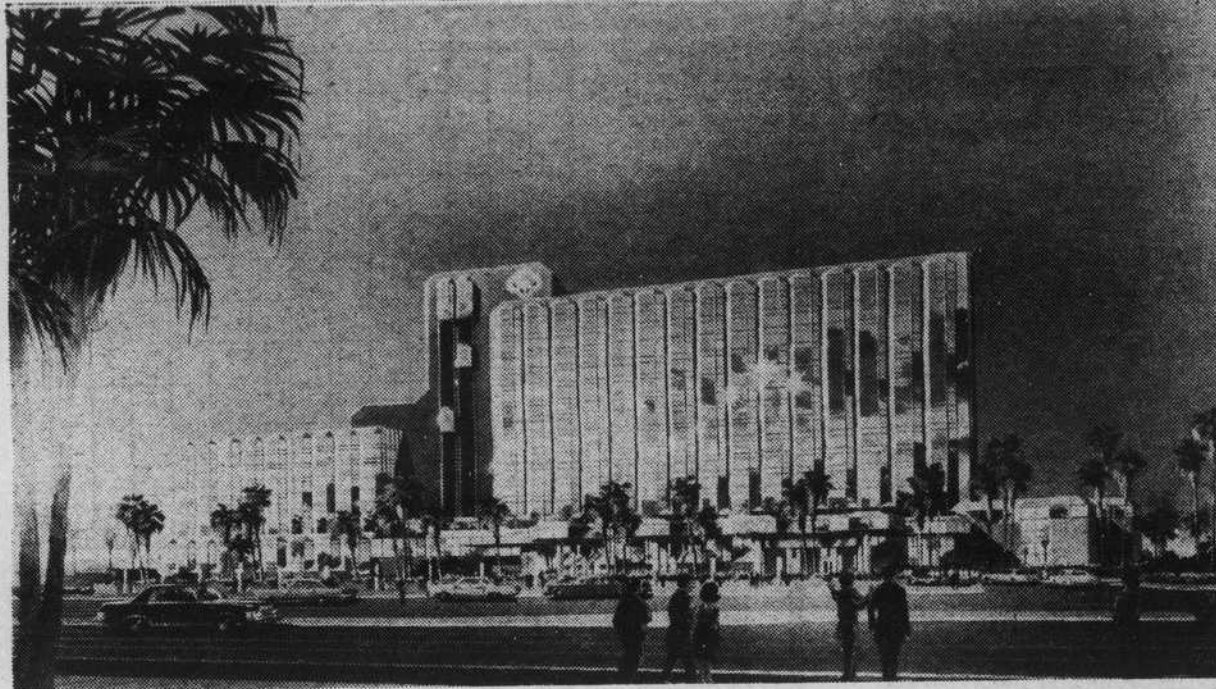


# ENTERTAINMENT



THE NEW DESERT INN AFTER RENOVATION. TO REOPEN JULY 4, 1978.

The new Desert Inn moved one step closer to completion today with the announcement that phase four of the major construction would begin early next month. Phase four calls for the creation of a glamorous new casino, public rooms, and a fourteen story guest tower.

Phases one, two, and three launched the modernization program earlier this year. Included was a top-to-bottom overhaul of the nine story tower, creating new luxury guest accommodations, absolute modernization of all outlying buildings, and the erection of the brand new, modern design Wimbeldon building. This structure alone has twenty-one plush suites and 194 rooms. These three elements will blend into the final phase in time for the grand opening next Summer.

The project, when completed, goes beyond the realm of building a new hotel. Summa is providing a whole new environment for the Strip which will be reflected in the sparkling new Desert Inn.

In order to allow workmen to keep up with the schedule of completion by the Summer of 1978, the present Desert Inn will partially close to the public effective November 6. A limited casino will continue to operate until such time as the entire project can be finished.

Summa officials pointed out that this massive reconstruction of the venerable Queen of the Strip will be accomplished at a cost of fifty-million dollars. A major portion of that construction money was pumped directly into the Las Vegas economy. Whenever possible, local contractors were given special consideration and first preference.

Joe Buckley, Director of Personnel for Summa said that the Company is ready to provide every consideration for those emp-

loyees who will be displaced as a result of this action. This includes assistance in attempting to find other jobs, aid in the processing of compensation forms, and coordination with the personnel departments of other hotels and casinos.

This latest announced construction, coupled with the rebuilding of the Desert Inn Country Club, currently underway, will establish the Desert Inn as the most prestigious facility in Las Vegas. When it is completed, the new hotel will boast of 800 rooms and suites. There will be a glamorous two-story casino; a promenade that will feature gourmet restaurants; smart shops and salons and even an old fashioned ice cream parlor.

The entire job was done under the auspices of ArchSystems, the architectural and building arm of Summa, and it marked some major design innovations. The Wimbeldon Tower is of particular interest. Airline pilots approaching Las Vegas by Moonlight have called the triwing structure the most beautiful building they have ever seen. The new Desert Inn will face the Strip showing a bronze glass front to the public. Center rising glass elevators will whisk customers up and down the new towers while providing an unparalleled view of Las Vegas.

Phil Hannifin, Senior Vice President of the Recreation Group, pointed out that the Desert Inn project gives Summa a new viability. He said it reflects the company's confidence in the State and in Las Vegas and is proof of the new directions being taken by Summa. He added "It is also a standing tribute to the people of this Southern Nevada community and reflects our faith in the future of Nevada gaming."

The recent White House Annual Picnic brought in the famous Brooklyn group, B.T. Express for a special command performance for the White House Staff.

To kick the performance off with just the right protocol, President Jimmy Carter came out to meet and chat with the members of the group and received a copy of their latest album "Function At The Junction." He thanked each member personally as well as manager King Davis. President Carter then asked them to strike up the band to start the party swinging. And they did just that for an hour-and-a-half.

This Annual Picnic saw the largest crowd ever since its inception and it was the first time that the attendees got out of their seats to dance.

B.T. Express's popularity with the people is reflected in their two gold albums and gold single. The members of this dynamic group are Khashi Salim on keyboards, Leslie Ming on drums, Dennis Rowe on conga drums, Jamal Rasool on bass, Richard Thompson on guitar, Carlos Ward on alto and flute and leader Billy Risbrooke on tenor and flute.



Left to right: Khashi Salim; Billy Risbrook; Richard Thompson (members of B.T. Express); King Davis, Manager; President Jimmy Carter; Carlos Ward; and Jamal Rasool.

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