

"Gentlemen Jim"

Steward of the Las Vegas Press Club since 1956, Jim Roberts was universally loved and respected by everyone who knew him as the smiling gentle man who made the club a welcoming port in the storm for the Las Vegas working press.

Roberts died at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday following a leg amputation. Although he never admitted his age, he was estimated to be in his 70s by those who knew him.

"I never knew anyone who didn't like him," press club member and local publicist Art Force told us.

Force said Roberts was working at the Showboat Hotel in the early 50s when Force brought him before the press club board of directors to apply for the steward's post at the new press club quarters, at that time in the Fremont Hotel.

Roberts took the job and held it full time until he went into retirement in 1974 for several months. He then returned to work a few days a week.

Force said he attributes much of the press club's success to Roberts, who was a "consummate gentleman."

"He was an individual who was loved by everyone who came in contact with him," former press club president Bob Belz said.

Belz, who was president of the club in 1954, said Roberts "probably did more than any other individual to hold the club together during rocky times. He will never be replaced." Roberts was dedicated to the club and to the press in general Belz said.

"The word 'gentleman' is a perfect description for Jim Roberts," Ruthe Deskin said.

Deskin, who knew Roberts for more than 20 years, said he was a "fine, kindly, compassionate person."

"He was probably the most respected person the entire town," press club Secretary Leta Haupt said.

Roberts and his wife, Louise came to Las Vegas from San Francisco, where he owned a bar and restaurant.

Local journalists honored him many years in a row on his birthday. Each year he declined to state his true age, claiming to be "39 and holding."

Mr. Roberts is survived by his wife, Louise Roberts, of Las Vegas; four daughters, Beborah White and Audrey Feliece Young, both of Las Vegas; and Loretta Roberts and Armetrice Roberts, both of California; and seven grandchildren.

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The following is an actual comment one family made. We have the writer's permission to print it here.

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"Livin Fat"

The premiere west coast presentation of "Livin Fat" by Judi Ann Mason opens January 30 and continues through February 24 at The Meadows Playhouse, 4735 So. Maryland Parkway, just south of UNLV in the University Square Shopping Center.

Written and directed by Judi Ann Mason, Technical Consultant for CBS Television "Good Times" and winner of the Norman Lear Award for Achievement in Playwriting, the comedy is a story of southern black family and its sudden accumulation of wealth. Although the family is black, Miss Mason explains, "It's the universality of the script that makes it so popular. The situation could apply to any race of people-- anyone who suddenly had money when they've never had it before. The situation would cause some serious moral contemplations."

Heading the all black cast is Ruth Brown, a professional actress and rhythm and blues singer who has appeared locally at Circus-Circus. She has appeared in several national television shows, performed in the Monterey and Tokyo Jazz Festivals, toured as a headliner in rhythm and blues concerts and the Playboy circuit. In addition, she has recorded for several companies including Decca and Sky Records.

VA

Veterans Administration chief Max Cleland today urged Congress to permit VA to give professional readjustment counseling to Vietnam Era veterans.

Cleland, who ten years ago testified before a Congressional committee about his own problems in readjusting after being severely wounded in Vietnam, testified today before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee chaired by Senator Alan Cranston, of California.

Cranston has introduced legislation to allow VA to: provide Vietnam Era veterans with a broader range of professional readjustment counseling, and when considered necessary to the veteran's mental health, to his family; treat veterans with drug and alcohol abuse problems in community facilities; operate a five-year pilot program of preventive health services for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Cleland said the provision for readjustment counseling by VA . . . is long overdue. Our experience indicated that many veterans with readjustment problems for several years after their discharge have not sought VA evaluation or treatment.

He observed that some were reluctant to seek readjustment assistance because of an unwillingness to admit they could not solve their own problems.

"They also may doubt whether VA can help, and whether they are eligible for VA assistance," Cleland said.

The proposal would make it possible for eligible Vietnam veterans and dependents to be counseled by professionals without the need for referral to a VA mental health unit.

Very few veterans would require hospitalization for their readjustment problems, Cleland told the Committee.

First-year costs for the program are estimated at \$9.9 million.

VA

Two laws that drastically improve veterans housing, pension and survivors benefits are among the new provisions explained in the Veterans Administration's 1979 revision of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" (IS-1 Fact Sheet) now available for \$1.50 through the Superintendent of Documents in Washington.

This handy 71-page booklet provides an updated summary for VA and non-VA benefits and the eligibility requirements for veterans and dependents. There is also a complete listing of toll-free and local VA phone numbers. These numbers enable anyone in the 50 states and Puerto Rico to call VA, without charge, to consult a veterans counselor for complete benefits information and assistance.

Veterans and other persons and agencies serving veterans desiring the VA's IS-1 Fact Sheet should request it from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.



(L to R) SYLVIA ROSS & DONALD LANE

"I just want to get my money from my dresser" pleads "Candy" portrayed by Sylvia Ross. Brother David, enacted by Donald Lane is attempting to keep the gifts for the family hidden in a scene from "Livin Fat" which opens at The Meadows Playhouse January 30 through February 24. The comedy about a Southern black family was written and is being directed by author Judi Ann Mason, winner of the first Norman Lear Award for Comedy Playwriting and currently the Technical Consultant for CBS Television's "Good Times". Phone the Playhouse Boxoffice for ticket information 739-7525.



Ingenuity In Home Decor

PRIZE-WINNING IDEA



THE ROOM WITH ITS ELEGANT AIR OF THE RIVIERA won first prize in a contest for decorators.

This stunning scene of a sunny Mediterranean terrace is not to be found on the Riviera at all but in an American apartment.

The room was created by interior designer Lee Warren in her own high-rise Chicago home and won first prize of \$5,000 in a design competition sponsored by Mannington Mills in cooperation with the American Society of Interior Designers.

Warren totally reconstructed her apartment, adding mirrored archways and an arched pass-through to the kitchen, where solid walls had been. By covering the windows with a delicate design painted on leaded glass panels she turned a

dull view into a superb decorating accent.

For the flooring, Warren chose a natural slate look in white to complete her outdoor terrace aura and complement her monochromatic scheme of white and off-whites. The flooring is the Mannington Mills Cobbs Creek pattern in the Marquis Collection. Glass tables give the room sparkle. Lots of pots of plants give the room softness. The overall look is enhanced by curios, artifacts, and polished metal. The antique campaign bed and well-upholstered chairs are all covered in custom tie-dyed fabric.

In all, it is an elegant yet comfortable room that brings the soft serenity of the Cote d'Azur to America.

Lola's Hair Fashion

LOLA, formerly at Susie's Beauty Nook proudly announces her new location with the latest in hair styling at 1802 ROOSEVELT, North Las Vegas Telephone (702) 649-9897