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PROFILES

by Percy Villa

It was my gain when Jack Tell asked me to do a story on his good friends Carlo and Anna Bombara, whom I've heard about the past year but never had the pleasure of meeting. Jack had told me that Carlo was the most personable person he's met as long as he could remember. I took the advice in the light sort of a manner until the other day I drove out to meet Carlo and Anna for a story. Having lunch with them and jotting down notes, (and really the finest Italian food I've ever tasted) I must confess that boss-man Tell was never so right.

Carlo was born in Gaeta, Italy, February 6, 1889. He came to New York City in

1920 and lived in or near the big city until little over a year ago when the Bombaras moved to Las Vegas.

CARLO BOMBARA'S RISTORANTE ITALINO is located at 7900 E. CHARLESTON BLVD.

He is a man of many talents. He loves to sing and play the piano. At the age of eight he won a scholarship from the Government of Italy. By the time he was 16, he had sung 32 operatic roles in Rome and Gaeta, his birthplace, 15 miles from Rome. You name the opera and some modern songs and Carlo will sing and play the piano while you are enjoying your food.

The place has sure caught



ANNA & Carlo

among Strip headliners and Hotel owners who keep visiting Carlo and Anna.

The delightful couple have been married 40 years. She still calls him "Mr Bombara." His garlic bread is out of this world. In his ads he says: "If you don't like garlic, go home." He is 79 years young (and it should happen to all my readers and then some.) As never have we seen such a youngish looking charmer and so active too. His cooking is out of this world. His singing and piano playing is a treat going miles for and his ever lovin' Anna is something you'll never regret meeting.

"Tony" Zoppi (publicity director of the Riviera) eats at the Bombaras' at least thrice weekly. Add this to believe it or not. Zoppi's parents used to live next door to the Bombaras in Newark New Jersey for many years. He is 5 feet, 5 inches tall

and weighs 160 ("I hope") POUNDS.

He finds the most appealing thing about a woman to be her forthrightness. ("a woman who will speak her own mind. One won't automatically look for someone to light her cigarette".)

There is love and devotion between Anna and Carlo. (The greatest fun for me is having people visit my place and cooking for them. I love Italian food. But I don't just mean spaghetti.) He also likes to sit around and talk to his friends and customers.

He claims his main hobby, when he isn't working, is sleep. (I have my hours set for me and I'm up and around at least 16 hours per day. I'm essentially a lazy man.)

He takes good care of himself. He watches his weight. His eating and drinking habits are good. He is always well dressed and with a white shirt. ("After all one never knows who is coming to din-

ner tonight.")

For thirty years he owned his own eating place on Long Beach, Long Island, N. Y., and called it "Bombaro Inn" ("It was a hangout for show people and newspapermen")

The Bombaro's have three children, Carlo Jr., Joseph and Mario. They have eight grandchildren, all living in the East.

Carlo, since he became established in Las Vegas has catered to some of our more prominent citizens, among whom are (and he is trusting his memory that he hasn't overlooked any) are: Jack Entratter, Al Freeman, Jimmy and Mary Pappa, "Tony" Zoppi, Jeannie Magowan, Forrest Duke, Charlie Turner, Gus Gluffre, Johnny and Jeanie Drew, Harvey and Joan Diederich, Emil and Betty Riesenik, Charlie Kandel, Jack and Bea Tell, Mel and Betty Wolzinger, Don Digilio, Jerry Wager, Muriel, and Maury Stevens, Sam and Mry Boyd, Les and Elsie Goldring, Ralph Pearl, Charlie Monahan, Dave Halper, Lou Miller, Jerry Lester, Maury Wills, Carl Barbalat, Joe Delaney, Barbara and Hank Greenspun, Jack Kogan, Emmett Hadgkins, Boots Van Horn and now you have Annabell and Percy to the steady customer list.

At 79 he is overstocked with energy. ("I don't have to eat Wheaties or take vitamins.")

By all means give yourself an eating treat and visit the most remarkable folks we've met in a long long time and you'll thank me. To get there, drive East on Charleston, and drive until you've passed Lake Mead Blvd. It's just a little further, long enough to work up an appetite for a meal you'll never forget. Reasonable too.

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JULY 20, 1968