

LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

MESHULAM RIKLIS and his Riviera Hotel are about to engage in a flashback by returning the lounge where SHECKY GREENE, VIC DAMONE, JAN MURRAY, JACK CARTER, the two lates DUKE ELLINGTON and TOTIE FIELDS tore up the joint in the Starlite Lounge. But the new - old one is going to be smaller with wee groups, not stellar names because "Economics simply will not allow us to feature big name stars," sez MR. More Riv news, N'Oleans chirper - pianist GENNY CHEHARDY, a LIBERACE discovery, returns to the Dubonnet Lounge next week. PEPPER DAVIS, comedy host of the Hacienda "Ice Fantasy" and character on "Vegas" is celebrating his second half-century in show biz. TOM NEWTON, who played the lead role in NOEL COWARD'S "Blithe Spirit" at Meadows Playhouse last June, makes his directorial debut with "Caine Mutiny" at UNLV's Bayley Theatre running consecutive weekends through the 20th. JOHN WENNSTROM is Queeg and VIC VALLARO is Lt. Greenwald. State Department of Economic Development is revving up flack for "Silver Turns to Gold" pitch for

50th anni of gambling making a concentrated effort to get Southern Nevadans up to MGM Reno on the 19th when FRANK SINATRA, SAMMY DAVIS JR. and DEBBIE REYNOLDS will not entertain while former Gov. GRANT SAWYER emcees. The new 50th anni edition of Nevada magazine is on the stands put together by CAROLINE HADLEY with a couple of pieces in the publication by this columnist. UNLV student soloists featured in University Musical Society Orch's concert Sunday are JON BEEBE, JANE MOREO, SCOTT RICHARDSON and MIRIAM TARDIBUONO. They's perform in Ham Hall at 2 p.m. RAY ANTHONY & Big Band "Swing Into Spring" at the Sands March 26 - 28. Largest confabs this month center on skis, with Ski Industries America show and Ski Council of America totalling 22,000 delegates out of 70,000 conventioners expected in town through the 31st. SIG SAKOWICZ noted his 8th anni on KLAS - TV by expanding to 60 mins and paging a new director, CHARLES KING. FRED TRAVALENA is taping a pilot in June for a new game show entitled "Assignment" he will host for NBC-TV across the board -- that's five nights a week.

in numerous street scene and musical production numbers. What director FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA might not know is the lovely who posed for the sexy reclining showgirl was TRACY VACCARO, now in the midst of a picareer after winning the Frontier's "II" contest. This was her first exposure, excuse the expression... For yeoman work with the Master Series of concerts at UNLV from inception, CHARLES VANDA was awarded a citation for outstanding services to the U. and the community. ISAAC STERN seconded the notion when he penned Vanda "...At the risk of embarrassing you in this note, I must say that the experience of warmth and unfailing courtesy of your total attention to a performer makes a concert in Las Vegas standout in the middle of a long tour, and for this you must take the largest measure of credit... Please accept our thanks for the quality of your management which should stand as an example to other cities."



MAC DAVIS has an all - new act for his Friday return to the Hilton with LONNIE SHORR, the same stage where MAC made his Vegas debut in the '69 NANCY SINATRA SHOW when the hotel was called the International. Both acts are on loan from MGM Grand where they opened and closed -- their last date the eve before the tragic fire last Nov.... You wouldn't believe the attractions lined up by Sunrise Entertainment Corp. for Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts other than rockers -- Shows like "Sugar Babies" with MICKEY ROONEY, "King and I" with YUL BRYNNER, "Sweeney Todd," "Evita," "Barnum" and if that won't do it, the Boston Pops, with JOHN WILLIAMS conducting, pops in around October.



"Vegas File" is a vidseries in the planning stage projected by former Sheriff RALPH LAMB and filmmaker CHARLES NIZET, whose company organized the 1st Vegas Film Festival, last November... Silverbird sprinklers prevented the spread of the torched fire beneath the stage last Tuesday aft containing the blaze to a storage room and lounge area with only \$5000 damage.. "One From the Heart" has one Vegas prop, the Hacienda's w.k. "Ice Fantasy" cabtop poster

"ODD COUPLE" AT PLAZA

Comedy comes alive again at the Union Plaza when Maynard Sloate presents Neil Simon's comedy classic, "The Odd Couple," starring Tom Poston opening March 6. The production will play to an 8 p.m. dinner and 11:45 p.m. cocktail crowd.

Poston will take the role of the fastidious Felix Unger with Brian Greene as the lovable slob, Oscar Madison.

"The Odd Couple" promises to break all previous records at the Plaza where other Neil Simon productions have included "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" and "Come Blow Your Horn."

"The Odd Couple," one of Neil Simon's greatest endeavors is the story of two highly unlikely roommates. Put in one apartment a man who has no use for cleanliness and a man with a fetish for neatness and you're bound to have trouble.

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