

# THE BOARDWALK IS MY BEAT

BY CHARLES E. SEEL



### HAPPY NEW YEAR:

They eat--and drink and lie and prod,  
Then off to Church on Sunday,  
'Cause, all have a certain fear of God,  
Yet they sin again on Monday?

\*\*\*\*\*

Thus we embark upon the new year of 1969.....It will in all probability, and like in years past, find us still dating our memos '68,.... Anyhow, and in keeping with tradition, parties, noisemakers, the parades and the shouting is now over!...We face the New Year with sort've mixed emotion?..However we see the coming year in an agreeable image of progress....The Uptown Urban Renewal will shortly get underway...The area for the new Convention Hall Annex will be cleared and readied for construction... The Inlet Apartment dwellings will have occupancy, then of course there's the hope that Gambling in the State will be legalized--which would doubtlessly become a welcome release for our taxation difficulties.

\*\*\*\*

As for the so-called campaign for legalized gambling now being conducted by some of our enthusiastic folk who are soliciting support from the people with petitions and whatnot?? We laud their efforts and eager attempts to arouse interest, but we believe that with all their zeal, and all their ambition they will meet with dubious success....Not to be critical for we are delighted to see that at long last our City has awakened to the new social order of things, and that Gambling Casinos are now a must for the progress and growth of a resort...Anyhow, we observe this campaign now underway as juvenile!....The way they are going at it is both impractical, improbable, immovable and idyllic nonsense!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Petitions, speeches and all the fussy hoopla now taking place is for the "birds"!...That wasn't the way Horse Racing was legalized for the State!...And who the hell cares what Atlantic City wants up there in North Jersey, or the hundreds of inland cities with their factory payrolls and industries!...Fact they'd probably prefer not to sanction it!...?...

\*\*\*\*\*

Let's face it--To have legalized gambling in New Jersey is a broad and engaging project, which cannot be accomplished with just glowing anticipations!... It takes a lot of doing up there in Trenton where the laws are made and changed...It will take lobbyists and numerous hard core political warriors in both the Assembly and the Senate to get legislative enact-

# Boardwalk Beat

Continued From Page One

ment, and even then, we must vote for or against??

\*\*\*\*\*

The leaders of this campaign for legalized gambling are worthy of our praise, and even tho' they fail to gain their ultimate goal and objective, they have at least created a 1969 conversation piece...Now then, we don't wish to gloomily say that Legalized gambling is foredoomed to failure regardless! Hell No!...Just that this isn't merely a local situation, but effects the entire State, and if we were to present the signature of every resident in the City and County, it would hardly persuade the representatives from other cities in the State!..To be practical, the program is political, whether we want to admit it or not!...And our advice is to try and approach our Representatives on the subject...Not with a lot of names on a petition, but with the Leaders of our City...Civic Leaders, Social Leaders, and our high taxpayers like hotelmen and restaurant operators, our liquor dealers, and this means not only our white population, but the blacks as well!...Make this a "person-to-person" approach with all prominent advocates in attendance--not just their statement in the newspapers! Then perhaps you will know which way you are going! If legalized gambling is possible--and we can think of no better time than now--then this will be the manner in which it can get approval!...But wait..I almost wrote finish to this, without mentioning a most important segment of the project!...The proposal should call for the strictest operational control--same as that of Puerto Rico and Nassau, both of which are forced to observe rigid restrictive limitations...O.K., now let's stop being naive, and get off on the right foot!

\*\*\*\*\*