

# LAS VEGAS

# SHOWCASE

## Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

The most dangerous job in Nevada? No, not a pit boss, judging a beauty contest, female accordionist in a topless band -- it's underground mining followed by iron construction on high-rises....That event Monday at the Riviera was a winner, an awards dinner honoring top figures in Southern California horse racing. Comedian GUY MARKS, who tells the best race track jokes since JOE E. LEWIS and JOE FRISCO, was emcee. Also a special award was handed GEORGE RAFT, the Riv's rep. in Bevhills, by jockey EDDIE ARCARO.....New tennis pro at the Frontier is PHIL GUNNING, who also had the same racket going at the Jockey Club and MGM Grand. He's from Auckland, New Zealand.... BARNEY RAWLINGS, exec with Trans-American Video of Nevada and production warbler for the Thunderbird back in the '50s joined the annual Salt Lake City pops concert Tuesday to tenorize "Serenade" from the "Student Prince" accompanied by the Salt Lake Philharmonic directed by EUGENE JELESNIK..... TAV-Nev. mobile productions units returned to Burbank

to videotape CBS - TV's "Flo"... JEAN GUTIERREZ is the new p. r. chief at the Maxim, over from Caesars Palace.



Long - awaited "11" pageant was taped this week at the Frontier wrapping today (17th) hosted by JAMES DARREN. It was taped for a 90 - min. special by Universal Productions of L.V., directed by CHARLES CADWELL.... BRAD MERCER, who preemed his act a few months ago at the Riv, is turning away crowds at LGT Vegas in Mission Hills. Following a July 19 concert at the Catalina Island Casino, he is set for a command perf. \$100 - a - plate dinner at the Dunes for the self - awareness clinic's "Joy of Living" confab....on the 26th.... Panelists selecting honorees for Las Vegas Entertainers Hall of Fame at the Tropicana are JOE DELANEY, FORREST DUKE, WALTER KANE, LEO LEWIS, JEAN MAGOWAN, LENNY MARTIN and CHARLES VANDA. Exec director and v.p. is JANICE HONEYCUTT.... TRISH CORY heads her CORY & CO. at the Four Queens.... MELISSA MANCHESTER, arriving at the Riv. on the 31st, duets with KERMIT THE FROG, "Whenever I Call You Friend," cleffed by KENNY LOGGINS.



DEBBIE REYNOLDS hotted up for her Sands playback with a week at the St. Louis Starlight Theatre. Her working podner, DOC SEVERINSEN, combined taping a "Monte Carlo Show" vidspec in Monaco with a honeymoon in Italy with bride EMILY MARSHALL before resuming "Tonight Show" tootles and guesting with San Diego Symph....SHECKY GREENE & TONY NEWLEY replace Debbie & Doc next Wednesday.... EDWARD VILELLA's ballet workshop at Movements West Dance Studio was a click, winding on the 16th....BILL COSBY and SISTER SLEDGE are in the Hilton Tuesday for three. LIBERACE, who closed his run there, taped a guestint on "20/20." WILLIE NELSON's backdrop at Caesars Palace was a huge Texas flag which unfurled for a week; followed by PAUL ANKA's elaborate sets...



BOBBY SARGENT got a frantic call from producer MAYNARD SLOATE at the Union Plaza that ALAN YOUNG was felled with pneumonia and would he jump in "Murder at The Howard Johnson's." Sez Bobby, "At 3 p.m. Tuesday I picked up a script. At 7 p.m. we rehearsed lines and stage blocking. At 2 p.m. Wednesday we did a rough run through until 6 p.m. At 8 p.m. I was trading lines onstage with June

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