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## VEGASHOTSPOTS.COM ANNOUNCES TOP LAS VEGANS OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

*"Who's Who" List Honors VIPs Who Helped Build Las Vegas*

LAS VEGAS, April 25, 2002 – Today, VegasHotSpots.com announced it's Top Las Vegans of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a veritable "Who's Who" list of notable individuals that were key players in shaping Las Vegas into the internationally renown city it is today.

"Many of the people on this list are very prominent and sometimes infamous individuals," said VegasHotSpots Publisher Tom Hantges. "However, we really wanted to recognize them for their individual contributions to Vegas's storied history, while also showing the colorful side of their personalities."

VegasHotSpots.com is a newly unveiled Las Vegas-centric travel website with point-of-view editorial content and one-of-a-kind offerings. The site provides the hottest, most comprehensive information on Vegas, all in a unique "tell-it-like-it-is" tone, with a hip, retro look and feel.

Following is the VegasHotSpots Top Las Vegans of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century:

### **Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel: The man who turned the stars on in Vegas.**

Contrary to popular opinion, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel didn't operate the first resort on the Strip. The Hotel Last Frontier, where Siegel stayed during construction of his legendary Flamingo, and the El Rancho were already up and running in the late 1940s. But where early Vegas traded on Nevada's western heritage, Siegel envisioned the desert skies awash with neon. He also was responsible for making the mob an integral part of Sin City's development.

**Steve Wynn: The man who made Vegas safe for the world.** Vegas in the late 80s, while not a ghost town, was still a place where the old-school rules applied. Caesars Palace and Circus Circus were the closest things to themed resorts on the strip and gambling was spreading rapidly across the United States. From Atlantic City to the Mississippi river to Indian gaming in California, some form of wagering was just around the corner from most of Vegas' potential visitors. If the town was going to return to its free-swinging roots, a change would have to come, and in a hurry.

**Hank Greenspun: The Media Mogul.** Vegas in the late 40s was a one-horse media town. In between the mafia and state government, there wasn't much room for independent opinion, a fact reflected by the coverage in the prominent Las Vegas Review-Journal. Hank Greenspun brought an outsider's attitude and a reformer's zeal to town, balancing the southern Nevada media scales in the process.

**Si Redd: The Game Player.** If one thing challenges neon lights for dominance in Vegas, it's sound. The constant clatter and clang of thousands of slots, video poker machines and progressive jackpots are a constant reminder that money is being made and lost 24 hours a day, and if you're not playing something, you're missing your chance.

**E. Parry Thomas: The Money Man.** Money and casinos typically have a pretty magnetic relationship. But there was a time in Las Vegas when a casino getting a bank loan was unheard of. E. Perry Thomas, along with his partner Jerry Mack, changed that, as well as the national financial perception of the gaming industry as a whole.

**Ralph Lamb: The Crimestopper.** Most people who come to Vegas don't think much about the law. The whole allure of Sin City is the common gent's ability to do things he can't, or shouldn't, at home. But when folks step out of line, punishment is sharper than a sharkskin suit on Sammy D., a legacy handed down by Las Vegas' longest serving Sheriff, Ralph Lamb.

**Howard Hughes: The Absentee Landlord.** Howard Hughes' arrival in Las Vegas was like Sinatra signing you to Reprise. It gave the city a credibility that it had never attained. It didn't hurt that the feds were cracking down on mob activity in the late 60s, but Hughes' investment was a sign to businessmen that Vegas was a place that money could be made on the up and up. Was he eccentric: yeah. But money talks and he hadn't earned his billions through financial irresponsibility.

**Bob Stupak: The Gambler.** Bob Stupak is a chain smoking, gold-chained embodiment of a Vegas that many would like to forget. But if it wasn't for guys like Stupak, hoards of them, Vegas would be better known as a Mormon settlement than the epicenter of legalized sin.

**Jay Sarno: The Dreamer.** In a city where fantasy-trumping reality is the norm, a dreamer has a good chance of making a name for himself. Looking at the strip today it's hard to imagine that Vegas in the Fifties and early Sixties was a ragtag collection of casinos whose names promised exotic locales, but all looked pretty much the same. With one imperial gesture, Jay Sarno changed that forever.

**Frank Fertitta Jr.: The local's guy.** As the Vegas strip has flourished, the workers to support the demands of the constant stream of Jacks and Jills have expanded with it. The Las Vegas Metropolitan area is now home to well in excess of 1 million inhabitants, many of whom are employed in the casino industry.

**Murray, Faye & Dean Petersen.** Brother and sister group Murray, Faye and Dean Petersen came to Las Vegas from Utah in search of their opportunity. These pioneer developers of the early 60s were responsible for much of the residential development that occurred in that decade through their company Roundup Realty.

#### **About VegasHotSpots.com**

VegasHotSpots.com recommends more than 100 of the hottest spots in Las Vegas, including what to see, where to stay, where to eat, must-see shows, raging, romantic, or naughty nightlife, and unusual and entertaining attractions. The best stuff can be found in Club Royale, a members-only section containing articles on what's new and hot, and members-only promotions.

VegasHotSpots.com captures the allure and hype of the "new" Las Vegas, while saluting the history, mystery and attitude that built its international reputation. VegasHotSpots.com fills a void in traditional Las Vegas destination travel sites by providing point-of-view editorial content and one-of-a-kind offerings. For more information, contact: (702) 947-8413 or [marketing@vegashotspots.com](mailto:marketing@vegashotspots.com).

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