

JULY 26 - AUG. 8



THE PLATTERS
World-Famous Hitmakers

THE PLATTERS
Open Aug. 16th



Enterprise-Journal
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Buck Ram, the man who created the singing sensation of the mid-1950s, The Platters, will bring his new Platters to the SE Playboy Club March 29 through April 10. They are "spiritual descendants" of the group that rose to fame singing the songs he penned.



CASTLE ENCORE - The Platters are back in the Jesters Court Lounge of Kings Castle where they appeared last year before top Lake Tahoe crowds. The music of the Platters will be at Kings Castle through May 11.

Newport, Miami Beach

Miami Beach, May 13.
The Platters, Tommy Strand & The Upper Hand, Sami Jo & Co. Treasure Chest Girls; \$6.50 minimum.

The original Platters are long gone, with at least two having their own groups. However, Buck Ram, musical director of the group through its history, may have benefited by the departures. His current group, the senior member of which, Monroe Powell, has only one year's experience with The Platters, could be the best Ram has ever had. Powell, Ella Woods, Gene Williams, Chico Lamar and Charles Boyd each have excellent voices, ditto stage presence and the ability to work as solos. Together they create an exciting show which neatly balances The Platters' hits with contemporary material.

Powell and Lamar handle most of the tenor solos on the group's disks, each displaying excellent voice and well trained in approximating the sounds of the originals. Powell is especially strong, with a voice capable of easily handling such numbers as "Be My Love," first made famous by Mario Lanza.

Miss Woods is a curvy young beauty with a big, wide-ranging voice and vocal savvy. She is a singing and visual treat, whether working solo or within the group. Williams, the afrohaired and bearded bass, has a deep, rich, smooth voice, engaging manner and scores every time he fronts the group. Boyd handles the baritone leads, gets in on several uptempo contemporary numbers and does some of the dancing.

The show is well choreographed, with nearly constant movement, except on the tender ballads when one of the leads is spotlighted.

The show is rounded out by the Strand group, with the leader turning in some funky vocals, complete with the dance gymnastics usually associated with James Brown. His group also backs the go-go girls as they dance onstage and tables. Sami Jo is a lovely young woman who stays very much in the pop field, handling ballads and uptempo numbers well, but shinning on things where she can get to the nitty-gritty and belt, despite her gentle looks and soft Texas drawl.

Dana

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New Platters Get It Together

By GUS DANA
SUN Nightbeat Editor

A year ago, when writing about the Platters, I asked and answered a question about Buck Ram, the man behind the original group — the one which had all the hits — and the current edition, which not only does not include any member of the original, but only one from the group I reviewed last year at almost this same time at the Newport Seven Seas.

The question was: How does Ram do it? The answer: He gets the best possible singers, then molds them into a particular image.

Well, he's done it again. The latest edition is not only good, it may be the best Platters he's ever put together. Each performer is a capable single in his or her own right, and together they blend into an exceptional group.

Whether doing something contemporary or one of their old hits — "Twilight Time," "My Prayer," "The Great Pretender" or "Only You" — the group is superb. The audience dug it immediately, not only filling the Seven Seas but giving the group repeated standing ovations and grooving with them.

Let's discuss Ella Woods, the group's one female, first. She is beautiful, has a marvelous, wide-ranging voice and sings her heart out on every solo she has. She is dynamite.

Lead Monroe Powell, the only singer remaining from

last year's new edition, not only has a marvelous voice, but he reaches near-operatic quality on "Be My Love," the old Mario Lanza hit. He also shares emcee duties in a most competent manner with Gene Williams.

Williams is the tallest Platter, augmented by a towering Afro and full beard. He also possesses a bass voice with marvelous qualities, deep, smooth and rich, which brings the audience to its feet each time he solos.

Chico Lamar is the other tenor, who handles many of the group's hits, each an almost perfect copy of the original. Again, an excellent

voice and a professional performer like the rest.

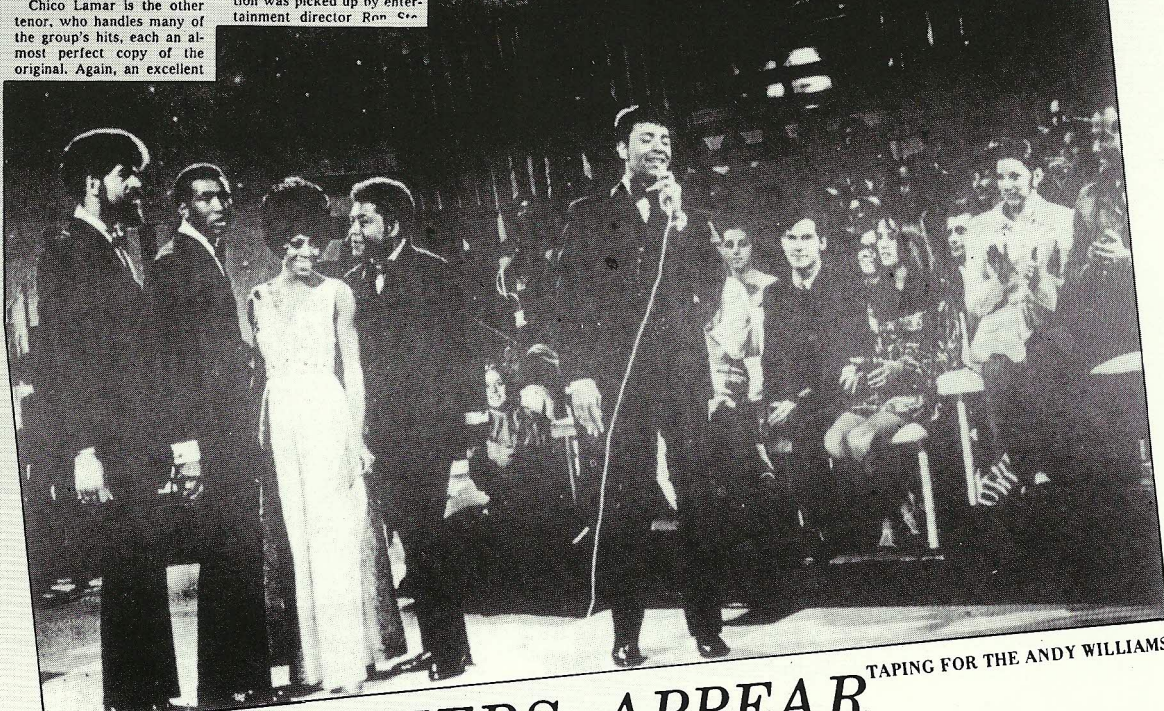
Charles Byrd is the baritone, another young performer with an excellent voice, excellent movement and engaging personality.

Put them all together and they spell the best Platters ever, fresh, quality all the way through, and professional in the finest sense of the word. Buck Ram has done it again.

They'll be at the Newport for two weeks — their option was picked up by entertainment director Ron Se-

vens half-way through the fourth number of their opening show.

Rounding out the current show are Sami Jo and Company, plus the funky sounds of Tonny Strand and the Upper Hand, who are joined by the dancing Treasure Chests. Action usually starts around 10 p.m., with the Platters coming on at around 10:45 for the first show.



THE PLATTERS APPEAR TAPING FOR THE ANDY WILLIAMS

THE PLATTERS originator, Buck Ram, who wrote, arranged and recorded their many hits, is presenting an all new contemporary act — but with the golden favorites still vocally intact.

The demand for this exciting new group in top-notch clubs across the country has their commitment calendar filled for the next six months. Directly following their FLAMINGO engagement, they taped the ANDY WILLIAMS SHOW.