

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCAST

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

On the final night of this month of July, the curtain will close on the Meadows Playhouse production of "My Fair Lady," with a distinguished cast and crew and biggest box office in years. As the staunch Col. Hugh Pickering, I enjoyed the month's run and will shed a tear and heave a sigh as evenings and sometime days are taken up with other pursuits. Before taking the last bow, I wish to salute some of my colleagues who did not make the Dean's List in Vegastars the previous issue. First, my apologies to fine actor DAVID HANSON for giving him another person's last name and to TERI LYNN AARON for misspelling her first name. As she cheerfully goes about her chores as assistant to director JUDITH BRENNER and dispensing props and giving neat cast soirees, salud! Also a tip of the top hat to REBECCA HERMAN, stagehand and assistant light board operator; JACK MILLS, set construction and stage hand; NEIL BRUESCH and TOM STORCH, stage hands and to the impeccable drummer GEORGE WHITE. And now the fortunes of Meadows Playhouse point toward the new season which will begin with a hoot and a howl as NEIL SIMON'S "The Sunshine Boys" enters on Sept. 7. Although the Hilton has "Bal du Moulin Rouge" oversize revue arriving Sept. 1 for indef run, space will have to be made for ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK'S pacts next year, fortnights in April, August and November. Over 200 girls will be after the most coveted children's and teenage titles in America with 20th anni of World Universal Systems Pageant at the Tropicana Aug. 2-10, under direction of MARJORIE HANNEMANN. Final crowning in all categories will be Aug. 12 in the Tiffany Theatre. LYN JOYCE is handling local entries at 733-0322. At the Grand, CRYSTAL GAYLE & DOC SEVERINSEN will be paired for a week Aug. 5, followed by RICH LITTLE & LYNDA CARTER for three frames. All success to JACK, ED &

BILL PRATT in switch of name Inns of the Americas to Pratt Hotel Corp., with the Sands here and Atlantic City, properties elsewhere in the U.S., Mexico and Caribbean oceanics... Before she whirled into town and in cast of Flamingo Hilton's "City Lites" as featured performer, CINDY DYER played with national touring company of "A Chorus Line." Her love of song & dance prompted her to organize a semi - pro dance company in Phoenix, her home city.

Shocker this past week at all travel agencies was the triple increase of fares to Las Vegas, ED TORRES, whose El Rancho is being rushed for an opening next month and who now owns the Aladdin lock stock & barrel, points to the airline industry contributing to the slump here. "The airlines are gouging people for Las Vegas trips," he said. "They should be cooperating with us on package fares like they do with Miami and Hawaii, rather than flying to Las Vegas with empty seats"....His former partner at the Aladdin, WAYNE NEWTON, and his partner RAY WARREN, are now eying the Treasury casino, not too far from their recently opened Travelodge Casino. Three years ago, NEWTON announced that he was going to be an investor in the Shenandoah, across the road from the MGM Grand, but backed out. The Shenandoah may be sold very soon to former Denver Bronco footballer SAMBRUNELLI for about \$20,000,000. New York Jets and Philly Eagles griddler JERRY PHILBIN is awaiting okay from gaming officials for his planned \$19,000,000 purchase of the Treasury. So, it's third down and ten on the eleven yard line....MGM Grand pubrel & ad chief BILL BRAY gave his medics fits at Sunrise Hospital recovering from a heart attack and setting up his room and phones like he was fit as a fiddle, which doctors said he was not.

Imperial Palace's entertainment director STEPHANIE NIELSON has made necessary revisions for the Soviet emigre DJAN TATLIAN, who sings his 10 P.M. show, but has help at 8 P.M. and midnight from "A Time To Remember," with the Platters, Four Freshmen,

and Jackie Gayle opening Wednesday. Package played the Dunes last month successfully, but the Freshmen can only stay for a week, replacement TBA....HERVE VILLECHAIZE hosted the "Gonk Show" at Jaycees State Fair at Convention Center last week. Next year the fair will move downtown to the spanking fresh Cashman Field, part of the new downtown convention/sports/cultural complex....Liberace, who joins the MGM Grand headliner bunch, lost out in a bid for sales tax exemption when Nevada Tax Commission said Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts hadn't provided sufficient proof that it was a charitable org.

BILL COSBY turns out the lights for headliners this year at the Hilton with his finale Tuesday before "Bal du Moulin Rouge" enters Sept. 1. LEO SAYER will make his Vegas debut with the Cos....Millers Outpost blurbed six spots at Old Vegas resort, but when no one was paying much attention, heat from the lights triggered the sensor switches and the fire sprinklers washed them out....Waltzing back to Caesars Place are CHER and FREDDIE ROMAN Thursday for two frames...Actresses KAREN LA VONNE and MILICENT LOYD were voted into Vegas SAG (Screen Actors Guild) council....MAC DAVIS, singing his hit parade at MGM Grand, will record his latest dream hooks for Casablanca next month at Muscle Shoals.... Joe Bernard Studio actors showcase encored last Monday with more play scenes and vignettes at the JB studio....Malapropist NORM CROSBY said it was "Rhyme, reason and ribs" that brought him and et al to TONY TOMA'S on East Sahara for a late snack after the midnight Hilton show guest of Roma Veep ARTHUR BLANK. BLANK had to postpone joining ROMA in Sardinia because of brief sojourn with a virus.

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