

LAS VEGAS

SHOWEAST

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

Friend WALTER KANE, before returning to the proddings of medics at Sunrise Hospital, handed over the DAVID McCLINTICK book, "Indecent Exposure" that had Hollywood chattering for months. It's about the board room battle between Columbia pix prez ALAN HIRSCHFELD and HERBERT ALLEN JR., principally, ALLEN being a scion of the New York Investment banking firm of Allen & Co., which had bought control of Columbia Pictures in 1973 and recruited his friend ALAN to run it. And what friends they turned out to be! The tension and thrust of the plot sprang from the embezzlement and forgery by Columbia's hotshot studio head DAVID BEGELMAN, on the eve of his greatest hit, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." Its a thriller, bringing back memories of those years 1977-78 when Variety editor TOM PRYOR called me to start some undercover investigation about BEGELMAN's possible gambling losses here after rumors abounded in Hollywood about his \$400,000 and \$500,000 drops at baccarat.

Couldn't find out a thing and it wasn't a coverup by casino heads here -- there was no record of any BEGELMAN heavy losses in Vegas...Earlier BEGELMAN was remembered around town as JUDY GARLAND's agent in 1963 and through her husband, SID LUFT, a story appeared in New West about how he took GARLAND for a bath in more ways than one...A phone call about 10 days ago from RUDY VALLEE plaintively wanted to know what was going on at Imperial Palace. He had brought up his one-man show material, all of it on tape with slides etc., but they evidently fluffed him off. In a follow-up letter he wrote that he and Mrs. V are coming up Dec. 5 with some Houston friends for a Desert Inn sojourn. He makes mention of playing the Last Frontier in 1947 booked by his buddy WALTER KANE "for two weeks for four thousand which was something in those days!!" I didn't know WALTER was booking the Last Frontier during those years. In my look through the rearview mirror, it was MAXINE LEWIS who was entertainment booker and director followed by DOUG FARNOW after she was lured up to the Flamingo after BUGSY SIEGEL was killed in 1948...Anyway, this long ramble is a cheerio to WALTER KANE, now out of the hospital and again on the mend.

of Pathological Gambling -- STEVE WYNN of the Golden Nugget, to establish a treatment center for compulsive gamblers. Said NFSTPG poopah ARNOLD WEXLER, "It was a washout. To tell the truth I didn't expect much more than that." So far this year only \$89,000 has been raised, none from here or Atlantic City except WYNN's bit...Tom Carter Enterprises of Newport Beach will build and manage the new golf course south of the Hacienda, pay a fixed rent of \$4,200,000 and a percentage of gross revenue to the county for the 30 - year privilege...And the Sahara Country Club off - Strip was sold for \$4,150,000 to DAVID PRICE's California Golf & Tennis of L.A....TONY ROMA and ARTHUR BLANK sent out a pack of invites to local VIPs to celebrate 2nd anni of the "original" Vegas rib emporium of E. Sahara Ave...Nevada Gaming Commission chairman CARL DODGE submitted his resignation to Gov. - elect RICHARD BRYAN as a matter of protocol, but shakeups are due in NGC and Gaming Control Board with the new Demo regime...One headline proclaims utter ecstasy of bookies with return of progrid games, while another shouts, "Computers bury LV bookies" and a third grumbles "Hey pal, you better not call me 'bookie.'" So, pick 'em.



Only one casino exec made a donation to the National Foundation for the Study & Treatment



Sands revives The Copa Room with four-walling of GALLAGHER in concert Thursday & Friday, followed by FOUR FRESHMEN, ANDY RUSSELL & THE DIAMONDS Dec. 1 - 15. Marketing chief for the resort, BARRY SINCO, has also put out a call for revival of MAMAS & PAPAS and THE ASSOCIATION for the showroom....GEORGE JONES is another four-waller into the Tropicana's Fountain Theatre Friday & Sat...NANCY AUSTIN, doubly buxom comic, had a funny cameo in the "Matt Houston" show seg titled "The Kidnappers"....DIZZY GILLES-



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The Barbara Mandrell television show was one of the most popular weekly shows ever seen making her into a pop - country superstar. The diminutive blonde with the big voice is singing her current record hits and doing everything from rock to country to gospel.

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