LAS VEGAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR





MOET & CHANDON were pleased to invite the ISRAELITE VEGASTAR's columnist to a private champagne party during Caesars Palace Grand Prix Sept. 25 - 26 in their post International Moet Club section adjacent to the curlicue track. Slurp you later. Fans of WILLIE NELSON are doing nipups because he's returning to Caesars Oct. 14-20...SIG SAKOWICZ moves his "Superstar Show to KTNV Channel 13 this Saturday to be viewed Saturdays at 1 a.m. and Tuesdays at 1:45 a.m. SIG has been hosting his celeb show eight years on Channel 8 featuring interviews with top showbiz folk and sports jocks...There were auditions this week at UNLV for JERRY CRAW-FORD'S play "The Las President" with tryouts for roles of HO CHI MINH, MARTIN LUTHER KING, ROY WILLIAMS and the central character of the play LYNDON B. JOHNSON...ROY, the numble trainer of great beasts in the team of SIEGFRIED & ROY, will have surgery on his knee while the two are vacationing between Nov. 1 and Dec. 28 from their spectacular "Beyond Belief" at the Frontier....In the Circle F Lounge are SAM BUTERA & THE WILDEST plus JERRY SUN...TONY ROMA franchised a rib place at the Stardust that opened yesterday in the old Aku Aku restaurant section. Two benefit pre - opening parties gave all proceeds to Rose de Lima Hos-

pital and Congregation Ner Tamid....JOE DE-LANEY won the Castaways football press handicap last year, some \$1,500. DUKE HOOVER, of Hoover-Gorin ad agency repping the Castaways, is after the media again to enter prez BILL FRIEDMAN's contest....In my nightly (except Monday) theatrics in "One Mo' Time" at the Sands plenty is owed IATSE Local 720 backstagers and lightboothers, BOB RITZ, stage carpenter, PHIL CARTER & DAVE ADAMS, assistant carpenters; BILL RUDOLPH, head props; JOHN SCHEIB, head of sound; JERRY QUINN, head of stage sound; DEVON MICH'L, head electrician; GUY PETTY, spotlight and KATHERINE DEHERDER, spotlight. Also invaluable aids are those pretty femmes who take care of the cast wardrobe. KATHY MASTENBROOK, CINDY FREDERICK, SUE BLAIR and HERBY GOETZ, Indeed, yes, that pretty blonde's name is HERBY!...Not included in the items above about Ceasars Palace is the current stand of PAUL ANKA through the 16th.

There is total agreement on the new El Rancho, that it is the kind of a Strip resort that the ailing HARRY RITZ (Valley Hospital) of the great RITZ BROS, act of yore said should be the prevailing spirit of Las Vegas, the early western hacienda architecture and decor. He said several years ago that the person or persons who returned to that mode and attitude, including service and courtesy, would strike a bonanza. SAM BOYD did it at Sam's Town off - Strip on the Boulder Highway and SAM was the first to pay ED TORRES a courtesy call Tuesday a.m. at El Rancho bright and early and tossed the first dice on the extended crap table...And MOE MILLER, one of the casino

bosses at TORRES' other store, the Aladdin, said that casino and hotel is weathering the down period without travail....A few of the Strip smarts are wondering about that recent Parade ga-ga piece on WAYNE NEWTON by Dotson Rader, "Call Him a Man," with this line, "WAYNE NEWTON is the highest paid entertainer in the world, earning an estimated \$500,000 a week performing in Las Vegas 32 weeks a year." The erstwhile "world's richest entertainer," who did manage that amount of weeks several years ago, but not that salary, while at Summa Corp., is now working only a few frames per annum at Caesars Palace until "42nd Street" knocks out headliners in May of next year. One of Caesars key exex, FRANK SINATRA, would be interested to discover the computer printout that showed NEWTON pulls in half mil a week.



Judges tabbed tall blonde & lissome BRANDY RAE as "Miss Sorry, Wong Husband" in a bikini contest at Union Plaza, the flash of flesh emceed with fortitude and humor by PETER ANTHONY. Miss Rae will parade some placards as the leggy gals do at the fights between rounds during her stint in MARTIN RAGAWAY-CRAIG TENNIS comedy, "Sorry, Wrong Husband," starring GEORGE MAHARIS opening Friday.... Variety's FORREST DUKE was honored along with NANCY AUSTIN and ex-Gov MIKE O'CALLAGHAN for service to Easter Seals campaign at a posh affair at Holiday Inn Center Strip...MAC DAVIS, among MGM's Grandest attractions, returned to the Celebrity Room for a fortnight sided by the comedy of TOM DREE-SEN.



PAUL LOWDEN, Sahara boss, is already negotiating with BERNIE YUMAN, whose entertainment firm handles SIEGFRIED & ROY, for star acts in his showroom beyond current

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the whole year through





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Opening night in the Congo Showroom of the Sahara Hotel and Casino the world saw a new side of Don Rickles. After one of his rapid - fire assault drills on the ringsiders, the stage lights are down and there's Don Rickles in a spotlight sing-ing "Tomorrow" from the play and movie

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