

# LAS VEGAS

# SHOWCASE



There'll be a hot time in the old town this weekend when Circus Circus cooks up its anni Chili Cook-Off with celeb and media judges tasting the infernos. Some celebs entered also...DON LAUGHLIN, founder of the town that bears his name and boss of the Riverside hotel-casino, is meeting head-on competition to meet potential massive Colorado River tourist influx next year with another tower, this one 22 stories. It will add 660 rooms to the existing 352 for a total of 1012 rooms, plus expanding casino to 131,000 sq. feet and enlarging the showroom and convention facilities...LAUGHLIN's neighbor, the Edgewater, owned by Circus Circus has added a bowling alley...Caesars Palace exec veep KEVIN MALLEY was spinning his wheels and "didn't see any forward movement for myself," so he resigned. He didn't slam the door,

however, saying he'd remain with Caesars World the parent company for a while. He's been with Caesars since '72. There's a shake-up or shake-down going on at the palazzo...SHECKY GREENE's recipe for Osso Bucco in JO SMITH's Entertainers Cookbook will be a come-on tasty treat Sunday for an autograph party in Goldwater's Fashion Show emporium.

★★★★★

RAY CHARLES with the RAE-LETES are Sahara listees for six nights closing Sunday...Little JACKIE HELLER was GEORGE BURNS stand-in at Caesars during "God III" shoots. He was on the same bill with GEORGE & GRACIE ALLEN 12 weeks on the Orpheum circuit years ago. HELLER is also up for a role in RUTH GORDON's new pic, "Mugsy's Girl" which started lensing last week...Las Vegas Sun columnist RALPH PEARL is back from his Malibu recupe from Santa Barbara surgery, columning and hosting his celeb show on KVVU-5...News director DAN NEWBURN of KLVX-10 public channel exits Jan. 1 to become g.m. of KVOV-AM. Station under aegis of RALPH CALVIN is seeking FCC okay to change call letters to KREL, but will retain

ABC talk net, religioso, DR. TONI GRANT, MICHAEL JACKSON, DR. SUSAN FORWARD, all picked up from L.A....Exchanging exec roles in Ramada's Tropicana resorts here and Atlantic City are JOHN GALLAWAY, prez and g.m., Vegas and JOHN CHIERO, same positions A.C. Trop. At one time GALLAWAY was g.m. of the old Traymore in A.C....MERLE HAGGARD & SHELLY WEST teamed this week at the Frontier, a Jim Halsey Co. packet. Another Halsey act, BISER KIROV, joined the VAN GEES, RON PEARSON & RON DONS, DON HOLIMAN in the Wild Horse Lounge through Thursday. Bulgarian Kirov was a winner in a Halsey International Country Music Festival in Tulsa.

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PAUL ANKA has comedian MAUREEN MURPHY again for company at the Aladdin when he returns on the 27th...Caesars Circus Maximum darkened after WAYNE NEWTON's closing last Monday, but MGM Grand waits to shut off Celebrity Room lights until closing of ENGELBERT & JOHNNY DARK Saturday. DEAN MARTIN & GOLDDIGGERS pick up on the 26th, but it's GEORGE BENSON's concert over New Year's until Jan. 8...At the Riviera Friday, SHECKY GREENE & ANTHONY NEWLEY combine for a frame, then the plug is pulled until the 30th when SHIRLEY MacLAINE & GARRY SHANDLING have a fortnight...After WAYLAND FLOWERS & MADAME have their sashay in the Sands Copa Room through Sunday nothing is listed until ROBERT GOULET & FOUR ACES march in on the 27 over New Year's and a week beyond.

★★★★★

### "Dream Street" At The Desert Inn

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# maxim

HOTEL/CASINO

The set -- a deserted city street; the time -- midnight 'til dawn; the people -- 16 kids who, for a brief time, live out their fantasies through song, dance and impersonation. That's the magic of the highly acclaimed musical, "Dream Street," now on stage at the Desert Inn Country Club & Spa.

The "Dream Street" cast is composed of a talented line-up of performers portraying youngsters who dream of a better life. The portrayals of such greats as Barbra Streisand, Neil Diamond, Ray Charles, Diana Ross, Bette Midler and Fred Astaire are revealed in a way unique to each performer. The gifted cast also play themselves rendering such pop tunes as "Masquerade," "Where Do I Go," and "Street Life."

While producers Nancy and Ronnie Horowitz have lent their creative talents to every phase of production, "Dream Street" director and choreographer Steve Merritt and writer/producer Mark Donnelly carry

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