

LAS VEGAS

SHOWCASE



There are so many causes that need funds to operate these days, the amount is dizzying. Here's another one, "The First Annual Las Vegas Jazz Festival -- A Benefit for Missing Children." No question, the missing children situation is appalling. But the plans by this group, a mammoth jazz fest at the Silver Bowl May 23-25, sponsored by the AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF JAZZ are questionable. I have been around the jazz scene for several decades, travel to jazz affairs, take in ALAN GRANT'S MONDAY NIGHT JAZZ almost every week, know many people in jazz, musicians and the producers, but I'm stumped on this organization. Spokesfolk for AFFTPOJ say they are negotiating for some really big names in jazz, list them in their long suplicating letters, but knowing this field and how far in advance these artists have to be booked, I wonder. Expectations of luring 200,000 to the Silver Bowl seem overly optimistic and claim that profits will top \$5 million also seem quite inflated. But I wish them luck. DENNIS FINEFROCK of Thomas & Mack Center thinks the event will

draw thousands upon thousands to Las Vegas. The Playboy Jazz fest, one of the most prestigious in the nation has a tough time filling 18,000 seats in Hollywood Bowl and the jazz names are tops, including that jazz buff of all jazz buffs as emcee, BILL COSBY...Mentioning COSBY is a reminder that he'll be serving time at Caesars Palace before getting that \$500,000 a week at the Hilton. He opens April 11 in the Circus Maximus with CLINT HOLMES, a dynamic singer and personality...The Hilton is pulling in more stars to take the place of the longrunning "Bal du Moulin Rouge." Latest acquisitions are HANK WILLIAMS JR. & DONNA SUMMER. Date for WILLIAMS is July 8-12, SUMMER May 23-June 1...One cause I'm deeply involved in is the FORREST DUKE PARTY set for Sunday aft, April 20 in the Frontier's Beyond Belief showroom 1 to 4 o'clock. The most popular columnist in town, years on the L.V. Review-Journal is leaving that paper because of health problems. His medical bills have mounted and all his pals are putting on a great show to help him over the hump. Gold tickets are \$100; Silver \$25. FORREST and I go back to the '50s, when he first arrived in town from New York. Later, when I left the trade paper Variety for public relations/advertising agency, PRA, it was DUKE who took the showbiz routes and reported them for Variety until I returned to the fold, and continued on as partner reporter.

For about 10 years, the rivalry between Las Vegas and Atlantic City has brought on much nose-thumbing between the two gambling meccas. Now, it's our turn as we find Las Vegas outpaced A.C. with an 11% increase in visitor count in 1985 over 1984. Also casino bosses are patting their bellies noting that total profits for the 11 A.C. casinos skidded downward 56.4% last year, the second annual substantial decline for that Boardwalk Bewitcher...At last week's 9th Annual Magic Seminar at the Frontier, SIEGFRIED & ROY hosted a posh party for the magicians from all over the world and ROY hosted a special party for the magicians' ladies...Next on ALAN GRANT'S MONDAY NIGHT JAZZ -- the brothers PETE & CONTE CANDOLI, jazz trumpet stars, both featured often by DOC SEVERINSEN and his JOHNNY CARSON TONIGHT SHOW BAND. The CANDOLI brass exhibits in the Four Queens French Quarter lounge. After BILLY ECKSTINE closes Sunday, beauteous BARBARA McNAIR arrives April 1 for a fortnight Tuesdays through Sundays in the French Quartaer...You know what happened to DAN CAMERON at the Tropicana? He, as director of special slot machine projects, was sharp enough to place dozens of slots where there were no slots before, thus enticing more money droppings. So, to show appreciation for all of that extra loot coming in, Trop prez & g.m., JOHN CHIERO presented CAMERON with a gold clock and a bunch of money. The business moral to this tale is -- find more spots for Dollar slots.



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