It's a good feeling."

Pats On Back

Among those who had a warm word for Billy following his appearance was Robert L. Reis, general manager of the Plush Horse Inn, and Billy's boss.

There were others, such as Terry Bates, who called The Press yesterday to express a warm word for Billy as well as to compliment The Press on the story about Billy which appeared in Wednesday's edition.

All in all, this was quite a week for Billy Franklin and his many friends say that it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy and wish him many more weeks and years as "quite."

Sylvia Mora Joins Indigos at Caesar's

Sylvia Mora returns to Caesar's (4111 Pacific Coast Highway, tonight and Saturday in a return engagement.

The Indigos, a Chicago show group, also are at Caesar's.

Sylvia appeared last weekend at the local motor hotel which offers coffee shop service as well as the Gourmet Room, the Apollo Room and the lounge.

A full bill of entertainment is scheduled for the future by owner Gil Sellen and host Warren Snyder.

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'Picnic' Is Coming
The Pulitzer prize play, "The Picnic," is to be presented by the Palos Verdes Players the weekends of Oct. 25 and 26 and November 1 and 2.
The play is a comedy-drama telling the story of a not very bright college football player who turns tramp and arrives in a small Kansas town on Labor Day.
It concerns the complications in the lives of a handful of women who find themselves attracted and repelled by the ruggedness of a crude kind of male unknown to them before.
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