

LONDON, HERMAN, WICK AT TROP.

Topline in Producer Maynard Sloate's newest Galaxy '67 presentation at the Tropicana, is the provocative Julie London, the sexy singing star who will be making her debut in the Tropicana's show-case.

Backing the sultry songstress will be Woody Her-

man and his Thundering Herd, regulars in the Blue Room's stable or orchestral greats, while the comedy capers will be cut by Bobby Wick, the remaining active half of the Wick-and-Brand Team, who will be making his solo Las Vegas debut.

Rounding out the Dec. 2-22 lineup will be the celebrated Dukes of Dixieland, who alternating with the three-ply production, also will be staging an initial outing at the Tropicana.

During the period, the Blue

Room becomes the prime entertainment site at the Trop, where rehearsals for the Centennial edition of the Folies Bergere will close down the Theatre Restaurant from Dec. 4 until Dec. 23, when the new Parisian extravaganza bows.

Bak in La Fountain lounge, the singular guitar artistry of Antonia Flores brightens the intimate room, while Julian Foorman continues his marathon march with his Stradivarius in the adjoining Gourmet Room.

LAS VEGAS

PROFILES

by Percy Villa



The bosses and many executives of the Sahara Hotel come and go but pretty Billie Geller has been the Sahara's "house photography chief" for a long time, in fact, since the hotel opened.

By chance, the other nite I joined Billie and her girl friend Lou Ceil Austin (wife of Gene) and we started talking and this is where her story begins.

She was born and raised in New York City and came to Las Vegas 20 years ago.

In her line of work, one certainly meets many people. When you're as likeable as Billie, that can only add up to thousands of friends and some rare experiences.

"I recall when we all wore cowboy outfits, as sort of local color," she recalled. "I'll never be able to estimate how many times couples rushed me into the chapel to be their marriage witness. After all, boots and spurs look great in a western wedding picture," said the blond and charming Miss Geller.

I question if there is another photographer who has taken more pictures of Hollywood and stage stars? Her favorite, all-time attractions are Donald O'Connor, Johnny Carson and Connie Francis.

She is somewhat shy. However, she is anything but reticent with friends. She can participate in an intelligent conversation on a large variety of subjects. She has a keen sense of humor and a unique laugh and personality that goes with it. She claims real talent is an



BILLIE

easily recognized quality and that the phony is easily spotted and defeats himself.

She is old-fashioned in her belief that dedication to work and self-discipline lead to success.

Billie came to Las Vegas in 1947 with her late husband who was engaged by one of the first resort hotels on the Las Vegas strip. Experience as a club photographer in New York City gave Billie an occupation to turn to after her husband's departure.

She came to the Sahara at the request of Milton Prell and was the first resident of the hotel. Billie has taken

some particularly fine photos of Mrs. Prell.

She loves to play hostess and is a delightful one. In her beautiful apartment she keeps her parties down to 12 persons, although on special occasions she is hostess to some 40 persons. She must hear all conversations taking place in all parts of the room. She usually does.

She likes music and has all of Mario Lanza's recordings.

She is fond of travel and is a cool and compact packer of suitcases and trunks. As an honorary member of the Variety Club, last April she attended its annual convention in London.

She is a procrastinator. Yet once she starts something she can't stop until she completes it.

She is loved by many and loyal to all she knows. "I have a strange antenna," she says. "I seldom tune in to wrong people."

Now with a staff of four, Billie finds time on occasion for her first love - travel. Recent trips to Europe and the Orient have netted her art treasures proudly woven into the decor of her apartment.

Like the proverbial shoemaker's child, the last thing Billie could readily produce to go with this article was--that's right--a picture of herself.

We're proud to count you as our friend, Billie.

FROM KANSAS CITY CHRONICLE

Hanuka at the Chronicle

We have a letter in our files, written a number of years ago, wherein this newspaper was taken to task for having spelled the name of the Hanuka holiday some 13 different ways in the same issue. The writer was obviously so pleased at his mathematical exploits that it would have been pointless and perhaps cruel to have explained to him that our situation was then comparable to that of every other member of the English-Jewish press.

Last June the American Jewish Press Association, the national body representing the major Jewish newspapers printed in English, adopted a committee report to simplify and standardize the spelling of a number of basic words, including Hanuka. This came after 16 years of painstaking research and debate.

It is almost unbelievable how many factors and forces enter into such a discussion. Historians, lexicographers, rabbinical groups, congregational organizations, advertising agencies, and many others all become "friends of the court" and willing advisors on such problems. The only complication is -- their suggested solutions are all different, strongly voiced, and furiously fought over. The AJP had originally set out to establish a standard transliteration of all Hebrew words, but this would probably have taken 16 times 16 years, so only a few words, chiefly holidays, were undertaken in the initial attempt.

Now we've been watching with some interest the other publications and periodicals that are involved in this spelling problem. We have made some serious attempt to spell the holiday as "Hanuka" in copy coming across our desks, but we have not been too adamant. We may have reduced the number of variations to 4 or 5. Some advertisers have not wanted their spellings changed, or have submitted elaborate art work that is not easily corrected. Some local organizations have objected to our changing even the news announcements of their Chanukah parties to Hanuka parties. Other papers seem to have made less headway than we have. By this time, we are beginning to be thoroughly confused and feeling somewhat like Jose Jimenez, in his humorous sketch about Hews speaking Jebrew.

Well, a Chappy Channukah to you all. (We can hardly wait till "Pesah.")

(NO MATTER HOW YOU SPELL IT--CHANUKAH, HANUKKAH, HANUKA--IT IS STILL THE SWEETEST HOLIDAY THIS SIDE OF THE MESSIAH.)

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