

LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE

Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

No matter which way you spell it -- Chanukah or Hanukkah, Xmas or Christmas, it all adds up to happy holidays. Enjoy! . . . Stars over New Year's this year are fewer, but they're potent. There's WAYNE NEWTON at Caesars, SIEGFRIED & ROY at the Frontier, LOVELACE WATKINS and FRAN JEFFRIES at Imperial Palace, MAC DAVIS & LONNIE SHORE at MGM Grand, PAUL ANKA at the Riviera, DON RICKLES & JAMES DARREN at the Sahara, LOLA FALANA & JOHNNY BROWN at the Sands and the only different production shows from last New Year's are "Sophisticated Ladies" at the Desert Inn, "Moulin Rouge" at the Hilton, "Fire & Ice" at the Hacienda, "C'est Magnifique" at the Aladdin and "Chicago" at Union Plaza....Dynamic singer/illusionist JIM BAILEY is home in Beverly Hills after 10 sunny days in Acapulco taping a 90-minute international cable special, "The Acapulco Show," produced by award-winning Mexican RENE CARDONA, also starring ZSA ZSA GABOR & STU WHITMAN....At the Maxim Saturday and Sunday, the 4th anni Nevada rally with Muscular Dystrophy Association benefit perf of "Olde Tyme Burlesque" Friday....Tropicana is special eventing all over the place this week with U.S. Table Tennis championships through Wednesday, the U.S. Kart Prix Championships finishing Monday and the JAG BMX 1982 World Championship of Bicycle Motocross next week from the 26th-30th....Vet PR guy HARVEY DIEDERICH sits down at a Union Plaza desk marked "Marketing" starting Jan. 1. With 30 years of top promos and recently veep and g.m. of Vegas office of SITEMAN-BRODHEAD-BALTZ Inc of Beverly Hills ad agency, he starts off with the '83 fireworks at the U.P....Pinball games have lost out to video games, who are now losing to what they call "The Glut of '82," with game sales down and many top firms near bankruptcy. Instead

of a PAC-MAN, they need a FLACK-MAN...And kids with a billion \$\$\$\$ more in their jeans to feed the hungry games. . . Regarding New Year's celebrating the Stardust is holding its normal price for the "Lido" show to \$17.50 and that includes a couple of cocktails.



The red berets seen bobbing along the Strip signifying the Guardian Angels have ceased after less than a month of volunteer anti-crime patrols. "The area was so big we weren't being very effective," explained GA leader BETH NITZSCHKE. But groups of eight GA's are still bobbing on UNLV campus and in the downtown area...French film star, later musical and nitery performer DENISE DARCEL is now all dressed up to shill at Caesars Palace...MICKEY ROONEY's new album "Lover of the Simple Things" with MIKE CORDA's title tune is ready for distribution. Recording the batch for MICK was a tale of two cities, Vegas and L.A. CORDA will produce a biscuit for MICKEY ROONEY, JR. next...Tourists are always asking the Chamber of Commerce about dining places other than the hotels in Vegas, so those worthies prepped a neat full color 48 - page brochure listing non-hotel and hotel eating spots. "According to Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the average visitor spends \$36, per day on food and drink, with a range from \$3.00 to \$300.00," said CofC manager CHARLES FLEMING. "It's little wonder that many requests ask for restaurant information."



Caesars Palace gets the prize this month for the most innovative booking, the CHOR FUNG MING CANTONESE OPERA opening Saturday for five nights....JOSEPH BERNARD's Acting Studio held its second fest featuring L.V. actors Wednesday in main showroom of the Union Plaza featuring a preem of "The Flar" with most of the students participating...."Sorry, Wrong Husband," the GEORGE MAHARIS star-

rer, closed at U.P. with "Chicago" getting ready for opening on the 24th...DEBBIE REYNOLDS, romping at the Riviera with SHECKY GREENE through Wednesday, takes her show on the road to Taffeyland's Playboy Hotel over New Year's Eve. Her "Love Boat" guestint is skedded for Jan. 8 net airing....TONY BENNETT heads into Knotts Berry Farm Good Time Theatre Jan. 28 - 29....Las Vegas Symphony began the season in the Tropicana's Tiffany Theatre with singer JUNE TERRY, dancers CARL WALLACE and MICHELLE HAMILTON and trumpeter WALTER BLANTON, under the direction of VIRKO BAILEY.



Nevada Dance Theatre's artistic director VASSILI SULICH zipped back from SanFran Opera commission where he choreographed the new production of Tchaikovsky's "Queen of Spades," to mount NDT's "The Nutcracker" opening Friday in UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre... PAUL ANKA, due at the Riviera on the 29th, has a new exec veep for his production company, ROBERT SKAFF....KNPR-FM, the public radio station, flooded the town with invites to a "toasting, roasting and plenty of boasting on Beethoven's birthday," Thursday at studios in Sam's Town hotel-casino....JONES returns to the Maxim on the 20th with exit of MAINSTREAM....SONNY KING joins hypnotist SAM VINE in the Sahara's Casbar on the 21st, perchance to dream..In the Frontier lounge, the TRENIERS and FREDDIE BALL are held over beyond New Year's....FAY MCKAY zoomed into Hotel Continental Monday night for one perf to highlight her hoot on "12th Day of Xmas" on the 12th night of Xmas.



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