

LAS VEGAS SHOWGAST

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

Clark County master plan predicts 891,000 people in Las Vegas Valley by the year 2000. What is more important, the draft report also projects adequate water supplies to support 1,000,000 population through 2020....SPIROS KALLAS and GARY GUY WILSON prez and architect respectively of the projected Casablanca hotel - casino on the Strip opposite the Hacienda, surprised Fire Chief ROY PARRISH in a two - hour meeting resulting in a 10 point fire prevention plan for the upcoming resort. "Usually we have to go to those people and make sure they abide by the fire codes in their construction," said PARRISH. "But these people, well, they marched in, plopped the blueprints on my desk and said, 'Help us'.".....Football fever is beginning to take over sports books. Said MEL EXBER of the Las Vegas Club, "Unless the 49ers get swell heads, I can't see how San Francisco can miss winning the 1983 Super Bowl." But at the Bingo Palace, the Dallas Cowboys and San Diego Chargers are 5-1 co-faves to win it all while at the Landmark sports book, the Cowboys and Chargers are second-raters behind the L.A. Rams to win the NFC title....Sam's Town came up with another dizzy spoof after its successful tight jeans contest (won, incidentally, by a guy) with "Lovely Legs" contest finals in the Dance Hall. Males entered this one also.

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DEBBIE REYNOLDS, in a Riviera fortnight-costarring with ALAN KING the first week and SHECKY GREENE the second, inked to guestar in an episode of "Alice" vidseries taping next month....SAL RICHARDS is current comedian with ROBERT GOULET at the Dunes, followed by WILLIE TYLER & LESTER Aug. 19. KEELY SMITH returned to Top 'O the Dunes with LORETTA HOLLOWAY due in Sept. 6. Dunes will preem its new Oasis Casino Aug. 20 with Xanadunes attraction, new adult video games, while a children's arcade will take care of the rest of the quarters in the family piggy bank... DENISE DARCEL, who burned up screens in the 50s, was rediscovered by ALAN GRANT shilling baccarat at Caesars Palace. He booked her afternoons in the French Quarter of the Four Queens where his jazz concerts are a well-attended Monday night feature. Next Monday, guitarist LAURINDO ALMEIDA, strums prettily.

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Jazz plays another local nitery, the Lone Star with JOE LOCATELLI QUINTET featuring RICK DAVIS on tenor sax....TOM JONES & DICK CAPRI follow CHER & FREDDIE ROMAN at Caesars Aug. 12 - 25....Meadows Playhouse opens new season Sept. 7 with NEIL SIMON'S "The Sunshine Boys." Director JUDITH BRENNER has cast BOBBY SARGENT as Willie, JEFF GRANSTROM as Ben, with role of Al won by the estimable agent/actor ART ENGLER....DOC SEVERINSEN, teeing his third MGM Grand coheadliner with CRYSTAL GAYLE, unwrapped his initial stand at the Sands in Atlantic City. There in Taffyland was first time he played an in - person date with JOAN RIVERS with whom he often shares "Tonight Show" stage....TOMMY GRAHAM TRIO is now ensconced at Tony Roma's Sahara spot weekends. Roma's Stardust ribjoint opens on the 14th....CINDY DYER, featured in Flamingo Hilton's "City Lites" is skedded to take part

in opening day ceremonies kicking off L.A. Rams new season....JOHNNY GEE & JAN replace RISING SOUTH in Frontier's new lounge for slot players.

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JUNE TERRY was surprised, no, shocked the other p.m. when she saw closing notice posted backstage at the Desert Inn for "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" effective Aug. 29, where she has the Madame star lead. DI prez BURTON COHEN, who books entertainment, has been eyeing "Sophisticated Ladies" in L.A., but he'll probably return "A Chorus Line" for another successful long-runner....JERRY CLARK exited his starring role in "I Love My Wife" at Union Plaza.... SIDRO'S ARMADA sailed back to the Sahara Casbar with SWEET LOUIE'S CHECKMATES in tow...."ONE MO'TIME" is held over for another month at the Sands. In the Winners Circle lounge, RON PEARSON & DON LEE, the RONDONS, are current.

On the subject of "ONE MO'TIME," that will be an acting assignment for your Vegastars' reporter for the next few weeks, I joined the fine cast of YVONNE TALTON KERSEY as Bertha, LYNNE CLIFTON-ALLEN as Ma Reed; ADJORA FAITH McMILLAN as Thelma and RONALD "SMOKEY" STEVENS as Papa Du in the role of the Theatre Owner in that rollicking depiction of New Orleans music of the 20s. I attended a performance of the musical last Thursday in New York at the Village Gate Theatre in Greenwich Village, where the show, written by VERNEL BAGNERIS, began. Now there are companies of "One Mo' Time" in London and Australia, plus the Sands here all playing to capacity audiences. The playbill of the Village Gate contained this description -- "Located on the corner of New Orleans' Iberville and Burgundy, The Lyric Theatre -- until destroyed by fire in 1927 -- nightly entertained in black vaudeville with such talents as BESSIE SMITH, MA RAINEY and others now immortal. Being on the T.O.B.A. circuit (Theatre Owners Booking Agency, or as the trade people had it, 'Tough On Black Asses,') the pay was low and the touring conditions tough...."

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Before hitting New York for a quickie stop-over and back to Las Vegas, I roamed Atlantic City for some interviews with people there about viewpoints on this competitive gambling mecca. The city was jammed with bus people arriving every minute or so from the megalopolis of 50,000,000 people residing on the Eastern Seaboard. The nine resort - casinos are constantly jammed and the entertainment is a reminder of some of Las Vegas' early days....CORK PROCTOR has settled in at Bally Park Place in the revue "Outrageous" and is performing the best

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ANTHONY NEWLEY Sunday, Sept. 5 Labor Day Weekend

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