

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

The delectable frappe titled "Fire & Ice" is a hit at the Hacienda. Owner PAUL LOWDEN tossed a lavish press party last Friday after the show and most of the town crickets (critics) pronounced the show the best ever at that hotel, staged and choreographed by the wonderman JERRY JACKSON and produced by RON ANDREWS, who also doubles as orch leader....The publicity department of Imperial Palace is perhaps the busiest in town, judging from the flood of items each week across the desk. For instance, the IP beaters proclaim the first anni auto run Nov. 18-22 for car buffs owing 1936 auto or older chugging through Red Rock Canyon, Bonnie Springs, Blue Diamond and down the old I.A. Highway back to the hotel; also for immediate release the item that BOBBI REHAL from Sioux City, Iowa, won a jackpot, a '37 Ford and the next jackpot car is a '58 Chevy Impala; the appearance in the Geisha lounge of CARLEEN & HASSELL and SID SHAM & BILL DELOACH of New Life and the blockbuster announcement that IP was signing the "first singing matinee idol to ever defect from the U.S.S.R." Because this world shaker was received before publication of this issue, I can't tell you his name and details. Stay tuned... CHARLOTTE PRZESTWOR, who warbled clear soprano notes in the musical "A Christmas Carol" at Meadows Playhouse last December, will marry BRAD FORD July 24 in Guardian Angel Cathedral. She's sis of singer TOM CHRISTY, who played many Vegas lounges before settling in London for more entertaining....Second anni American Cancer Society gala auction & dinner dance May 15 at the Sands will spot RITA MORENO as guestar, ROBERT MAHEU as speaker. LISA PRATT, wife of Sands veep ED PRATT III chairs the event....BOBBY VINTON hosted the Mrs. America Beauty Pageant at the Hilton....BERNADETTE PETERS is a living doll and scrump-

tuous with a fey sense of humor. Many a person in her MGM Grand audience (she closed with ANDY WILLIAMS Wednesday) was startled at lyrics to the song "Make Love Alone," a very unsquare tune, delightfully shocking, but old news for auto eroticists.

★★★★★

CECIL BURNS, the Seattle Skid row "tenant," who won the Circus Circus \$400,000 Silver Strike jackpot a month ago and returned to his haunts in a new chauffeur driven car, told many tales to media about his lucky pull. One yarn, "The Circus Circus gave me the royal suite and I called the bell captain and got all the pretty girls I wanted, the best-looking girls in the world," was denied by CC's public relations/marketing director MEL LARSON -- the bit about the girls especially. BURNS did get a suite and a security guard to escort him to the nearest bank where he sliced his \$400,000 into cashier's checks of varied denominations.... Fire Department investigators called the \$1,000,000 Joe Julian Restaurant blaze the work of an arsonist. Hours before the eatery was gutted, an eviction notice was posted on the restaurant door....First winner in Binion's Horseshoe Club World Series of Poker was Vegan Nick Heim, raking in \$40,000. The 14 series events ending with the \$10,000 buy-in, no limit, 7-card hold'em May 22-25, will find STU UNGAR defending titles he won in '80 and '81, netting him \$1,580,000 in prize money.

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DOC SEVERINSEN, teeing a week's playback with CRYSTAL GAYLE at MGM Grand, arrived a day early to appear with MIKE DOUGLAS on Cable News Net's "People Now," live taping in the Hilton's casino lounge Wednesday, co-hosted by RIP TAYLOR for a couple of segs.... Sands headliner ANTHONY NEWLEY is daylighting writing both book and score in coliah with STANLEY RALPH ROSS, for projected "Chaplin" tuner to star TONY in title role... JIM BAILEY took over the Sandstage Thursday for a week xeroxing BARBRA STREISAND & JUDY GARLAND....SIEGFRIED & ROY make themselves disappear for a month's rest from "Beyond Belief" at the Frontier with SHECKY

GREENE & TAMMY WYNETTE comedying & singing through the 20th....NEIL SEDAKA & NORM CROSBY hit the Hilton stage Tuesday for a frame followed by ENGELBERT & STEWIE STONE....COUNT BASIE layed 'em out at Harrah's Tahoe with SAMMY DAVIS JR. and the same combo blasted Caesars Palace for a swinging ride Thursday for a fortnight.

★★★★★



EVERT HEIKENS (CENTER) AND HIS WIFE JUST CAME INTO THE DESERT INN TO SEE "THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS," NOW PLAYING IN THE DI'S SHOWROOM, BUT THEY DECIDED TO INVEST \$20 IN THE PROGRESSIVE SLOT CAROUSEL. AFTER THE SHOW, HITTING THE BIG JACKPOT, THE HEIKENS ARE RETURNING TO WELLSBURG, IOWA, \$126,674 RICHER. PRESENTING THE CHECK ARE DI VICE PRESIDENT FORREST WOODWARD (LEFT) AND SLOT MANAGER RON DENTON.

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