

LAS VEGAS

SHOWBIZ

Mark Tan IN LAS VEGAS



ACTORS & ACTRESSES, HEROES & HEROINES, & VILLAINS' MOST DASTARDLY are being sought for the world premiere presentation of an original all new-oldtime musical melodrama, THE

ORPHANS' REVENGE, set for an October opening at the THUNDERBIRD HOTEL (afternoon performances only). Written by the delightfully zany and multi-talented SUZANNE BUHRER (of "Bottoms Up") and GENE CASEY.

"The Orphans' Revenge" will be the initial project of Cafe Productions headed by executive producer MARGE JACQUES. Auditions are scheduled for Sunday, September 19 at the Thunderbird starting at 11 a.m. Audition notices are ALL OVER the Strip and around Las Vegas detailing the roles needed to be filled including the heroine ALICE WHITE, hero JACK PHILLIPS, and the pair of scheming hiss-able villains VICTOR VAN ROOPER and his beautiful but deadly companion CARLOTTA VALDEZ. The new melodrama will also feature some ten new songs penned by Suzanne, Gene and Jan Casey. All performers must sing. Mark that date, September 19 at the Thunderbird for auditions, and opening on or about October 8 at the Thunderbird main showroom.....

STRIP BITS & PIECES.....SIEGFRIED (of the MGM's "Hallelujah Hollywood" featured attraction act Siegfried & Roy and the Tigers) hospitalized suddenly last week with a ruptured appendix. Siegfried is convalescing quietly at his Vegas home after a ten-day hospital stay..... The cast of Breck Wall/Patrick Maes' new "Le Sexy" suffered a most

MERLE HAGGARD, KAY STARR IN CONGO ROOM OF DEL WEBB'S SAHARA

Merle Haggard, the vocalist who battled his way from rags to riches, and dynamic Kay Starr, who has been spinning that wonderful "Wheel of Fortune" for a long, long time, are combining their talents to again give Hotel Sahara guests two superstars for the price of one.

Featured only through next Wednesday evening in the Del Webb resort's Congo Room, the king and queen of country-western music took over Thursday night where they left off some nine months ago, thrilling capacity audiences.

There has been no stopping for Haggard, the son of a dustbowl Okie migrant, since reaching stardom in 1969 with his block-busting disc "Okie From Muskogee." The nationally-famed sing-



MERLE

er-composer since that memorable year has recorded more than 30 albums plus dozens and dozens of best selling singles. Many of Haggard's vocal numbers tell of his depression childhood, the time

spent in prison and the era he spent on the road, breaking his back on tough jobs.

For Miss Starr, her current Sahara engagement seems to be one of her best, offering such great songs as Neil Sedaka's

"The Hungry Years" to the Kirstofferson medley of "For the Good Times" and "Help Me Make It Through the Night."

Keeping audiences on the edge of their seats, the incredibly great lady of song scores continuously with gospel medleys and her long - famous selections,

The superstar show is being offered twice nightly, 8 p.m. dinner and midnight cocktail performance.

Hotel Sahara's Cas-bar Theatre continues to swing daily starting at 4:45 p.m. and right to 5 the next morning with beauty queens Penny & Annie starting the early action. Later in the evening the famed Pinups 76 Revue and the great Imperials rotate on center stage.

A new and spectacular Pinups 77 Revue is set to open on September 17.

serious and near tragic mishap. Two members of the company, enroute to the opening in Houston were in a car accident and hospitalized in Phoenix. No replacements have been announced yet. "Le Sexy" starring KURT SPROUL,

ANGELIQUE PETTYJOHN, JOHN HUCABA, JOEY SKILBRED and the Jerry Norman Dancers opened on schedule at the Million Dollar City Dump, and first reports out of Houston are that it's the biggest smash in town, already!!!!..... Hilarious comedy star, satirist CORK PROCTOR has a big featured slot in a new tv situation comedy pilot titled "Benny and Barney" about two Las Vegas policemen..... ROY CLARK and his manager JIM HALSEY are two of the co-hosts of a weekend long barbecue hoedown at their jointly owned 5000 acre ranch this week in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The annual get together, a kind of "thank you" from the Halsey Company of country artists, is for more than 2000 entertainment buyers representing television, nightclubs, county and state fairs, arenas, etc., etc. Last year's party netted a reportedly more than \$1 million in personal appearance contracts for the Halsey stable including Roy, Hank Thompson, Susan

JACK TELL
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