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CHEVROLET

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AFRO-AMERICAN TRAVEL MAGAZINE, June 1970

Does His Thing—the limbo

Tassau, Bahamas — when the stage lights dim at-Le Cabaret Theatre and the drums of the big band sounds of the Don Ragon Orchestra roll, the Deacon, Nassauborn, popular limbo dancer, nonchalantly walks on stage.

Wearing his one-piece costume of skin-tight pants and the biggest straw hat in town, the Deacon stands, stares impishly at the sophisticated audience for seemingly hundreds, of heart-beating seconds, and then suddenly grins. "Hope you weren't expecting any one else folks!" he says.

For six nights a week the Deacon, doing "his own thing" at Paradise Island Le Cabaret Theatre preapres the audience for some of the great est names in show biz.

His "thing" is limbo dancing around and under the limbo stick uppped now to seven and three quarter inches. When he first began, 10 years ago, he went under the stick at four and threequarter inches. With his own little gag about time, the Deacon said: "Father Time is catching up with me but Mother Nature is still good to me. I'm hardly ever sick and my weight hasn't changed much since got started."

Tis comic asides and boyish clowning also help put the andience in a receptive mood for what comes next.

What comes next have been internationally-acclaimed stars like Nancy Wilson, Frank Gorshin, Caterina Valente, Flip Wilson, Jack Jones, etc. The Deacon considers it a privilege and a big responsibility performing on the same bill with such luminaries. "Ishis" in itself gives mé inspiration I would-notnormally get if I weren't-working with such great people. I always think what comes after me will be so much better."

Most times, the audiences are enthusiastically receptive. Occasionally the Deacon may spot a person who just stares blankly having just lost at the gaming stables. The Deacon will smile and do something funny. However, he doesn't get discouraged if the guest doesn't respond. "I don't let a bade audier e interfere with my show-

What would the Deacon do if he weren't dancing? "I would become a priest," he said enigmatically. The stories behind the Deacon's same time. He knows he has beginnings as a limbo dancer are \*themselves mirth-provoking but also give you some insight into the personality of the young man who uses the pseudonym, the Deacon.

Most Nassauvians are familiar with the big church on East Street which the Deacon, (then Pércival Whylly), attended four times on "Sundays, and enjoyed it, especially the band which he referred to as "one of the best going."

religious young man, he never drank, smoked or went to night-clubs. Working as a bus boy at the Buena Vista Restaurant he would complain about the smell of alcohol which always seemed to be around his co-workers. So they dubbed him "the Deacon." The name stuck with him when he began his career as an entertainer.

When he's not working, the Deacon, lather of three children, writes songs to relax. The genre of them\_ reflect his moods. "I have this inner thing going. If I'm happy: it's rock and roll; if I'm depressed, it's something sad," he says.

He also grows vegetables and flowers in his backyard. He likes animals, too. "If I had my way, would like to have a farm with chickens and goats at the back door." When is he going to retire? "Never," he said.

He watches other entertainers during his one night off but finds himself wishing her was onstage with them, especially if the audience is good. "It's like living with your wife; you feel close to the audience; they are mever wrong,

The Descorrismouthe only limbo dancer here but because he has survived so long and has become so successful and famous, he is likely to go on for years. Some people, say it's my personality; some say s my costume. I think it's the desire to please the audience and chiov doing it." he'll tell you.

How long can be go on dancing the lin7bo, clowning and making

personal quips with his audience is anybody's guess. In the meantime/ he's enjoying himself and getting a lot of healthy exercise at the

reached the pinnacle at He Cabaret. To do better he would have to leave the island. Mused the Deacon: "Even musicians get tired of playing too much of any good thing.'

## Take these tips on tipping abroad

ne of the less often planned and often the most troublesome items of a vacation trip is the tipping problem.

This is because there are no hard and fast rules for tipping. The customs differ from country to country abroad, and indeed, from city to city in the United States.

The question of tipping—who when and how much is probably one of the most perplexing problems for Americans traveling abroad and often at home too.

Carry an easily reached purse with one or two small bills and change for tipping cab drivers. porters, bellboys and such. In restaurants, night clubs, etc., it is customary to tip 15 to 20 percent of the tab.

clubs in European countries usually include service charges ranging from 10 to 25 percent on bills. But even then, guests are expected to leave small change for waiters, bar men, hatcheck girls, porters, bellboys and chamber

In the Far East, hotels usually add a, 10 percent service charge and not further tipping is necessary Tip 10 to 15 percent in restaurants, etc., when service charges are not included

American rountries even where service charges are included \$1 million in bonuses.

in the bill. Tip in the currency of the country you are visiting. Have on hand a conversion table to figure out the rate of exchange. If confused about amounts, tip as you would in America, taking into account local economic conditions. For example, if you would tip 25. cents for the service in the United States, make it a shilling (12 cents) in Britain, a franc (18 cents) in France, 100 lire (16 cents) in Italy. \$1 (16 cents) in Hong Kong and 1° peso (6 cents) in Colombia.

Here are some other tips on tipping which might come in handy:

If no fixed charge is levied, tip. airport, railroad and hotel porters about 50 cents per bag in the United\_\_\_ States and its local equivalent else-

Taxt drivers expect no less than 25 cents for short hauls and 15 to 20 percent of the meter for o long trips in the United States, and comparative largess overseas. It on the fare before getting into

If you are traveling tourist class aboard a ship, figure \$1 per day per person each, for the room "steward and dining room waiter. Tip for other services as performed-

Never tip stewardesses, flight crews, ticket clerks and other airline employees. If you want to show your appreciation for extra services. write a letter to the company Read quarters; one airline is distributing