

# Entertainment

## An Evening Out with Roger Doris

Kitty Merideth is a name that is synonymous with Diamond Lil and the Skyline Hotel. She has been the featured entertainer for a good number of years at the Skyline Hotel on Dixon Rd. Since the hotel was built years ago there have been a few other Diamond Lils in the lounge of that same name but the majority of those years Kitty has been entertaining patrons nightly.

Diamond Lil's Lounge is a unique type of club. The decor is that of an old time Klondike saloon, complete with sawdust on the floor. The customers are a combination of conventioners and local residents out for an evening of entertainment and laughs.

It takes quite a special type of person to be able to entertain this kind of an audience. A good female vocalist with a band behind her could not make it with just her singing.

To be Diamond Lil an entertainer must be able to sing, lead sing-a-longs, tell a few jokes, have a quick responsive wit and be able to build a rapport with the audience. Kitty Merideth is just that person.

Being Diamond Lil night after night for such a long time is nice for Kitty but it also poses some problems as well. The biggest problem is to keep making enough changes in the show so as to make it interesting and entertaining to the local faithful who keep returning to the lounge each week.

Over the years Kitty has always been able to make changes to the show that has made it a hit with customers. She changed bands, brought in banjos and brass, added four lovely dancers, had elaborate costume changes and always introduced new tunes with the old favorites.

Each new show seemed to get better until I began to wonder just what she could possibly do next to better the show. I went last week to see the latest show in Diamond Lil's and was absolutely amazed.

Kitty has brought together six top musicians to form what has to be the best band in the city. These fellows can play jazz and Dixieland that will make you never want to leave.

The experience with some of the big bands of the world that some of these musicians have, is hard to believe. Drummer Stan Perry played with Woody Herman and Lionel Hampton. Mitch Melnic played sax, clarinet and flute with Gene Krupa. Trumpet player Sam Noto played with Stan Kenton, Woody Herman and Count Basie. Pianist Mike Massey, Ken Clark on trombone and

bass player Paul Weidman all have big band experience as well. With that kind of talent you can see why I feel that Kitty has put together one of the finest bands in the entire area.

For the summer months Kitty is using just two dancers with the show and is alternating them every two weeks with the other two regular dancers.

When I caught the show last week Candy and Kathy were there singing and dancing and wearing those charming costumes that made them hits with patrons who had filled the room. Both girls are excellent dancers and singers but Candy's charming and bubbling personality combined with her gorgeous figure, won her admiration from both male and female patrons.

Kitty was still the great pro she always has been. Knowing just what to sing and say to keep the customers entertained. She deserves a lot of credit for keeping the show in Diamond Lil's at the Skyline Hotel one of the most entertaining packages to be enjoyed anywhere, and without a cover charge too.

If you are looking for a vacation value of a lifetime, then I have just what you are looking for.

On Aug. 27 I will be escorting a group of my friends and readers to the Grand Bahama Hotel and Country Club for a fabulous week of fun in the sun.

Never before has this great Adventure Tour vacation package been so reasonably priced.

It will cost you just \$219 per person based on double occupancy to enjoy this fun-filled week in the Bahamas. It includes return airfare, deluxe hotel accommodations, free golf, free tennis, free cocktail parties, paddle wheel boat cruise and much more. For just \$50 more you can purchase the dining package which includes seven breakfasts and five buffet dinners.

The Grand Bahama Hotel is my favorite spot as it has everything to offer that anyone could possibly want

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