

# LAS VEGAS SHOWCASE

## Bill Willard's VEGASTARS

I couldn't take off with the VIP champagne guzzlers for the inaugural flight of Sunworld Airways to Ontario International Airport in Southern Calif., couple of weeks ago, but did hop over the desert and mountains this past weekend in the Sunworld's comfortable DC-9 for a pleasant wingding in the Southland. The alumni of Pasadena Playhouse tossed a luncheon at the Pasadena Hilton and people swarmed in from all over the U.S.A. The Alumni Association of PP reads like a who's who of theatre and film and a great many of the thespians shows up for some good old nostalgia chats. The Playhouse, one of the most famous theatres in the world, is under restoration and it was a kick taking a tour of the beautiful old Spanish-styled structure and walking on the stage once more... ARNOLD SHAW's "Dictionary of American-Pop/Rock" and "Sinatra, The Entertainer" are bringing him students by the dozen as he preps a couple of classes at UNLV, songwriters workshop June 6 - 17 and Broadway's greatest composers June 20 - July 8...Publicist JUDY WOLFE has a new client in DAVID DEAN and wants the world to know that the "handsome and sexsational guy with the piercing blue eyes who last wowed 'em at the Landmark Hotel, jetted to Aruba to appear as special guest for a fortnight at the Concorde Hotel Casino in a lavish revue." DEAN has recorded two original tunes by LARRY HART, "Bigger Than Life," in uptempo and a ballad "Only in My Dreams" ...The Tropicana's "Ultimate Las Vegas Show-

girl" is LESLIE KAY, 19, of Ellay, picked from 23 semi-finalists. But that resort is now buzzing with Jenos Pro Football Super Classic VI Arm Wrestling Championship in the Fountain Theatre this Saturday. This is another whammo event staged by TONY CELESTE and the list of footballers reads like a so what in sports.



Hotel Continental is staging the Budweiser Las Vegas Rally July 8 - 10, with performance cars street legal. Rally cars will start the course from the Continental at 11 a.m. leaving 60 seconds apart. Each team will be given a precise time to begin each portion of the rally which consists of ten stages covering 100 miles with total rally approx 200 miles from start to finish...Reference Recordings of San Francisco, which produces some of the very finest audiophile disks, releases "Dafos," featuring MICKEY HART of the GRATEFUL DEAD, AIR-TO & FLORA PURIM, the Brazilian sparklers. Engineering the session at the Kabuki Theatre in San Fran was KEITH JOHNSON, using his one-of-a-kind focus gap head, three track analog recorder with mastering by DOUGSAX, exec producer TAM HENDERSON. The record is a "percussion spectacular with amazing bass energy. A vast collection of unusual percussion instruments was used including 'The Beast.' This suspended drum construction hanging on a huge metal frame will be familiar to GRATEFUL DEAD fans," writes RR's marketing director, the most charming MARCIA MARTIN...HARRY MORTENSON, onetime owner of Interior Systems, now heads Cygnus Satellite Systems selling those mammoth dishes to pick up television programs from all over the world via satellite. Call him at 362-3366 and get an earful of what he calls TVRO (TeleVision Receive Only)...The genial DR. TED LEON & STAFF now play a fortnight alternating with

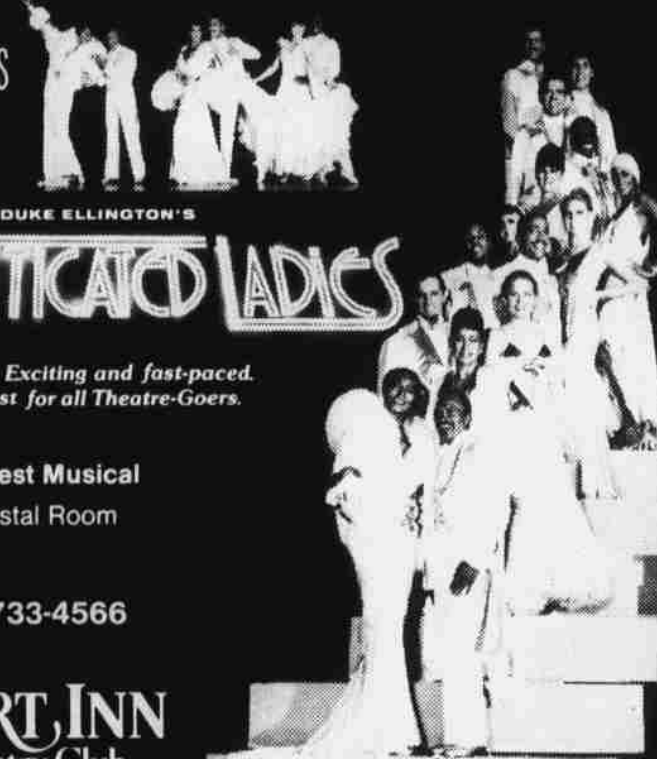
TAVARES in the Sahara Casbar. His group and DORIS TROY & JAY ORLANDO do hopscotch fortnights...FRANKIE VALLI has been signed by the Sahara for the Congo Room June 21 - 26...Release from Caesars Palace publicity dept. gives the nod to LEO HERBERT, known as the Paragon of Profs for "42nd Street." The puff is headed "IF THEY ASK FOR FROG'S HAIR DYED BLUE, HE'LL GET IT FOR YOU!" HERBERT is chief production property manager for the show and has been responsible for props for some 400 Broadway shows, including ALL 84 produced by DAVID MERRICK.



Trouble in Hong Kong, particularly in the real estate domain, is causing some of the local biggie casinos to tighten up credit lines of Oriental visitors. They remember too well the cataclysmic thud of the Mexican peso and millions in outstanding markers. Not too many months ago several casinos were putting forth their best wools for the Far Eastern trade, but now they are separating the wools from the woes...That's woobiz...Club Bingo, one of the old downtown landmark gambling halls bit the dust, controlled by JACKIE GAUGHAN & MEL EXBER, but they unloaded it to the Pioneer Club...A large bunch of wellwishers gathered Monday early aft in the Union Plaza's Center Stage restaurant to cheer impresario CHARLES VANDA's 80th year. He has been signing the finest artists and orchs to play UNLV's Ham Hall for several years after his retirement from tv wars. The invite to the VANDA event was on stationery bannered by "Nevada hosts 'the' National Symphony Orchestra/A Musical Celebration" The National Symph with Rostropovich conducting and performing cello will be one of the 1983-84 season highlights of the Master Series resuming in the fall.



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