

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

PAUL ANKA is set for eight weeks at the Riviera next year, with his final run at Caesars middle of next month. Also lured by owner MUSHULAM RIKLIS, CHARO and SHECKY GREENE, for eight weeks in '82. They'll work in tandem, alternating closing slots each night. CHARO finishes her Sahara pact this year and SHECK wraps his Summa deal via a Frontier fortnight with the Brothers SMOTHERS last of this month.... DIANA ROSS, also magnetized by RIKLIS from Caesars, makes her heralded bow Aug. 20 for 10 days and she'll waltz away with \$500,000, one of the highest paid entertainers to play the Riv. Remaining four days of the regulation two - framer will be filled by BUDDY HACKETT and TINA TURNER.... The WAYNE NEWTON on/off-off/on deal is off again. He and RIKLIS started talking four months ago.... RIKLIS is quite frank about his high salary carrot stick for toplineers: "I didn't go to the other hotels and say I'd steal this guy or gal. I just went around to find out who can I get at the price I can afford, I sat down with a paper and pencil and did things that other hotels may not have done for years because they live with it. I'm the new kid on the block, I can think differently." Other than AITS which governs the Riv, RIKLIS is boss of Rapid American, a combine which grosses \$2,500,000,000 a year.

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Starting next week's festivities, TONY ORLANDO & JULIET PROWSE go into the Hilton Tuesday for two... No OSMONDS. The Aladdin took back LOLA FALANA through the 19th, then it's the debut of TEDDY PENDERGRASS & STEPHANIE MILLS. JOAN RIVERS, who closed her smasher costarring with LOLA FALANA the other Wednesday, now toplines Harrh's Reno with FRED TRAVALENA. In the Theatre for the Performing Arts "1000 Years of Jazz" blows in on the 28th for a two-nighter. MAC DAVIS, who finished wailing at

MGM Grand with Lonnie Shorr Wednesday, taped his NBC Xmas spec long before the snow flies, in May to be exact, a couple of days after etching his new Casablanca vinyl. In the Grand's Lion's Den, a mucho thinned MAFALDA is awaiting her album "Happy Piano," with sidemen BUDDY HILL, keyboards & LOU CARTO, drums, RICH LITTLE & DEBBIE REYNOLDS are current in Celeb Room. DEBBIE will be the first MGM motion picture star ever to play the Grand. After rehearsing her new act at her own D.R. professional rehearsal studio in North Hollywood, Debbie went public with it last Friday (7) at the Comedy Store in L.A.

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GENE LEVIN, who heads the design department for the Dunes, comes up with a casino-in-the-round with glass walls, flying in the face of old Vegas gambling superstition that casinos should have no windows to the outside world and no clocks. Dubbed "Oasis" the new casino is part of the \$15,000,000 expansion introed by Dunes chairman MORRIS SHENKER after a posh press buffet party at Sultan's Table. New 500-seat showroom called "Sultan's Harem" is also circular aimed for reviving "Vive Les Girls," the FREDERIC APCAR revue which ran in an early Dunes lounge for years... Analysis Films of New York will distribute "Butterfly," the PIA ZADORA-STACY KEACH starrer in September for art houses. PIA plugs the pic Aug. 20 at the Montreal Film Festival with the showing, then fills her date with FRANK SINATRA at Resorts International. She'll be off to the Deauville fest Sept. 3 for more personals there and throughout France. GEORGE CARLIN, able to fill his Sahara fortnight after the auto accident, has singer CATHY CARLSON to warm up the audience. Up-Strip and also for two frames, ROY CLARK & BOBBY GOLDSBORO light up

the Frontier marquee. In the Frontier lounge, GOOFERS goof with the RONDONS.

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Station owner JOHNNY CARSON couldn't make the annual KVVU - TV-5 luncheon here at the Frontier because of traction for an old surfing injury, it sez here, but phoned to tell the assembled 400 he was disappointed not being there especially when the bash was being held in the same hotel where WAYNE NEWTON performs. The two fellas are feuding y'know... Review-Journal ed GEORGE COLLIER didn't exit his post after all, but BILL WRIGHT retired from his top management g.m. job. BOBBY DOUGLAS married CHRISTMAS MAY and both are happy as clams with his CONSPIRACY BAND at the Barbary Coast. JERRY LEWIS AND VIC DAMONE run their gamut on Sahara stage next Thursday while PETER ANTHONY & JEANINE NAPOLEON are held over in the Casbar... TOM JONES brought back comic GEORGE WALLACE for laughs at Caesars through the 26th. FOUR TOPS head the new Silverbird bill with GAYLORD & HOLIDAY held over, all of them wrapping on the 27th. PETE WILLCOX SHOW bows next night. LIBERACE lured to the Riv by RIKLIS for Jan. 7 homecoming. "It will be a grand homecoming for me," said the personable pianist - vocalist. "I was the first act ever booked there -- at a record - setting \$50,000 a week. That was a ton of money back in 1955 and it ain't chopped liver in these inflationary times. That Versailles Theatre is a great room -- the last of the intimate saloons on the Strip."

Lee will appear for six weeks throughout 1982.

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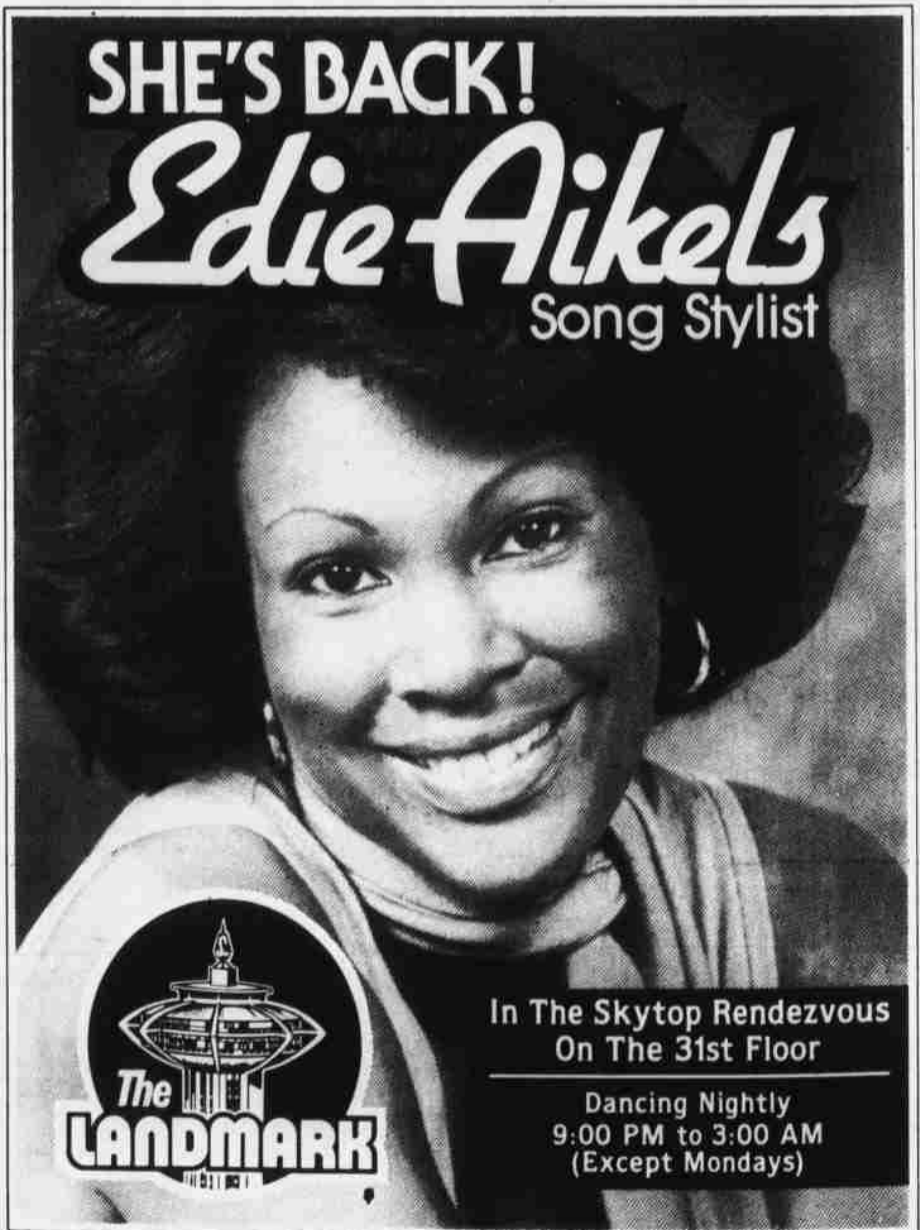
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