



Three generations gather as Dino and Jeanne display Gina to Dean's father.

## Dino (Continued)

Dean still chuckles whenever he recalls how his father finally talked him into a "respectable" job, meaning, of course, the barber profession. One morning he gave Dean five dollars to enroll at the local barber college. On the way downtown to pay his tuition, Dean passed a local cigar store, then a well-known front for the biggest gambling house in Steubenville. He couldn't resist going in—and promptly lost his five dollars. Making the most of an unfortunate situation, he talked himself into a job there as a clerk selling punch-board chances.

Before long he was promoted to dealer and croupier on the gambling tables in back of the store. He did so well that he was loaned to other gambling houses as far away as Florida and worked himself up to \$125 a week, a small fortune for a fellow barely out of his teens. At least, he assured me later, his shady labors had a worthy purpose: his income not only helped support his parents, but put his brother through college.

During the same years, Dean utilized his beautiful if untrained voice to sing at dances and parties whenever asked by friends. One night band-leader Sam Watkins heard him and offered him a job at \$50 a week. Dean took a cut in salary to accept. It's no secret how that gamble paid off, particularly after he took another big chance by joining forces with an unknown comedian named Jerry Lewis.

It also led to discontent and quarrels and me.

I was an art major at the University of Miami when Dean and Jerry came to Miami Beach in December, 1948, for an engagement at the Beachcomber Club. Two years had passed since they teamed up and Jerry persuaded Skinny d'Amato, owner of Atlantic City's 500 Club, to sign them as a comedy act. By the time they reached Miami, they were firmly established as the nation's newest and most successful comedy team.

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Jeanne shares a coffee break with Dean on set of "Career," his latest movie.

Dean enjoys his family but allows each one to relax as he pleases. Jeanne phones while Dino and Craig watch TV. Gail and Dean, Jr., quietly play chess.



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