

PERCY
(Continued From Page 1)

perhaps this planet of ours would be a better place on which to live."

During one of his trips to Las Vegas, before Percy settled here three and a half years ago, our own Hank Greenspan noted: "Percy Villa is a Las Vegas visitor extraordinaire-not attracted by night life-but a sincere desire to better the lot of youth."

During the past 20 years in Minnesota, more than 100 settlement houses, boys clubs, youth groups affiliated with churches and synagogues, and any and all other organizations concerned with youth, have been the recipients of Percy's efforts. The many hundreds of thousands of dollars raised by Percy's Committees have endowed scholarships, financed expenses for trips to Olympic competition, and rendered assistance to every method and means of keeping youth gainfully occupied.

In fact, so much money was raised in his home town, when Percy came to Southern Nevada, he brought with him funds to supply equipment for the Spring Mountain Youth Camp and for boys groups in Henderson and North Las Vegas.

We may not know "WHY" (the answer to which may be found only by penetrating a man's soul) but we certainly are acquainted with the "HOW" all this was accomplished.

It began with Percy as the Minnesota Golden Gloves Featherweight Champion. He retired from prize fighting at 20 to become the dean of boxing in Minneapolis for the Star. But he never forgot his earlier days as a newsboy fraught with all the obstacles that could deter a poor lad from a decent and honest future. He knew all the frustrations and the temptations to stray. With first hand knowledge of the causes, the cures were easy. Percy commenced organizing boys clubs and youth groups.

As the years passed, the most prominent citizens vied for the opportunity to serve on Percy's annual committees in the fund raising projects for the benefit of youths. His longtime friend and fellow Minnesotan, Hubert H. Humphrey, now Vice President of the United States, has been the staunchest supporter of Percy's youth work for two decades. At a testimonial dinner when Percy was about to leave for Las Vegas, Mr. Humphrey spoke: "Percy Villa has done a fine job for equal rights in his years of service to Minneapolis." To this day the two correspond almost weekly with the vice president constantly encouraging Percy to move to the Washington D.C. area to become involved in youth work on a national scope.

Percy was born in Jassy, Rumania. His parents, Morris and Edna, raised a family of six sons and three daughters. In 1914 the Villa's came to America to settle

Villa, With Wife and Children, and Life-long Friends



PERCY, V.P. HUMPHREY, WIFE ANNABELLE



SON HERBERT, MR. V.P., DAUGHTER CAROL



PERCY, ROCKY MARCIANO



PERCY'S 1947 COMMITTEE, L. TO R. SECRETARY TO HUMPHREY WILLIAM SIMMS, DISTRICT JUDGE TED KNUDSON, VICE PRES. OF

THE U.S. HUBERT HUMPHREY, PERCY, DISTRICT JUDGE HAROLD ROGERS, REV. JOHNSIMMONS, AND COUNSELMAN DESMONT PRATT.

in Minneapolis, where they operated a small grocery store in a poor neighborhood. Percy attended public and high schools, and in 1930 commenced working as a newspaperman, after winning 50 consecutive amateur boxing matches.

He met his charming wife, the former Annabelle Stamm, on a blind date, proposed the next time they saw each other, and two months

later were married. They have two wonderful children, Herbert, who will receive his LL.B. Degree from the University of Minnesota in June, and Carol, engaged here in Las Vegas as a nurse's aide for Dr. Alexander Coblentz.

Due to his family heritage and his Talmud Torah background, Percy has never lost track of his devotion to Judaism. In addition to being a

member of Temple Beth Shalom and the Men's Club since settling in Las Vegas, he is the first to offer his services for any worthy project.

That is why the newly formed Jewish Young Adults of Southern Nevada, where single, young members of the

Jewish Faith have an opportunity to meet, got off to a wonderful start. Percy offered his home for a "James Bond" party, where more than 150 gathered for an evening of fun and frolic.

The affair went off without a hitch, with many meetings for the first time to es-

tablish what could be life-long friendships.

"The enthusiasm was so spontaneous," commented Percy, "and all conducted themselves with such decorum and friendliness, my home is available again for any future gathering."

As if we didn't know.

NOW APPEARING!

Jack Entratter presents in the COPA ROOM

FRANK **SINATRA**
The Greatest Show of His Greatest Years

COUNT **BASIE**
PAT COOPER

Created & Staged by JACK ENTRATTER

Two Shows Nightly 8-15 and Midnight

RESERVATIONS
Hotel 735-9111
Show 735-3464-5

THE **Sands**

Opening February 2nd: STEVE LAWRENCE

Happy Birthday

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

CONGRATULATIONS!

HOTEL **THUNDERBIRD**
LAS VEGAS NEVADA

\$100,000.00 HOUSE PARTY

thru FEB. 6