

OF THE STARS

Take stock in America.

stepping up to a bar and growling, "Give me a sarsaparilla." And they'd never ride off into the sunset with a goodlooking gal. It was always a bottle of Sarsaparilla.

★★★★★

No sooner did YAKOV SMIRNOFF begin his Golden Nugget debut Thursday as headliner than Kenny Rogers sez "Excuse me" and takes over the theater/ballroom for a special "Gambler 3" party Sunday night. Manager KEN KRAGEN fingered his list of friends and VIPs all week for the CBS special viewing of the Rogers movie...There's some mery big bux jousting over a Frontier/Silver Slipper deal, with former Hilton head Henri Lewin in the midst of the pack. And latest Strip rumor has KERK KORKORIAN trying to arrange a trade with MASEO NANGUKU's Dunes for the KORKORIAN Sands...Sands started blowing its top last weekend with a back to '50s party and RAPID ROBERT HOPE showing up to glorify the VIP banquet Saturday night. Functions will probably be going on to Dec. 15 when the resort celebrates the actual 35th anni of opening...Vegas cabbies are hot because of the monorail from downtown to Convention Center and McCarran Field. International Taxicab Association's anni convention & trade show at the Riviera last week found some eruptions. ALFRED LaGASSE, exec veep of ITA grumped "If tourists have to choose between taking a cab that charges about \$3.25 a head and about 50

cents for monorail, people will choose the monorail"...CHARLES VANDA will be honored at 21st anni Nite of Stars benefit for St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City. Event is Friday in Caesars Palace Emperor's Room with NORM CROSBY emcee. Even if CROSBY fractures too much syntax, the audience will salute VANDA for his more than 15 years of organizing and arranging Nite of Stars, plus other important contributions such impresario of the UNLV Master Series concerts.

★★★★★

First main showroom to nix smoking at certain tables is the Starview at DON LAUGHLIN's Riverside Resort on the Laughlin Strip. Non-smokers and puffers stomped to BOX CAR WILLIE for nine nights closing Tuesday and will welcome CHARLIE PRIDE Friday & Saturday...CHRIS ROBINSON of "12 O'Clock High" and other vidfeatures, is also an archaeologist creating the Dine-Be-Keyah Museum in Page, Ariz. He attended the 5th anni Las Vegas Pow Wow at Henderson Convention Center last weekend.

★★★★★

MARIO & DANIEL, funny guys in the Flamingo Hilton's "City Lites," celebrated Friday the 13th watching themselves as bookies in ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER's "The Running Man" pic

at the Cinedome preem...More laughs arrived at MITZI SHORE's Comedy Store Tuesday as ROGER BEHR, a single from the former ROGER & ROGER impressionist duo, joined JOE NIPOTE, BRENDA FERRARI, DENNY JOHNSTON & JOHNNY DARK at the Dunes for a week...Also, BUDD FRIEDMAN brings back STANLEY MYRON HANDELMAN to Vegas, topping the Improv this week at the Riviera, with JOE ANN DEARING, BARRY MARDER & FRED WOLF. The Riv's New Year's Eve for '88 will make two nights of whoopie in the SuperStar Center with PIA ZADORA headlining both nights, and, dishing up the giggle material, JOEY VILLA spiels the first night, ALAN KING the second.

★★★★★

Important classical preem Sunday aft has Soviet emigre, violinist YURI MAZURKEVICH, performing VIRKO BALEY's recently completed Violin Concerto with music director BALEY conducting the Las Vegas Symphony in UNLV's Ham Hall...Jazzophiles at ALAN GRANT's Monday Night Jazz at the Four Queens, pondered DAVID (FATHEAD) NEWMAN's tenor sax in front of the LOUIS VIRIE BLANCHE BAND. Next Monday, renegades from "The Tonight Show" will blow jazz patterns in the French Quarter - SNOOKY YOUNG, trumpet; ROSS TOMPKINS, piano and BOB COOPER, tenor sax..."Playboy's Girls of Rock & Roll" delighted the homeless last Friday night turning their Maxim showroom into a special benefit concert for St. Vincent's Dining Room. Show's producer Dennis Levinson said proceeds will help feed the 800 or more for St. Vincent's anni Thanksgiving dinners...FRANK MODICA, prexy and CEO of the Showboat in Atlantic City and onetime g.m. of the Desert Inn and who also helped open the Maxim, will be inducted into the Italian-American Hall of Fame, joining such distinguished inductees as JOE DIMAGGIO and the late JIMMY DURANTE.

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