

# LAS VEGAS SHOW EAST



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RANDY CRANE



## PROFILES

by Percy Villa

DON DIGILIO, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE REVIEW-JOURNAL, according to the average person on the street, is a controversial columnist but in our book (and that goes for his many friends

and readers) he is a sweet, kind and a most considerate person.

He was born on August 16, 1933 in Omaha, Nebraska. He served in the Korean war for two years. Upon re-

turning from the service he worked for the Las Vegas SUN.

In 1960 he went to the R.J. as a police reporter. Later he was moved up to the night editor's spot and in 1964 he was named managing editor.

Early last year Don started doing a humorous and yet a controversial column. Most readers look for it mainly to see what kind of a mood, Don is in. It's anyone's guess what Don is going to write about tomorrow, the next day or the day after that. In short his column is a big question mark.

The stories that have attracted the most attention were: the Las Vegas Police Probe in 1960, the Dr. Finch-Tregoff murder - for - hire plot, Sinatra's marriage, and the singer's fight at the Sands. Don has been called as a key witness in several big stories and often is asked to produce news sources, but he has refused.

Many of his columns have been read on TV and radio and reproduced by others. He wrote six straight stories on the sale of Strip Hotels in 1967-1968, and each was a world-wide scoop.

Don has very little time for hobbies because of his work. ("I work while the average guy is asleep.")

He is married to the beautiful and talented former Jeannine McColl (Miss Nevada and an entry in the Miss America contest.) Their two daughters, Dena, 5, and Danielle, 6, are already outstandingly attractive. (The children look like their mother, that's why they are so beautiful, admits Don.)

In 1965 Don was appointed



DON

by former Gov. Grant Sawyer, and reappointed by Gov. Paul Laxalt to the Nevada State Athletic Commission. He is one of the seven men in the world on the World Boxing Association Ratings Committee, one of the most powerful committees in the WBA Organization.

He is also vice-president of Corral Coin, a successful slotmachine operation in Las Vegas. Dean Shendal, one of the owners of Caesars Palace is the president of the company.

Don's early ambition in life was to be a major league baseball player. But being only 5 feet 6 inches, and a 150 pounds, he just couldn't make it. ("I was what they called good field, no - hit performer.")

His biggest claim to fame in baseball is batting against Bob Gibson, when Gibson was pitching for a semi-pro team in Woodbine, Ia. ("I didn't strike out," Digilio said, and he was so fast we guys wanted to skip their turn at bat.)

Don was an amateur wrestling champion at Central High School. He also served as a wrestling coach while in Korea and played ball for the Stars and Strips in Japan while serving from '56 to '58.

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