Bill Willard's

As the cockeyed Frenchman said, "Plus c'est la meme chose, plus ca change," or, THE MORE THINGS REMAIN THE SAME, THE MORE THEY CHANGE. Which leads into some hype for the "new" JERRY JACKSON mounting of "Folies Bergere' at the Tropicana. Ramada is supposed to have tossed in \$500,000 to update and refeather the spectacle, grown quite shabby during all the pre - sale Trop troubles. When the refurbished "FB" bows Friday, one of the same from previous production will be CARL WAL-LACE, recent winner of Best of Las Vegas "Jimmy" award for Outstanding Principal Performer. Changes will be reflected in costumes by designer NOLAN MILLER and settings by CHARLES LISANBY. Despite the sum said to have been spent on the retooling, JACKSON thinks a lot more dollars should have been allocated to account for inflation. That touted \$500,000 funnelled into the Tiffany Theatre is really less than \$250,000. And in these times, that's hay.

Doughty CHARLIE VANDA, impresario for UNLV's Ham Hall, is reminding everyone within earshot to take in the U.S. Army Field & Soldier's Chorus on the 25th. "This group has toured 'round the world to standing - room - only crowds," praised Mr. V. "We hope to give them that kind of audience when they appear in Las Vegas'. . Another bit from Culture Corner --

BILL LEAF, UNLV art prof, is enthusiastic about the new exhibit in Grant Hall gallery featuring the most innovative techniques in paper as an art form.. . Although VANDA is carried away by the pops & patriotism of the Army tootlers and warblers, his Master Series continues with the Osaka Philharmonic on the 23rd in Ham Hall... Nominations are in for Screen Actor Guild officers for the next two years with PERRY SHEEHAN ADAIR, prez; HANK HENRY, veep; SYLVIE STRAUS, secretary; MICHAEL JUSTIN, treasurer; DEAN CASPER and GUS GUIFFRE, council. Who nominated them? The nominating committee, that's who --JEANNE ROBERTS, TED MONSON, CLARENCE HOFFMAN, KENNETH ING, MARCHELL JACK-SON, DEBBY MASON AND BENNY SHORT.

MAYNARD SLOATE is easing "Top Banana" off the Union Plaza boards for May 6 opening of the RON CLARK-SAM BOBRICK "Murder at the Howard Johnson's" with DENNIS JAMES, JUNE LOCKHART and ALAN-YOUNG. SLOATE produces and directs the ha - ha whodunnit ... Comedian - actor RICK PODELL was detoured from his Vegas bow with DONNA SUMMER last Thursday at MGM Grand because of her illness and bowout of the date. CAPTAIN & TEN-NILLE moved up their entrance to play a fortnight with FRANK WELKER.. Arriba! --Mexico's Ballet Folkorico Nacional joined LIBERACE Tuesday at the Hilton as the winner of 1980 Best of Las Vegas Star of the Year "Jimmy" award and L.V. Chamber of Commerce Entertainment Personality of the Year goes Latino for a month...

Doings at the Aladdin this week -- Gladys Knight & The Pips opened with MURRAY LANG-Saturday night KENNY STON on Tuesday. ROGERS' family weekend with his Celebrity Concert in the Theatre for Performing Arts and the next aft his anni celeb softball game at UNLV diamond all to benefit Nevada Special Olympics... ROGERS opened Thursday with DOTTIE WEST at the Riviera ... DIANA ROSS began her two - framer same night at Caesars Palace....BETH HERMAN is new PR handler for the Aladdin....Celeb jazz last Monday spotted ERNESTINE ANDERSON at the Hacienda. The next jazz topper is trombonist BILL WATROUS on the 21st. MONK MONTGOMERY has lined up DIZZY GILLESPIE for May 21.

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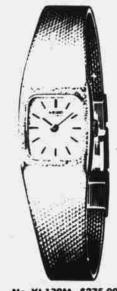


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