


# ★ LAS VEGAS ★

## 'SHOWCASE OF THE STARS'

**ENTERTAINMENT TRIP AROUND THE WORLD**



**DICK MCINNES**

In 1922 a handsome and talented 18-year old juvenile made his debut in the chorus of "Little Nellie Kelly." I doubt very much if he knew that he would become one of the world's best loved and most respected actor-comedians. But that's exactly what JACK OAKIE is today and he still is making people laugh and love him. I know because I have the ultimate privilege of being one of his "tribe" (that's what he calls his friends). So, when the Hollywood Press Club decided to honor him on his 50th Anniversary in show business (51, but who's counting), there was a giant rush for tickets.

Jack had been told it was a party for LILY PONS and he was really excited about it. You can only imagine his surprise when he walked in and received such an ovation. In fact, most of the night, he kept saying, where's Lilly? (Lily was bedded down by the flu, as was ALICE FAYE.

But among those lucky enough to get in were LAURA LA PLANTE (Jack's first leading lady on the screen, "Finders Keepers", 1927) her hubby, IRVING ASHER, MARY BRIAN ("Social Lion", 1930 among others), BUDDY ROGERS (he co-starred with Jack in a series of silent



**STEVE & EYDIE**  
CURRENTLY AT CAESAR'S PALACE

films), FRED and JUNE MAC MURRAY (He worked with Oakie in "The Texas Rangers," in 1936), DELBERT MANN (directed Oakie's last film to date, "Lover Come Back", 1962) JANE WYMAN (made her film debut in a bit part in "King of Burlesque", starring Jack), GENE RAYMOND, MILTON BERLE ("Radio City Revels", 1938). By the way, Milton was really funny that night.

HAL KANTOR, who used the speech he wrote for the MAE WEST tribute, but it worked (his first job in the business was writing for an Oakie radio show). BEATRICE KAY, RON MOODY, who rushed from his "Oliver" performance just to wish Jack the best and a host of others (Thank you, Louella, wherever you maybe.) Telegrams were sent by JOAN CRAWFORD (a very early romance), Miss Pons, Miss Faye, COLLEEN MOORE, GOVERNOR REGAN and PRESIDENT NIXON. One of the many highlights of the evening was a screening of some excerpts from his amazing career.

A string of honors followed from the State legislature, the L. A. Board of Supervisors and Dr. Jules Stein, Board Chairman of Universal (interrupted only by Oakie's plaintive, "But I hav to go to the men's room". He's a delight, the evening was a delight, and his delightful wife closed the evening by saying "Thank you for adding to our wonderful blessings." We say,

"Thank you, Jack and Vickie Oakie, for adding so much to the world's blessings."

BOOK TRIP...Crown Publishers, "Brando", The Unauthorized Biography", by JOE MORELLA and EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN shows that as early as 1954 Marlon was championing the Indian, so I guess we shouldn't have been so surprised at his Oscar stunt.

**Kings Castle Dons New Crown**

Kings Castle, North Lake Tahoe's largest luxury resort hotel-casino, has assumed new leadership and will re-open its doors May 25th. The announcement was made jointly by the new owner Jud D. McIntosh and Chris Karamanos, the hotel's new general manager and executive vice president.

The 500-room tudor-themed pleasure palace, located on the lake in Incline Village, Nevada, became the crown jewel of the Lake Tahoe area when it opened July 1, 1970. However, difficulties encountered by the previous administration forced the hotel to close Feb. 3, 1972.

The new owner, Jud McIntosh, is a highly successful industrialist with holdings and interest in a number of companies. McIntosh is no stranger to Nevada hotel-casino operations, having been a stockholder in one of the state's most successful luxury resorts, Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Chris Karamanos, who left his post as vice-president and general manager of Circus Circus Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas to assume the top spot at Kings Castle, brings with him an impressive array of credentials. At 31, Karamanos has proven to be a "young giant" in hotel-casino operations and administration in Nevada.

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