

# SPOTLITE FEATURE

## THE DISTEFANO LEGACY



by William Watters

The first time you meet Las Vegas entertainer Mike Distefano, you think he looks like Riviera Hotel Vice President of Entertainment Sam Distefano. But, when you hear Mike play the piano, you know he's Sam's son.

The senior Distefano has led an exciting, fast-paced life, starting in the entertainment business with a club he opened in Florida right after World War II. His own orchestra has backed every major singer, including Sinatra!

Sam signed on as Entertainment Director for the Playboy Clubs, and, during the 25 years with Mr. Hefner, Sam bought millions of dollars of stars. As Entertainment Director for the Riviera, he recently made a new discovery — his son, Mike!

Mike Distefano is right up there with the best drummers in the business. But Sam needed to book someone to play "cocktail" piano while Riviera patrons dined at the gourmet buffet. Mike had to remind his dad that he wasn't too bad on the piano, and he has turned out to be the perfect addition to the room, playing request, and creating atmosphere like no other buffet in town.

Mike also travels on the road with, with among others, singer-impressionist, Bob Anderson. They both just finished a four week booking in the "Keep Smiling America" show.



So the tradition lives on at the Riviera. Had the Distefano family been larger, they could fully staff and run their own hotel.

(The Author, an Attorney practicing in Las Vegas, is writing his first book, "Naked Vegas".)