

OF THE STARS' ★

Take stock in America.



NIELSON has filled the dark nights after closing of "Oba Oba," the Brazilian orgy that opened Bagdad showroom last April, with a country & western fest. However, the Theater for the Performing Arts will be blocked off with a giant curtain for seating 1500 while the Bagdad is being renovated for the magic revue "AbraCadabra" to open March 30. MICKEY GILLEY and JANIE FRICKE take over TPA with the opening dates starting Wednesday ending Sunday and the JOHNNY CASH SHOW follows March 23-27...Summa people still retain SIEGFRIED & ROY in the Frontier's Beyond Belief showroom with further extension of their pact from May 8 through June as S & R's manger, Kenneth Held, arrived last week for a looksee at the old digs and get-together with STEVE WYNN for the new S & R \$58,000,000 deal at WYNN's half billion \$\$\$-plus resort now going up on the Strip. Word is out that new Frontier owner MARGARET ELARDI (when she is licensed) will eliminate the showroom for lounge entertainment only. Also, she'll tear down the Silver Slipper Saloon & Gambling Hall next door for a highrise.



The Silver Slipper showroom with HANK HENRY, SPARKY KAY & FRIENDS, including this columnist, with burlesk shows produced by ED-DIE FOX, was the haunt of the biggies, celebs and localites in the '50s. One of the constant attendees was HOWARD HUGHES, whose legacy figured prominently in the news last week. His 25,000-acre Husite is now called Summerlin with


announcement by HH's cousin WILLIAM LUM-MIS, Summa prez & CEO, who told a large collection of media folk from everywhere: "We intend to make Summerlin a community identified as the very best in land use, urban planning and community design." The name Summerlin, incidentally, was chosen after an exhausting search, finally settling on the maiden name of HOWARD HUGHES' grandmother...JOHN COLLEHON of Gollehon Press in Grand Rapids, was in town touching base with author BARNEY VINSON, Dunes casino boss, who wrote "Las Vegas Behind the Tables" for Gollehon Press and is working on a sequel. Also Gollehon is looking for a local writer to supply text for a pictorial titled "Las Vegas Nostalgia"...LAMONT PATTERSON, jazz columnist for the L.V. Sun and Palm Springs Desert Sun among other sheets, and ROSEMARIE CANTERINO, whose family owned the famed jazz haunt The Half Note in the Big Apple years ago, were cheering musicians at Camelback Inn in Scottsdale last weekend along with me amid DON & SUE MILLER's 11th anni Paradise Valley Jazz Party, honoring keyboarders RALPH SUTTON & JAY (HOOTIE) McSHANN. LAMONT, in a very warm gesture to a popular music hero, IRVING BERLIN, is gathering messages of happy birthday to the songwriter who'll be 100 on May 11. LAMONT has been invited to attend the BERLIN gala celebration in New York's Carnegie Hall on May 20 and will take with him the best wishes from Las Vegas and present them personally to the honored one. Listeners to LAMONT's weekly

KORK-AM-920 broadcast on Wednesdays have responded and their "We'll be loving you - ALWAYS" greetings will be part of the Vegas packet.

MILTON BERLE, SID CAESAR & DANNY THOMAS, those "Side By Side" guys spotted on the recent CBS Movie of the Week, will play the Riviera's SuperStar Center on Memorial Day holiday weekend late shows with PIA ZADORA headlining early shows. She had to cancel out a Miami date and return to New York to recupe from bad cold with touch of the virus, but will be very ready for some intros of new song ideas when she plays here in May. Her musical director VINCE FALCONE confided that a new PIA is coming forth with her new album and personal appearances with the selections still in the high plateau of pop music, but with different treatments...The incorrigible PAUL REVERE and his Music of the Absurd with all of the RAIDERS intact will concertize in the Sands Copa Room from the 22nd through the 27th...DON LAUGHLIN's Celebrity Room at his Riverside Resort in Laughlin will go positively "Yackety Sax" with BOOTS RANDOLPH Thursday through Saturday and on the following Friday and Saturday, PATTI PAGE makes a glowing return to the Riverside, her first look at the large Celebrity Room. Last time she performed at the Riverside, she packed the Starview Showroom overlooking the mad, rushing Colorado River... The ISRAEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA appearance in UNLV's Ham Hall on March 7 with well-choreographed conductor YOAV TALMI on the podium, chose as its closing number HAYDN's Symphony No. 45, ("Farewell") which reminded me of a reverse situation years ago. Instead of the musicians leaving one by one at the close of the work, my concert at a Veterans' hospital, which starred DUKE ELLINGTON and Orchestra, found ELLINGTON alone at the piano at the beginning of his composition "C-Jam Blues" and one by one his musicians sauntered on, with their in-

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