

# Barney Glazer's "HOLLYWOOD HOTLINE"

When Lorne Greene became the first headliner at the new Bonanza Hotel in Las Vegas, Betty Brown Eyes and I sat on opening night with Shirley and Art Angler. Art, who runs the Nevada office for Joe Glazer's (no relation) Association Booking Corporation, was the sax player, famous as "Cowise" in the "Kirby Stone Quintet and Cowise" musical group. Cowise and the Quintet had been playing together for one year when they sat one night in a Virginia restaurant. Art said, "If you fellows don't mind, I'd like

to take off for the Jewish holidays." The other five men said, "So would we." It's difficult to believe but Art insists it was true. It was the first time that each musician knew that the others were Jewish. Not only that, but they also discovered that they all lived within five blocks of each other in the Bronx. To prove that the draydle turns, Art now books The Kirby Stone Quintet. Engler's favorite story is about the young Jewish girl he booked for the Riviera Hotel to open the performance starring Liberace.

When she arrived for rehearsal at 2 in the afternoon, the young lady failed to create a ripple. The musicians were tired, some were yawning, all were anxious to get home.

They played for her first number, which she sang all the way through. To a man, the musicians arose and applauded. It was a first for them. Nobody had ever stirred them like this at rehearsal.

When the opening night curtain went up, Art Engler recalls the young girl walking out on the stage while many in the audience whispered, "Who's the kook in the kookie dress?" He found himself getting nervous and wondering if he had made a mistake by booking her. He caught himself glancing at two Riviera bosses seated in the next booth. They looked pretty grim.

The new vocalist finished

her first tune and all hell broke loose. The audience thundered its appreciation with deafening applause. The two bosses in the next booth were smiling broadly. Art Engler relaxed. The girl finished her act and retired. Backstage, Milt Bronson introduced Liberace over the loudspeakers. The orchestra played Lee's introduction. Nobody heard. The applause for the young lady rolled on and on. Bronson and the orchestra had to wait until the ovation subsided.

As you've probably guessed, the singer's name was Barbra Streisand. Her weekly wage was \$5,000. Today, the Riviera is bidding \$50,000, \$60,000, but Barbra isn't listening. She's making more money starring in Columbia Pictures' "Funny Girl."

Engler recalled that Barbra turned 21 two days before she closed her Riviera engagement. She loved the

game of 21 (blackjack) so the casino pit boss arranged to reserve a stool. She could hardly wait until she turned 21 to pay 21. In her first session on the Saturday night she attained her majority, Barbra won \$15. She became so wrapped up in the game she had to run to make the curtain for her midnight show. A lot of Streisand tunes have rolled across the foot-

lights since those days. Barbra's fortunes have overflowed. Meanwhile, Art Engler keeps looking for another singing sensation. He thinks he has discovered one in Lee Meza, 24 who has five children. She's an exciting performer who stirs the emotions of her audience. Art thinks he is backing another winner. He'd feel a lot better if she'd take up the game of blackjack.

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