

# LAS VEGAS

# SHOWCASE



TOMS UP' through the summer until Sept. 1... In the Casbar lounge the longrunning revue "Saddle Tramps" rode off into the sunset with SIDRO'S ARMADA replacing indef, subject to a week's notice....LIBERACE introduced comedy juggler JAMES MARCELL into his new Las Vegas Hilton show with holdovers MACEO'S LITTLE STEPS and DANCING WATERS.

★★★★★

TED TURNER'S Cable TV shot segs of "Portrait of America" series, this one on Nevada, a hop & skip through history, all of the dox to be presented in 60 - hour - long shows with HAL HOLBROOK hosting. PETER MATULAVICK from L.A. scripted, directed, produced with associate ANDREA LARNER filming casino action at the Tropicana with JAKIBASKOW TALENT AGENCY & ASSOCIATES supplying over a dozen extras and principals. DAVE BARRY'S son, DANA, thesped before the cameras as BUGSY SIEGEL in a vignette about the start of the Flamingo...And RED McILVAINE was the only Vegas actor to win a featured role in "Honeyboy," the ERIK ESTRADA-MORGAN FAIRCHILD starrer for NBC-TV filmed at the Sands and the Showboat...I auditioned for the role but RED got it...JOHN DAVIDSON and SUZANNE SOMERS have a warbling week together at MGM Grand before DEAN MARTIN brings back all of his Jack Daniels specials for a frame...ANNE MURRAY & LARRY GATLIN & GATLIN BROS. BAND are current at the Riviera with VILLAGE PEOPLE and JOAN RIVERS teaming up again for their onslaught on the 24th....On that night the mysterious DJAN TATLIAN, who arrives with a fancy hyped background including "being the biggest singing superstar the Eastern bloc has ever produced" reveals his vocal wares to the Western bloc at Imperial Palace.

★★★★★

There's no official confirmation from Caesars nobles about "42nd Street" opening Jan. 1 in Circus Maximum and DAVID MERRICK ain't talking either...KEELY SMITH at Top 'O the Dunes until July 1 is looking forward to McDonald's Far East Celebrity Tour starting July 21 including Manila, Malasia & Singapore...

The Chamber of Commerce doesn't believe in a slump or anything downbeat as witness its new "Greater Las Vegas Report." Within a slew of slick pages are paeanic trumpeting, the only sour note being home construction and a bit of dissonance with slight drop of tourists last year..But consider what the HOLMES-COONEY fight did for the city, hotels bulging with credit - liners from \$10,000 up. At the Dunes it took a \$50,000 credit line to get one of the posh suites and at Caesars Palace, scene of the orgy, the rooms were for the \$50,000 people....Previous weekend was also big with wrap of Helldorado rodeo. ED BRANCH, head honcho of the Elks event, praised support by everyone from resorts to parade watchers saying "the people themselves made this the greatest Helldorado the town has ever seen." Getting the Helldorado message out via video was Trans-American Video of Nevada ushering in a season of rodeo lensing on the circuit including North Platte, Nev., Prescott, Ariz., Kansas City, Colorado Springs and the classic Frontier Days Rodeo in Cheyenne for ABC-TV....Preem of the Frontier's new "Wild Horse SlotSaloon" was another positive shot. MONTE HALE and "Mr. Frontier," MORT SAIGER, sledge - hammered an old fashioned slot machine to slivers while in the lounge musical action revved up with bluegrass combos RISING SOUTH and BUCKSKIN.

★★★★★

Mystery is whereabouts of WILLIE NELSON, who misses Caesars dates while WAYNE NEWTON fills in. But WILLIE is playing a concert in Reno with CRYSTAL GAYLE, so the illness excuse is out. NEWTON has a current fortnight at Caesars followed by return of CHER from her Broadway fling on July 1...MARILYN MCCOO is due at the Sahara as DON RICKLES' partner on the 24th for a week, then it's "BOT-

JAY RAMSEY BAND moved out of their Maxim Cloude Nine lounge alternates with the VAN GEES and JONES, ambled over to the Frontier Circle F lounge where THE TRENTERS are due back in that staging area Thursday.... Smoothie magician LANCE BURTON is featured nightly in the Tropicana's "Follies Bergere" until next month when he jets to Lucerne to compete for a magic award from Federation International Society of Magicians, largest magic org in the world. LARRY LEE, the Trop's entertainment director and DON GUGLIELMINO, pubrel chief are busy on July 4 benefit for Nevada Easter Seals sponsoring the Las Vegas Symphony Orch in "A Symphony in the Key of Liberty."

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One of those things where art superceded commerce -- the invite to the gala black tie dinner at Caesars Palace last Saturday after the HOLMES-COONEY fisticuffs honoring CLIFFORD PERLMAN "Sports Man of the Year" by the U.S. Olympic Committee while I was sweating out a long rehearsal during the gala sans black tie for "My Fair Lady," missing rubbing elbows with the likes of RYAN O'NEAL, FARRAH FAWCETT, BOB MATHIAS, TOM JONES, ALAN KING, BILL COSBY, ANN-MARGRET, LEROY NEIMAN, SAMMY DAVIS, RED BUTTONS and all manner of politicians, Glory Be! "My Fair Lady," incidentally, opens at Meadows Playhouse on July 6 as that sly whydunnit "Deathtrap" closes Saturday...JOSEPH BERNARD presents members of his classes Monday in scenes from plays at his studio, Actors Showcase, 2927 Industrial Road. One of BERNARD'S students, DON MIRAULT, captured lead role of Zach in "A Chorus Line" now playing in L.A.....LORETTA HOLLOWAY returns from an eight week tour of Japan, Malaysia and Singapore to open with BILL COSBY

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