

'SHOWGAST OF THE STARS' ★

VILLA'S VEGAS

By Percy Villa

Although we have seen PHYLLIS DILLER, a number of times since she hit the big time her performance at the RIVIERA HOTEL should be a must on everybodys list.

We took in her show last Monday night before an SRO audience in the beautiful Versailles Room. It was a complete sellout at 8 p.m. Publicity director "Tony" Zoppi, tells me that its been that way since her opening night the week before.

From Zoppi, I learned much about Phyllis Diller.

Miss Diller was 37 years old, a mature age for any career debut. She was a mother of five children when she walked onstage for the first time. The date was March 7, 1935. She sither-toes and soup. His favorite drink is a pop.

He does everything, work or play, to win. He reveals his ambition: "To do what I'm doing now, only better and better."

Gordon has a wide-eyed innocent approach that beguiles strangers and makes him many friends. He knows the score, though.

Conscious of the ever widening tide of Juvenile Delinquency, recipe for combatting this problem is "a boy's best friend is a diamond." ("of course Gordon was referring to a baseball diamond.")

It was indeed a pleasure having lunch and doing this story on my favorite sports personality, 15-year-old Gordy Fink, who is a great source of hope and encouragement to the future of our country.

ed around the piano, lam-pooned Eartha Kitt and Yma Sumac, brandished a zither, and cracked topical jokes. The audience was polite, period.

Miss Diller at that time knew that she wasn't good enough, and had a thousand things to learn. With hard work, it is a known fact that today she is acclaimed as the world's only female stand-up comic of international stature.

Then she went on tour, always improving her act, dropping impressions, developing housewife routines and styling self-depreciation items that have become uniquely hers.

New York met Phyllis late in 1957 when she opened an engagement at the Blue Angel. From there it was television -- the Jack Parr Show primarily -- and her career rocketed. Two years later she became world famous.

She has guest-starred on every major TV show and also has created and wrote her own special a couple of seasons back. She also starred in "They Phyllis Diller Show."

A creative, natural wit, Phyllis writes a lot of her own material, which by nature of her craft must be supplemented by jokes and gags she buys.

She was born in Lima, Ohio, on July 17, 1917. She weighs 107 pounds, stands five feet four inches, and is a warm and lively magnetic human being.

There is only one PHYLLIS DILLER and you have another two weeks to see her at the RIVIERA HOTEL.



PHYLLIS

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