

A copy of this story is on file at the Neon Museum in Las Vegas. It was written by Benson Parker as told to him by his father Paul B. Parker.

## **The Dunes Hotel**

In 1957, in an effort to generate more income, the Dunes became the first hotel on the Strip to feature a topless review, Minsky's Follies. One of the beautiful show girls who was part of the Follies would stand on one side of the stage on a small revolving platform dressed in a glittery topless costume with her back to the audience while other girls were dancing center stage. She held her arms out to her sides with a huge parrot perched on each wrist. As her platform slowly rotated around where the audience was going to be able to see her nude statuesque form, she would turn her wrists forward just a little, the birds would think they were going to fall and would respond by spreading their wings and covering her breasts.

Every night when she got off work she came to the bar where I worked at the Dunes and got stupid drunk. Finally, one night I said to her, "What's your problem, girl? You're young and beautiful, you're a Las Vegas showgirl yet you come in here every night and get drunk. What's going on?"

She said, "Well Paul, I'll tell 'ya. Since I was nine years old my parents paid for me to have dance lessons. Then when I was in high school, I also started voice lessons. In college I got a degree in Performing Arts. Now, after all that, I go out there every night and those damn birds crap on me."