

LAS VEGAS

SHOWBIZ EAST

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

WILLIAM SHALLERT, national Screen Actors Guild prez, got an earful of gripes from local SAG members at the annual meeting couple of weeks ago at the Showboat. Vegas actors definitely do not like Hollywood production companies making cushy deals with resort hotels in casino and interior shots using hotel help, when pro SAG talent can do a better job portraying dealers, pit bosses, bartenders, cocktail waitresses etc. For many SAGers that's their line of work or has been at one time.... Re-elected were incumbents **PERRY SHEEHAN ADAIR**, prez and **HANK HENRY**, v.p., but a snafu in the Hollywood SAG office brought on a tie for secretary with runoff balloting coming up for **BARBARA ANN MILLER** and **SYLVIE STRAUS**. New treasurer is **MICHAEL JUSTIN**, with incumbent trustees **DEAN CASPER** and **GUS GIUFFRE** getting the nod for another year as council members... Also attending the meet was **ROY WALLACK**, national Screen Extras Guild prez, who also was surprised to hear about some wheeling - dealing, flat - rate footsie pacting

taking place among the out - of - town film and video producers and dance principals and eager - beaver talent agencies.

Article out of New York in VARIETY sez that American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) "is trying a different strategy in its attempt to organize hotels, niteries and units in the Las Vegas and Atlantic City areas. It's laying a ground work of cooperation with other unions, notably the American Federation of Musicians, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) and the Culinary Workers Union. With the aid of these three unions, AGVA feels it will be able to organize virtually all the performers in both gambling centers'.... Local AGVA rep is **TED MONSON**.... **JOHNNY CARSON**, who returns to his "Tonight Show" perch this week after successful treatment of circulation in his left leg at I.A.'s Cedars - Sinai, also comes into further riches after a \$50 - million dollar deal **CARSON PRODS. INC.** made with NBC-TV to turn out a minimum of three series for the net over three years, plus a number of telefilms.

No more slobs wanted as Vegas visitors -- **HERB LEHRTER**, ad director of Las Vegas

Convention & Visitors Authority, told board members the new media campaigns will emphasize attracting "active, virile people who travel and like to participate in sports"... **RED** and **GENNIE McILVAINE**'s "Your Las Vegas Connection" newsletter items that **MIKE WALLACE** and "60 Minutes" team is "working on a Vegas-related scandal that will shake the very fiber of the country".... Minding the Dunes store are **ARTHUR SHENKER**, **GEORGE DUCKWORTH** and **JERRY CONTE** while both bosses recupe -- **MORRIS SHENKER** from coronary somewhere in Europe and **MAJOR RIDDLE** at Cedars-Sinai.. The Hilton's, **LIBERACE** teams with **TONY ORLANDO** to co - host a 90 min vidspec celebrating the 25th anni of the Riviera, a **Bob Banner Production** taped this weekend. Lee opened the Riv at the highest salary ever before shelled out to a performer, \$50,000 a week.... And more about money, Culinary boss **BEN SCHMOUTEY**'s pay raise now puts him at a little more than \$3,000 than **LIBERACE**'s stipend, but **SCHMOUTEY** has to slave an entire year to earn his 50 - some - grand.

PETER HAENER has returned as "Alcazar de Paris" compere at the Desert Inn after two months recuperating from a 20 foot fall to the stage just before the Parisians opened....



"CHICKEN CHARLIE"

Ben Vereen has returned to the plush Celebrity Room of the MGM Grand Hotel, for an exciting two-week engagement with the rare pleasure of co - starring with one of the world's most beautiful women, **Susan Anton**, and one of its funniest men, **David Brenner**.

Ms. Anton, who got her show business start as a singer with an ice revue in Vegas almost a decade ago before reaching national recognition as the spokeswoman for a cigar firm, is making her third appearance at the Grand as **Vereen's** opening act for the first week of the engagement.

The curtain goes up on the **Ben Vereen Show** twice a night through June 25 before **Englebert Humperdinck** enters the Grand for a special one - week spot.

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