

Leo Lewis Takes the Reins at the Sahara



LEO LEWIS

Running a major Las Vegas hotel is a tough job and new Sahara Hotel & Casino Vice President and General Manager Leo Lewis is known in the business as a tough guy when it comes to ledger figures. That's why so many major hotels through the years have picked him to run day-to-day operations. A Certified Public Accountant,

Lewis is the man who knows the figures inside-out and how to apply them to a successful business.

His experience in such major resorts as the Flamingo, Golden Nugget, Horseshoe, Tropicana and Aladdin hotels have made him one of the industry's most respected operators. But now, Lewis has achieved a new career goal.

"I've worked with many hotels but this is the first time I've had the chance to get in on the ground floor of a new hotel company," he told more than 100 assembled press and V.I.P.'s at a special luncheon hosted by new owner Paul Lowden and his staff just after the takeover of the hotel by the new Sahara Las Vegas Corp.

At that luncheon, Lowden, who is Chairman of the Board and president of the hotel, also introduced Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Ron Radcliffe, Vice President and Corporate Counsel Bill Raggio, Vice President Henry Lackey, Jr., Assistant to the President Judy Auer, Vice President of Sales and Marketing Clem Bernier, and Vice President and Casino Manager John Boni.

Lowden also announced some of his plans for the Sahara such as the return to a "star" entertainment policy, a future 600-room hotel

tower, a new showroom, special events and boxing in the Space Center Convention Complex and cosmetic changes to improve the general appearance of the world-famous Strip resort.

In addition to his management duties at the Sahara, Lewis, who runs his own casino management company and has been a professor in the hotel college at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, is also a director of the new parent company of the Sahara, Hacienda Resorts, Inc., which is also the parent company of the Hacienda Resort Hotel and Casino.

Lewis is, therefore, a very busy man but his employees know he is always accessible. Those who work with him also know him as a very warm and personable man despite his industry image as a tough guy with the figures. His friendliness and sense of humor are his hallmarks.

On August 20, as representatives of the outgoing owners and the new owners worked under the supervision of the State Gaming Control Board to complete the monumental task of transferring the hotel and change over the games, Lewis stood in the middle of the Sahara's giant casino and, to ease the tension, quipped, "If it works, we're geniuses. If not, it's the recession." Everyone smiled, relaxed a little, and then got the job done.

It's a measure of the man and the operations he manages. With Leo Lewis on the job, the task gets done better and brighter. For the once-troubled Sahara, that's a welcome relief.

PLO EVACUATION GOES SMOOTHLY

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- The 10-day long evacuation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Syrian soldiers from West Beirut was completed with the departure by sea of the last group of some 800 PLO members. This final group, leaving in the morning hours, were accompanied by women and children.

The departure of the PLO groups was marked by festive firing of guns and rifles into the air, a daily feature throughout the evacuation process which had been worked out by special U.S. negotiator Philip Habib. But the firing on the final day, appeared to be more intense and there were also explosions. Observers in east Beirut said the PLO rearguard appeared to be trying to expend its ammunition and blow up weapons and

munitions stores. Israeli officials have expressed concern that the PLO has handed over much of its heavy weapons to their associated leftwing Lebanese Moslem groups which have vowed to continue fighting Israel.

One problem which remains to be solved in the beleaguered city is the future and fate of Lebanese leftwing terrorist groups. The Lebanese leftwingers, who have cooperated with the PLO and Syrian forces in the past, have threatened to

carry on armed struggle against Israeli forces in insisting that these terrorist fellow travellers must also be expelled from Lebanon, as their presence there continues to be a threat to Israel's security.

As the final shipload of PLO fighters departed from Beirut, the chief of the PLO, Yasir Arafat, left the city aboard a Greek cruise ship Atlantis, bound for Athens. He was scheduled to go to Tunis soon thereafter. Arafat's de-

parture was in itself the main event of the final evacuation. According to reports, Arafat had demanded that he be allowed to sail aboard a French naval vessel

with an air escort of American jet fighters. No confirmation of this report was available.

The PLO leader was driven to the Beirut port area in a

bullet proof limousine. The ship aboard which he sailed was escorted by naval vessels of the international force, to ensure his safety. Before leaving the city (Continued on Page 30)

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