

PROFILES

by Percy Villa



There are a couple of handful of people who have really done a great deal in helping build Las Vegas into the city it is and one of them is today's 'Profile' — JACK WALSH.

Walsh has served the greater part of his life in the hotel business and was recently given the title as Executive Director of the Desert Inn.

He was born in Kentucky (most of his relatives are still living there, many of them holding political office.)

He has lived in Las Vegas for 25 years and says: "That's enough for me to



JACK

claim that I was born here."

Walsh attended Ohio State University and won a letter in football for carrying All American Chick Harley's shoes.

He is a World War veteran.

He was formerly associated with the National Hotel Management Corporation and was formerly co-owner

of the Bel-Air Hotel in Los Angeles.

He calls almost every female "sweetie." ("It's easier than remembering names ... and they like it.")

Some years ago, and the late Wilbur Clark, were together at the El Rancho Hotel. While there he was credited with bringing the first national convention to Las Vegas. This was the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It was the convention that started the ball a rolling for this city becoming the 'convention city'. (Look what has happened since?)

Later he became manager of the New Frontier and still later was manager of the Fabulous Flamingo, soon after it opened in 1947. That was when it was considered "way out in the country, miles from anything" at that time. Today it is right in the heart of the Strip.

He is a one timer. Was happily married for forty years until his wife passed away a few years ago. Has one daughter and two grandsons.

His principal hobby is golf. Has played in many Pro-American tournaments throughout the country, with such pros as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Art Wall and

Doug Sanders.

Says that he talks and think golf every day and manages to play the game at least 300 of the 365 days of the year.

On the national basis, with hotel managers he is considered to be the 'dean' of all hotel managers in America.

He is a member of the Nevada Boxing Commission for only one reason: "To see that the sport is kept on a high level."

He quickly admits that Jimmy Durante is his favorite stage star.

He always appears well-dressed. He has been called one of the best dressed men for years ("I'm flattered but mystified. All I do is dress comfortably and soberly"). He says the secret is buying the best clothes and having them tailored in conservative good taste. Is happiest wearing sport clothes and a sweater.

He is pleasant, gracious and courteous. He can also let go with the shouts when displeased or angered.

He hates to embarrass people; although he is often embarrassed by people.

He is a plain food eater. ("I don't go for fancy dishes. When I like a food, I stay with it.") His favorite foods are steak, baked potatoes and most any kind of soup. His favorite drink is Scotch.

He always stays in trim and with a story to tell you. He knows practically every great stage and movie star in America ("they all sooner or later come to Las Vegas, you know.")

He has all types of people as friends. ("What do I look for in people? Pd say eyes that look at me.")

He gives as his supreme ambition: "I want to help my fellow man, as well as myself, to a deep fulfillment in life."

Once you meet Jack Walsh, you'll never forget him.

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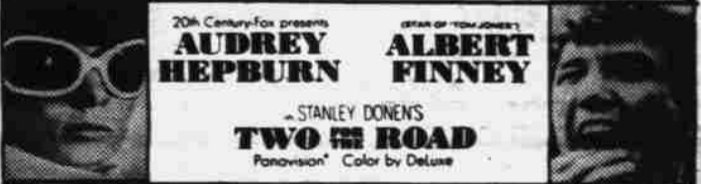
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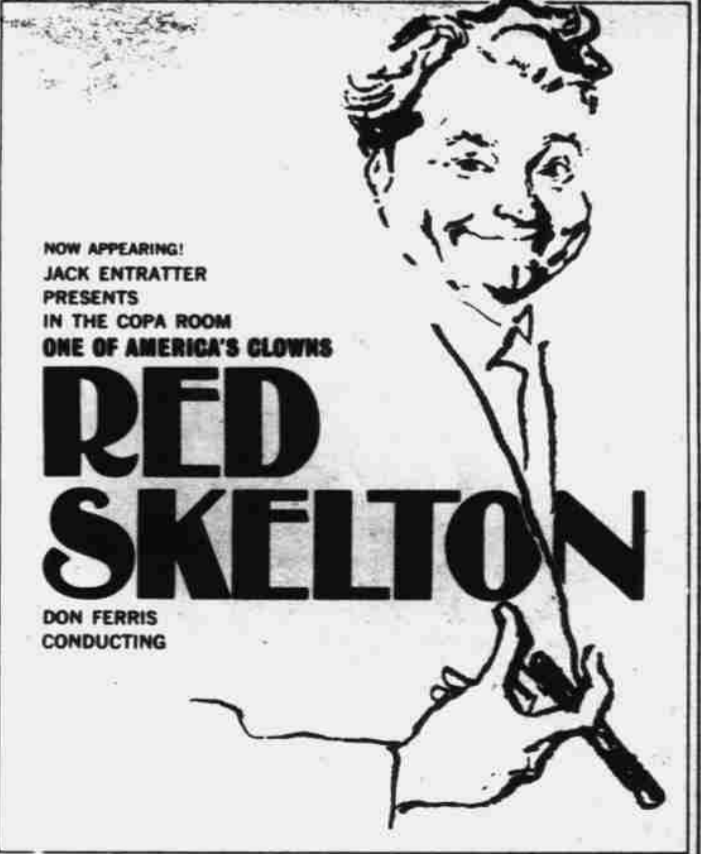
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