

OF THE STARS



played her cards right and cuchi-cuchi'd off winner at the Golden Nugget's pro-celeb tourney last Saturday amidst the GRAND PRIX OF POKER...And on the cultural scene, 25 works by the late WILLIAM VAUGHN HOWARD, longtime UNReno Art prof, form a retrospective exhibit current in UNLV's ALTA HAM FINE ARTS GALLERY.



MAYOR BILL BRIARE led a gungho delegation to San Berdoo and Ontario touting the superspeed train from Vegas to Ontario. "The projected \$2.5 billion project BRIARE aims will begin building the elevated track in 1989 for 1995 startup. The Mayor, up for re-election next Spring, is riding hopes on the zippy doodah, but BRENT HUNTER, exec v.p. of Ontario Chamber of Commerce said additional study is needed to show Southern California that the superspeed train would bring more than traffic congestion, air pollution and "broke gamblers" into Ontario...With a \$1000 buy-in, pretty CYNDY VIOLETTE beat out 186 players and walked away with first prize of \$74,400 in a seven-card high game week ago Tuesday at the Golden Nugget's Grand Prix of Poker. The 27-year-old localite, blackjack dealer at the Horseshoe Club and later poker dealer at the Four Queens, has been developing her poker face and other card abilities attending poker tourneys not only in Nevada, but also the Caribbean, Europe and on cruise ships. Meanwhile ELAINE WYNN, ex-wife of GN's boss, STEVE WYNN, opened up about

the new fantasy WYNN will build on the Strip. "Steve had a design meeting last week and we're going to drop the Bombay name for the hotel," she disclosed. "This is all preliminary, but it will kind of resemble the Golden Nugget, only more elaborate and with a tropical flavor." Despite the marriage split, ELAINE remains a GN director.



Nevada in the old days was known for its silver bonanzas, but JOHN SCHILLING, director of the state's Division of Mines, says there's a gold rush on. The state now produces more than half the nation's gold, due in part to new technology, heap-leaching to extract gold from ore that earlier miners couldn't recover economically. Site of the world's largest heap-leaching operation is at Round Mountain near Goldfield about 200 miles north...More darkness in December with Xmas hiatus at Caesars Palace; Riviera's "Splash" and "La Cage"; Tropicana's "Folies Bergere" joining Bally's Celebrity Room ("Jubilee plays on, however, in the Ziegfeld Theater); Desert Inn, Four Queens, Golden Nugget.



No holiday lolling around for standup comedians at the Dunes providing yockables for MITZI SHORE's COMEDY STORE. Current quintet includes LENNY CLARKE, VALERY PAPPAS,

JOEY CAMEN, DANNY STONE & FINIS HENDERSON...The new Holiday Casino showroom spots the WALKERS, KATHY, BILL & GREG, with ventro manipulator KENY STEWART and amazing hula hooper DIANA BATCHELOR in "Roaring 20s Revue" resuming after Xmas...Saxist ERNIE WATTS blew hot & cool for American Foundation for Preservation of Jazz night Tuesday at Botany's, door donation going to benefit missing and exploited children...BUDD FRIEDMAN's IMPROV at the Riviera this week features upcomer roly-poly BIC DUNLOP, featured in the Disney telefeature, "Spot Mark the X." Sharing the mini stage and fake brick wall with him are JOHN MELICHAR, JIMMY WOODARD & RANDY LUBAS...Frontier swings with a big band party having the FOUR FRESHMEN tune up their pipes and instruments with RUSS GARY's ORCH through the 27th.



Although most of the country fever subsided with the finish of the roaring National Finals Rodeo this past Saturday, the Landmark's "Best of Country" rides on with LIZ BOARDO, named one of five top new fem vocalists by the Acad of Country Music, and MERLE HAGGARD's block off the old chip, MARTY, continuing through New Year's Eve...The early rockers are rolling with CHUBBY CHECKER & THE WILDCATS also GARY U.S. BONDS, winding down Xmas eve at the Union Plaza in "Rock 'n Roll Forever." Occasionally R&R seems like forever...BUDDY HACKETT will be returning to Caesars Palace December 26 with a new single who's been a double for some time -- TONI TENNILLE. She also tandems with hubby in the longplaying duo known as THE CAPTAIN AND TENNILLE...There were a gang of celebs niblicking in the WILLIE NELSON/WRANGLER JEANS gold tourney last Friday at the Tropicana Country Club that started at 9 ayem with a shotgun bang. The winner in the buy-ins from \$100 to \$2500 was "Cowboys for Farm Aid."



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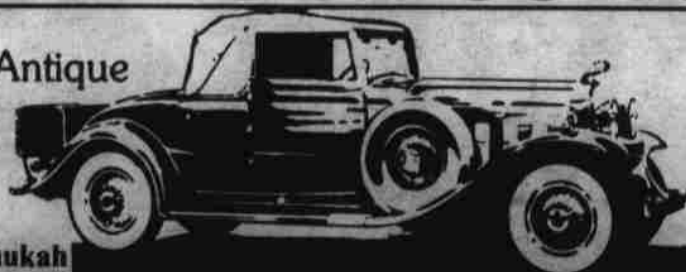
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