

Actor Says He Prefers a Deck To Dromedary

By H. AUGUST DEBELIUS
 Madrid - (UPI) - Handsome, swarthy Omar Sharif, the man who has been billed as film's successor to Rudolf Valentino and Ramon Navarro, admits he prefers bridge to camel-riding.

"In fact," he said, "I never laid eyes on a camel until I had to ride one in 'Lawrence of Arabia,' and I hope I never see one again."

Sharif, better known as an actor than a card player, took part in several international bridge competitions for his native Egypt.

He now is starring in the Samuel Bronston film spectacular 'The Fall of the Roman Empire' as the King of Armenia.

Wearing a purple shirt and dark purple tie instead of a bedsheet, the actor sipped Spanish cognac in his elegant Madrid apartment and said:

"I'm resisting the Valentino image. It's too much of a strain."

The slightly accented English of the Cairo-born son of a lumber merchant was exotic, but his phrases were positive and exact. "I want to get off this Valentino kick," he said.

His long, wavy black hair curled over the collar of his light gray sports jacket. The six-footer leaned forward and his large hands gesticulated.

Sheiks Are Out

"Let's face it," he said, "sheiks are out."

He lit a cigarette and waved the smoke away from in front of his deep-set brown eyes.

"Women now prefer uncombed hair and the Twist," he said. "The tastes of women have changed. I'm not worried, and the reason is I have not got plastered down hair."

But I'm keeping away from the desert pix. I don't want to spend the rest of my career on a camel.

"I like to be a demigod like Valentino, but it would be a big strain. I made a point of seeing 'Son of the Shiek' so I'd know what to stay away from."

He also claimed that any similarity between him and Valentino or Navarro as far as romance goes also was mistaken.

"In my first English-language picture," he said, "I didn't have one girl. That was in 'Lawrence.' In 'The Fall of the Roman Empire,' I'm supposed to be married to Sofia Loren, which isn't so bad — but she's supposed to be in love with somebody else. And in my next picture, 'The 25th Hour,' I'm a Roman Catholic priest. I never get a girl."



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Gambling—IV

Gambler Surely To Be Overtaken by House Odds if He Sticks With Game

By HARRY FERGUSON
 Washington - (UPI) - One day a frustrated citizen, temporarily in a state of involuntary bankruptcy, pasted this sign on a Las Vegas slot machine: "In case of air raid stand beside this machine. Nobody has hit it yet."

The man was over-stating the case, of course, because somebody hits slot machines just often enough to keep the customers coming back. Gambling is not only legal in Nevada, it is on the level. The odds against a roulette player are about five per cent, but he knows that when he goes into the game. When a gambling house covers all bets in a dice game, the odds against the players are at least 1.4 per cent. Just stay there long enough and you will lose your shirt.

The only thing a legal gambling house has to worry about is to keep enough cash on hand to tide itself over when a high-rolling player gets hot. Sooner or later the odds will begin to work and the man who hasn't sense enough to quit when he is well ahead goes broke. The legend about the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo is a pretty story, but it's fiction.

Horse bettors are a melancholy breed of men, anyway, but they complain loudly about the injustice of pari-mutuel betting. What it means is that it is legal in many states to bet on a horse provided you are on the premises of the track. If you walk a block away from the track, betting is illegal.

Now the horse players have another complaint. Several years ago the Internal Revenue Service issued orders that any person winning more than \$800 on a \$2 bet would have to identify himself to collect his money. This happens mostly in the daily double. You pick horses in the first and second races for the price of a single ticket, and if your selections win the odds usually are good.

On Oct. 3, 1960, the rule struck Belmont Park in New York with some strange results. The daily double paid \$893 for every \$2 ticket purchased and the winners were invited to collect their money by identifying themselves by Social Security cards or driver's license. The track announced that the identity of the winners would have to be

reported to the Internal Revenue Service.

At twilight, when all the horse players had gone home, the track still had \$46,477 unclaimed by winners of the daily double. For reasons of their own, the persons holding the tickets preferred to pass up the money rather than identify themselves, and the state treasury profited accordingly.

Tremendous sums are bet on sports events in the United States and from time to time attempts are made to fix the games. The most notorious attempt was successful — gamblers got to enough members of the 1919 Chicago White Sox to allow the Cincinnati Reds to win the World Series. The White Sox may have been the greatest baseball team ever assembled and the public made them such heavy betting favorites that the gamblers got attractive odds.

College basketball scandals have been common in recent years, but a new element has entered the wagering. The gamblers don't ask an athlete to lose the game but merely to "shave the points." Team A is a six-point favorite over Team B. A gambler takes Team B plus six points and then bribes a couple of athletes on Team A to insure that they don't win by more

than five.

The recent suspension of Paul Hornung of the Green Bay Packers and Alex Karras of the Detroit Lions of the National Football league has raised the problem on whether it is ethical for an athlete to bet on himself or on his own team. This issue is hotly debated on the first tee of many country clubs as soon as the members of the foursome get through putting up the bets on themselves for the day's play.

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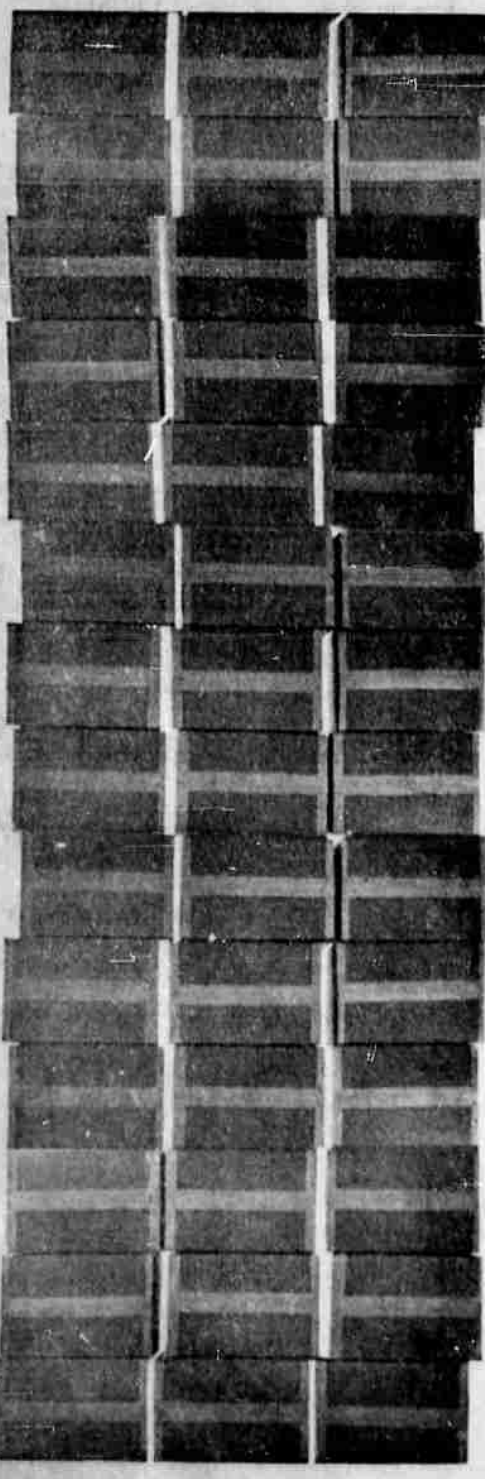
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