

# SHOWCASE OF THE STARS

## PROFILES

by Percy Villa



A Maitre'd is supposed to have charm, personality, and be on speaking acquaintand with the VIP'S - those are supposed to be his qualifications.

Say Hello to the perfect host, JESS KIRK of Caesars Palace.

He was born, January 29, 1915 at Shelbyville, Tenn. When Jess was a college man his plans for being a physician were circled by marriage which cut his Harvard career to four years.

With his bride the lovely Helen Kirk and their four children, Jessica, Frank, Kevin and Jordan, the Kirk's live in their own beautiful 5 bedroom home at 4575 Spencer Street.

Kirk came to Las Vegas direct from the Copacabana in New York 15 years ago, along with Jack Entratter, to open the Sands Hotel.

His hobbies are golf (thrice weekly at the Tropicana Country Club) and archery. He served Uncle Sam's Navy for two years.

In the Circus Maximus Room of Caesars Palace, Jess has an average of 105 employees who are under his supervision. Jess would front for 'em all and vica versa. ("After all we all work Caesars Palace.")

He weighs 190 pounds, 6 feet tall, brown eyes, rosey complexion and 'always' a smile.

Jess loves his work and his many bosses. He calls his job eight hours of 'joy' - since he's most content as maitre'd and has no ambitions for further advancements.

He is very punctual. He

keeps his promises. He never belittles his business or co-corkers (I'm an actor and artist, but I'm also in business like anybody else.")

He is an expert linguist, speaks five languages fluently including some Latin and Greek.

He unenthusiastically indulges in setting-up exercises when he thinks about it.

In spit of his trim appearance he is big in the food department. When it comes to eating, he is frank to say he prefers food. ("I eat anything that doesn't bite me first.")

He has a tough time saying "no" or agreeing with anyone on any subject.

Jess and Helen have two cars. He prefers the sports model ("It gives me a lot of action.")

He says he is devotedly domestic and can even do overwork. ("I do a lot of



JESS

sweeping while sielding a broom or a vacuum.")

He doesn't go to sport events (because of his working hours). He seldom goes to a nite club. His only relaxation and enjoyment is his family.

Among the top show places in America that Kirk has worked at are: Riviera, Fort Lee, New Jersey; Copacabana, New York City; Sands Hotel, Dunes Hotel and Caesars Palace. The Latter

Kirk hopes to stay till the end of time.

He is continually in good humor, those (and we're one of 'em) who know him will, have never seen him angry.

He usually wakes up smiling but doesn't have must to say about anything until after his second cup of coffee.

He is indifferent about clothes. Slacks and a sport shirt is his favorite combination. Only during working hours does he dress formal.

In this city of many personalities - I'd have to say that Jess Kirk rates with the top ten, along with Jim Hochland, former maitre'd of the Sahara's House of Lords.

Kirk hives as his supreme ambition: "I want to help my fellow man, as well as myself, to a deep fulfillment in life."

If there is a nicer guy around town, I'd like to meet him.

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