



Aaron & Beth (she's shown at left, and he at right) don't need a backup band at the Faust Bar.

### Duet act makes Faust bar sing

By DYANNE FRY  
Staff writer

They've played all over the country, but the southern background shows in their speech. "I'm not from anywhere, really," says Beth Howell, "better half" of a duo that performs regularly at the Faust Hotel bar. Her father was in construction, and went wherever the work was. But she admits to being born in New Orleans.

Aaron, her partner and husband, finished high school at another spot on the Gulf Coast — Angleton, Texas.

The Howells (who prefer to be known professionally as just Aaron & Beth) got their act together nine years ago, and have played in Florida, Wyoming, Missouri and Colorado.

Aaron, who prefers to be known locally as just Aaron, and Beth since became local to this area. And Matthews helped lure them here from Beaumont just a few months ago.

Between them, the two acts have the Faust covered. Matthews plays in the bar Monday through Wednesday; Aaron & Beth come in every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

"This is just the second I was looking for in here," said hotel manager Gary Cullif. "Not too loud." And nice harmony.

The couple does a wide variety of songs, ranging from Chuck Berry to Willie Nelson to Fleetwood Mac originals.

On stage, they seem to have an unconventional marriage, with the trapeze partner doing most of the work. Aaron picks acoustic (both six- and 12-string electric models), plays a pedal bass, runs the mixing board and adjusts the electric drummer.

"One time Beth says, 'you don't have to pay him,'" he quipped to a Thursday night audience.

Beth just sits on a stool and sings, but she does that very well. Her beautiful voice can stand alone on Crystal Lake numbers, or single delightfully with Aaron's — sometimes over, and sometimes under — on the duet arrangements.

They like to chat with the audience between songs, which makes for a homely atmosphere. But their one-liners sometimes fall a little flat.

"I dare suggest they talk less, and sing more?"

### 'Buffalo Bill' stars lovable louse

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Archie Bunker Colesman proved that television viewers could learn to love an unlovable character if he was funny enough.

Bill Bittenger isn't as crude as Archie, nor is he as outrageous. But he is a prime example of the lovable-louse hero.

Danney Colesman stars as Bittenger, a television talk show host, in the NBC summer series, *Buffalo Bill*. He draws his name from the locale of his show — Buffalo, N.Y.

The comedy series was due to begin a 13-week run in early June.

"I can't think of anything nice about him," Colesman says. "I think you have to end up comparing him to Archie Bunker, and I can't think of any redeeming values he had."

"Buffalo Bill" Bittenger stands at nothing in his unethical pursuit of fame and higher ratings. No rock is left unturned, no toe is left undusted on. Perhaps the name "Buffalo" also refers to his behavior.

Colesman has perfected his louse characterization in such movies as *2 To 5*, *Tarzan* and the just-released *Wagons*, and in the TV series, *Mary*

*Harrison*, *Mary Harrison*. He exposed another side in *Dr. Golden's Parade*, as Jane Fonda's fiancé.

"What these characters have in common is the strain of the villain," he says. "They're wannabes, a bit of a con man, a chauvinist. They have that in common, but when you get down to it, they're all different."

Colesman, a tall, slim native of Austin, Texas, and a leading celebrity tennis player, was a serious actor who was a regular on *That Girl* 16 years ago.

He said a pivotal role for him came

in 1973 when he played Cloris Leachman's husband in the ABC *Dying Room Only*.

"My acting style changed after that," he said. "It was a combination of knowing Cloris' acting style and knowing we could improve. We trusted each other. So all of a sudden I was doing what I wanted to do because I knew Cloris was going to back me 100 percent. After that, I was a different actor. I started trusting myself more, using what was inside me more."

### Italian Charlie Chaplin born to act

ROME (AP) — Teacher, soldier, gangster, priest. You name the role, Alberto Sordi has played it, an Italian Charlie Chaplin standing through the challenges of day-to-day life.

Portraying a lonely Italian immigrant in Australia, a successful Roman playboy, a strutting army officer or an arrogant 19th-century nobleman, Sordi has persistently drawn laughs and tears.

"I never play a role if I don't really know what it involves," says Sordi, who is currently studying the brookneck world of Roman taxi drivers in preparation for his 16th film.

"I need a pretext to talk about everything, from politics to fashion," he says, sitting in his office in downtown Rome, where he is interviewing actors for the film he's also directing.

"If there's a place which gives you a chance to talk to all sorts of characters about almost anything, that is the driver's seat of a Roman cab."

*Il tassinaro* — *The Cabby* will give the 62-year-old actor a new

approach to his favorite subject: Rome and Romans.

The sulzy Sordi, with his bewildered look of the average man who never manages to do things right, has become the unofficial outshiner of Roman society, stressing how imagination and indulgence make life in the Italian capital unlike any other.

Sordi was special prize actor after his roles: broached sensitive areas of Italian life, such as corruption, terrorism and drug addiction.

In 1971, during Italy's worst period of terrorism, he raised eyebrows with his film, *Dieci in Prea* (*Ten Brawns*). He played the role of a civil servant who takes justice into his own hands and avenges the terrorist murder of his son.

"I was born to be an actor," Sordi says. "And that is exactly what I began doing since the day I entered classrooms starting at me as I helped to celebrate mass as an altar boy. But no, every place became a set from then on."

The son of a school teacher and a musician, Sordi was born in 1919 in the working-class district of Trastevere. When he was 12, he won a contest to provide the Italian voice for one of the screen's greatest comedians: Oliver Hardy.

From dubbing, Sordi jumped into radio, and from there to the screen in the early 1950s with *The Bignoni*, *Nero's Holiday* and *It Happened in Rome*.

But real success came after Sordi appeared in Federico Fellini's *7½ Women* in 1962, and *Violenza in Sila*.

His first appearance on a screen in the United States was in 1954 when he made *An American in Rome*.

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