



THE GOLD STAR SARDINE BAR

★ COCKTAILS ★

FEBRUARY, 1989

NEVER A COVER! NEVER A MINIMUM! NO MATTER WHICH PERFORMING LEGEND IS ON STAGE...BE IT BOBBY SHORT, TONY BENNETT, LIZA MINNELLI, LIONEL HAMPTON AND HIS BIG BAND, OR PIA ZADORA AND A 35-PIECE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. THERE IS NO PLACE ELSE LIKE IT IN THE COUNTRY! THIS SMALL, CHIC, AND ENCHANTING CABARET, FIRMLY PLANTED ON CHICAGO'S FABULOUS GOLD COAST, IS A COZY, ROMANTIC BOITE THAT SEATS ONLY 60 AND STANDS 250. THE GOLD STAR HAS BECOME THE TALK OF EVERYONE WHO STEPS THROUGH ITS DOORS. A RECENT NEW YORK TIMES' STORY REFERRED TO IT AS "ONE OF THE CITY'S HOTTEST CLUBS," AND "CHICAGO'S VALENTINE TO MANHATTAN OF THE 1940'S." ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT CALLS IT "THE ONLY TRUE CABARET IN AMERICA TODAY."

SOME PEOPLE FOLLOW THE TRENDS; COLORFUL AND INVENTIVE SUPERMARKET MAGNATE BILL ALLEN CREATES THEM! TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, ALLEN PUT HIS SPECIAL STAMP ON HIS NOW-LEGENDARY CHICAGO-BASED TREASURE ISLAND SUPERMARKETS (OF WHICH THERE ARE NOW SEVEN)...INTRODUCING THE IDEA OF IMPORTED GOURMET FOODS AND FULLY-STOCKED DELI COUNTERS LONG BEFORE THE TERM YUPPIE LIFESTYLE WAS INVENTED!

SIX YEARS AGO, HE OPENED THE GOLD STAR SARDINE BAR (WHEN DISCOS WERE STILL THE RAGE), BECAUSE HE WANTED TO RECREATE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE INTIMATE, ROMANTIC NEW YORK CLUBS HE REMEMBERED FROM THE 1940'S. A 1988 CHICAGO SUN TIMES' STORY REPORTED THAT "ALLEN SINGLE-HANDEDLY SET THE STAGE FOR THE CAFE CLUB MOVEMENT IN CHICAGO." THE SIGN ON THE GOLD STAR'S FRONT DOOR BOLDLY STATES: "IF YOU MISSED NEW YORK IN THE 1940'S!" AND, IF YOU DID...THIS ALLURING BOITE WILL RECAPTURE A MYSTICAL SENSE OF WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE TO BE DOROTHY PARKER OR NOEL COWARD OR GEORGE S. KAUFMAN AT THE FABLED ALGONQUIN ROUND TABLE. ALLEN'S GLOSSY FOOD AND DRINK MENUS AND EVEN HIS MATCH BOOKS ARE A TRIBUTE TO "NEW YORK'S MOST BEAUTIFUL DEBUTANTE OF THE 1938-39 SEASON," BRENDA DUFF FRAZIER.

BILL ALLEN, A COMBINATION OF ZORBA THE GREEK, P.T. BARNUM AND FLORENZ ZIEGFELD, RE-INTRODUCED NY-STYLE CABARET ENTERTAINMENT TO CHICAGO WITH HIS EXCLUSIVE BOOKINGS OF SUCH GREAT NY CLUB FAVORITES AS BOBBY SHORT AND JULIE WILSON (IN FACT, THE GOLD STAR IS THE ONLY CABARET THAT SHORT PLAYS ON A REGULAR BASIS OUTSIDE OF HIS CAFE CARLYLE HOME). LAST DECEMBER, MR. SHORT WAS INVITED TO BECOME A PART-

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