

Las Vegas Time-Line

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The Year is 1946

by James Campiglia

Billy Wilkerson announced the opening of a fancy new night club and hotel on Highway 91, outside the Las Vegas city limits (later known as the strip), next to the Bon Aire Club. It's supposed to have 240 rooms. As we all know, Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegal (more or less) muscled Wilkerson out of the Flamingo project.

Fred Sifford known as "Firpo" owns: The Jolly Jug, 1024 North Boulder Highway, Pittman area. It's currently the Centerfold Bar; Red's Tavern, 1100 North Boulder Highway, Pittman area; and Melody Inn on Boulder Highway, Whitney area. All three have craps and 21 tables. Sifford especially likes to give jobs to returning Veterans of WWII.

Bill's Place, 3337 South 5th Street, just south of the Last Frontier. Owned by Bill Doches. It has crap tables along with snacks and gas.

The Bon Aire Club, 3415 South 5th Street, owned by Max Travis and Les Welch. They sold it for \$50,000 to George Harris. The Bon Aire Club was located where Harrah's now sits. It had live gaming.

Casa Vegas, LA Highway was owner by Pappy Jarrett sold the club to Duke Wiley. Located next to Val Sneed's. The area is now the corner of Spring Mountain Road and Las Vegas Boulevard.

The Dog House, 1815 North Main Street, opened in North Las Vegas and



is owned by Bill Bailey. The address saw many clubs come and go.

El Cortez, 600 East Fremont Street is managed by Moe Sedway, a Bugsy Siegal associate.

El Rancho Vegas, LA Highway.

Owner Wilbur Clark is using tokens with his face on them and claims he is going to "flood the country" with them.

The Fiesta Villa, 3309 South 5th Street opens. The casino is run by Paul Wilds and Vic Mandotte. The general manager is John F. Morgan. The club is owned by Whitney Brandt, Pete Brady,



Kenny Glover, George Athanasoff and Jack Glover. The Fiesta Villa eventually became the Villa Venice.