

HOLLYWOOD

Round The World

With JOYCE BECKER



Hi, my name is **Joyce Becker**, and I am a Hollywood columnist...a **Hollywood** columnist who travels 'round the world just to follow the Hollywood scene...for as you know, Hollywood is making the scene...all 'round the world. It will be my pleasure to bring to you, from this issue on, the latest happenings with the swinging, ring-a-ding-ing, winging Hollywood set ... no matter where in the world they are ... and no matter what in the world they are doing! My column in "**Hit Parader**" will add a new dimension to an already on-the-move-magazine. It will take you along for a real movin' ride ... hope you'll hop on our bandwagon each issue ... Will you?

While I was in **London, England** (where else), I ran into **ELIZABETH TAYLOR** and **RICHARD BURTON** who admitted that they are currently planning to ease up on their acting careers and hope some day to work for the underprivileged of the world, but they went on to admit that they both loved their profession greatly. Richard said, "I believe that Elizabeth and myself have reached a kind of climacteric and to keep on in this, for us of course, very congenial rat race because we happen to be among the leading rats, would be silly and a waste of half a life time ... I am also thinking of coming home to Great Britain to live. And so is Elizabeth ... I want to come home."

In **New York City**, our own "**Candyman**," **SAMMY DAVIS JR.** gifted the United Negro College Fund with a check for \$40,000. Sammy also happens to be the National Chairman for the Fund.

In **Studio City, California**, two soundstages stand side-by-side and

the atmosphere in each is really something else. In one, where "**Bridget Loves Bernie**" films, it's luv...luv. **MEREDITH BAXTER**, who plays Bridget, and **DAVID BIRNEY**, who plays Bernie, are playing those love scenes off screen as well as on. Right next door, where "**The Partridge Family**" is filmed, **DAVID CASSIDY** is anything but happy...happy...happy. Seems that before David Birney started romancin' Meredith, it was David Cassidy who was her steady. From where we sit, Cassidy still has a flame glowing for the pretty and talented Meredith.

At the **Copacabana** night club in **New York City**, **TRINI LOPEZ** told me that between doing his act there, he is busy scoring the flick titled "**Antonio**," which he recently filmed in **Chile, South America**.

All of **Hollywood** is banking on an Academy Award nomination for **DIANA ROSS'** fantastic performance of the late blues singer **BILLIE HOLIDAY** in Paramount Pictures "**Lady Sings The Blues**." The Academy Awards aren't until April 1973...and they are already talking about Diana for an award...super!!!

Chatting with **DESI ARNAZ JR.** and **DESI ARNAZ SR.** in **Beverly Hills**, Desi Jr. had me laughing up a storm when he commented on his father's Cuban accent by saying, "I can understand Spanish, but I can't understand him." Desi Sr. laughingly replied, "I'm not a very good after-dinner speaker. In fact, I'm not a very good speaker before dinner, either."

In **Hollywood** we learned that the **DAVID CARRADINES** named their new born son, **FREE**. Okay!

It was type-casting indeed when **KAREN VALENTINE** was set for the role of Miss Alice Johnson in "**Room 222**." This is what I learned the day I visited with Karen on the "**Room 222**" set in **Century City, California** ...

The wide-eyed innocence and sometimes bumbling goodness of

the school teacher role she plays in the 20th Century-Fox TV series is, in essence, a replay of her real life. It was a natural comedic talent coupled with a stumbling gracefulness which won her the part of Alice Johnson.

After reading the script at an audition, Karen exclaimed: "This is really me!" When she went into the producer's office to read for the part she made more errors than a far-sighted shortstop. First, she dropped her purse. Then when she stooped to pick it up her glasses fell off and she dropped her script.

"I tried to apologize for being clumsy," Karen recalled. "I knew I had fumbled any chance for the role. But **GENE REYNOLDS**, the producer, said, 'Fine. Don't change.'"

As she was leaving, he said, "Don't get hit by a car." Karen replied, "I'll probably get hit by a bus!"

For the long-hairs...In **New York City**, **VAN CLIBURN** said that after his two-month tour of the U. S. A. he will start a Russian tour.

Still in **Fun City**, I learned that rock recording star **JAMES TAYLOR** made over \$300,000 at his two midnight concerts at **Radio City Music Hall**. Those rock fans jammed the place and had a ball.

Grammy Award winner **LORETTA LYNN** was in **New York** recently for a recording session and she told me that she had been married at 14 and by the time she was 18 she was the mother of four. "I guess I was in a hurry," she said, "It took me a while to find out what was causing it!" She continued that a few years later she had twins. "When they started coming in pairs," she quipped, "I decided it was the right time to do something about it!"

In **Hollywood**, **DESI ARNAZ JR.**, who is getting to be a pretty hot property, will star in "**The Voyage of the Yes**," a CBS drama aimed at the teenage set. The adventure saga

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