

# LAS VEGAS

# SHOWCASE

## Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

WILLIE NELSON, the millionaire. He signed a multimillion \$\$\$ pack with Caesars Palace. According to CP entertainment veep ALAN MARGULIES, that's the most loot every paid to a country boy. But WILLIE will have to earn his keep in '82 and '83 by playing a minimum of 12 weeks. That's nothing; when he revs up, WILLIE can sing 12 weeks without stop... FRED TRAVALENA, who with JOAN RIVERS, drew SRO and turnaway crowds at Harrah's - Reno, makes a couple of Sahara stops next month -- Labor

Day weekend with JERRY LEWIS for the MDA Telethon and back on the 25th to co-headline a week with CHARO.... APRIL SHENANDOAH, now that's a purdy name for you, was winner of the MURRAY LANGSTON Ms. Unknown Comic Contest at the Hacienda. She gets a part in MURRAY'S new film being produced by STEPHEN FRIEDMAN of Carousel Entertainment, the company that put the musical "Annie" on Broadway. While we're messing around the Hacienda note that MICHELLE BAUDRY was appointed restaurant manager by director of operations BARRY KAPLAN. Very experienced in hotel administration and eateries, MICHELLE formerly did her chores for the Riviera and Marina.... Speaking of "Annie" the preem of the pic directed by JOHN HUSTON in theatres throughout the USA will benefit local PBStations, including our own KLTV. Stars of the film are ALBERT FINNEY as Daddy Warbucks, CAROL BURNETT as Miss Hannigan, BERNADETTE PETERS, ANN REINKING, TIM CURRY, EDWARD HERRMANN, GEOFFREY HOLDER and 10-year-old EILEEN QUINN in the title role of the world's most famous red-headed orphan. I'm moseying out to Sam's Town Monday for a VIP review opening of SAM & BILL BOYD'S new 56-lane bowling center, not particularly to meet pro-bowlers VIRGINIA NORTON & EARL ANTHONY especially, but for those delicious lunches SAM & BILL hand out to free-loaders. BARNEY RAWLINGS of Trans-American Video of Nevada said his outfit had three

major "shoots" in one week -- videotaping of "Bravo Vegas" at Imperial Palace, the "Showcase USA" show with FRANKIE AVALON also at IP and two perfs of "RAZZLE DAZZLE" at the Flamingo Hilton.

Weekend watch by Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority during the air controllers strike comes up with upbeat stats for resort owners. The second weekend, for instance, visitor volume was up 2% over same weekend last year with rising hotel occupancy -- hotels at 92.9% and motels 89.9%. Another indicator is auto traffic, much of it from Southern California, all accelerating at 7.3% over same span a year ago. Weekend just over should not cause anyone any headaches either.... Honolulu developer GEORGE McLAUGHLIN is in the midst of relocating his King Nevada Hotel-Casino from a site across from Convention Center to the Strip corner opposite the Tropicana. The \$255,000,000, 32-story tower would be world's largest, he sez, plunking down \$21,000,000 for the 28 acres, adding "The Tropicana location does have a big advantage of being right off the freeway.".... Stardust is expanding with a second complete gaming casino called "Bingoland" and 768 more guest rooms all of the stretching out to cost \$25,000,000 with target opening February next year.

### SURVIVORS MARCH IN CANADA

TORONTO (WNS) -- An angry crowd of about 500 persons most of them Holocaust survivors marched down to the headquarters of a neo-Nazi propagandist in downtown Toronto in the evening and forced police to have signs claiming the Holocaust was a hoax, that hung on the outside of a building, removed. They marched after the rally to the home of Ernest Zundel, a commercial artist who disseminates anti-Semitic propaganda in Canada, West Germany and elsewhere.

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JERRY LEWIS opened Friday with VIC DAMONE at the Sahara, firing up for the MDA Labor Day Telethon Sept. 6 - 7 from the Space Center complex. Early Thursday ayem at PAUL ANKA'S Jubilation showbiz and celebs look-alikes gathered for "A Night in Vegas" to raise money for MDA with taped seg to be shown on the telethon. In the Sahara Casbar, a foursome named ROCKIT alternates with "FOR THE FUN OF IT." STEVE BEYER, musical director of "FTFOI" turns to Rachmaninoff for pianistics and warble of "All By Myself" as one of the revue's highlights. Nevada Palace topliner ROY CLAYBORNE, "the country Kojak" will headline the Arthritis Foundation's country-western show at the "Dunes" Sept. 26 co-sponsored by KRAM radio... DEBBIE REYNOLDS hit big with her new act co-headlines with RICH LITTLE at the Grand, gets a return date Oct. 2 - Nov. 18. Upstairs in the exec offices, pub-rel honcho BILL BRAY brings in onetime Channel 13 news anchorman HARLEY AKERS as DON USHERSON leaves for other pursuits.

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CHER takes on a week at Caesars Palace with amuser FREDDIE ROMAN. CP tested out its Grand Prix course last week with three-

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