

ED FIKE: BUSINESS LEADER, PUBLIC SERVANT AND HOME MAKER

LIEUT. GOV.
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Obstacles that would have discouraged many were no barricade or even a cause for detour to young Ed. Fatherless at 13, an only son in a family of meager circumstances, in a small mid-Western town of Hopkins, Mo., the encouragement of his mother, Mrs. Myrle Fike, brought out the true character of the lad. He sold papers, mowed lawns, worked as a grocery clerk and delivered heavy loads for a poultry house to earn enough to continue through public and high schools. While attending Westminster College where he was outstanding in basketball and track, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, shortly after he turned 18.

After 19 months in the Armed Services in the South Pacific, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Buck Sergeant.

At that time he entered Cornell to major in Business Administration. But there was never any silver spoon for Fike. He had to earn every step of the way. For tuition and upkeep he had to work summers at Western Electric, American Locomotive and Frigidaire.

He had visited Las Vegas during the war. He liked the climate. He was stimulated by the hustle. Most important he evaluated Nevada as a progressive state with a great deal of potential.

When he arrived in Las Vegas 21 years ago, his first employment was vault teller with First National Bank. Even in those days, although funds were scarce, Fike was most careful about his acquaintances. His room mate was Mike Hines, who today is one of the best known and respected lawyers in our area. When the two young men were striving to meet their weekly rental, they were joined by a third room mate, John Mowbray, recently appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of Nevada.

Meanwhile Ed had joined the Pioneer Title Insurance and was on his way in his chosen profession. His course, interrupted by a stint in the Korean conflict, again as Sergeant, was resumed when hostilities ceased. Then he organized the only privately owned escrow company in the state, Nevada



PROUD DAD WITH GARY ALLAN, GARY EDWARD, TONI AND WIFE JOANN, ON THE LEFT AND MIKE AND BRIAN ON THE RIGHT.

Escrow Service. His partner was Eunice Becker, initial developer of Charleston Heights area.

In 1958 Fike formed his present Lawyers Title of Las Vegas. His foresight was equalled by his courage. The three employees in the shoe-string operation included his current Vice President, C. H. Bouchard. Ed's lovely wife, the former Joann Dayton, who was born and raised in Las Vegas, was receptionist. The company prospered and carried as many as 35 on the payroll.

So did Ed Fike's family prosper. Today there are the happy voices of five children ringing under the rafters.

Fike always had a keen eye for politics.

Not long after he arrived in Vegas he was elected President of Las Vegas Young Republicans. He served in that capacity for two years then went on as State President for a couple of terms. Under his aegis the state went Republican for Eisenhower and Cliff Young won a surprise election for U.S. Representative defeating Walter Baring. Ed him-

self, was elected three times as State Assemblyman.

During this time Fike was not lax in his civic duties.

He was a founder of the local Boys Club, Vice President of Boulder Dam Boy Scouts, a two-term Board member of Chamber of Commerce, President of Junior Chamber of Commerce, a Board member of Lions, and a member of Masonic Lodge, Elks, Eagles and American Legion.

Fike is setting a precedent in making his present tenure of Lieutenant Governor a full time job. He spends at least two days of every week in the Cow counties, unless he is traveling the 50,000 miles he trekked in behalf of the state during his first 12 months in office. The other five days, his publicly-listed phone makes him available for any legitimate problem or complaint, whether it is a job/seeker or a plea to locate a late unemployment check.

Fike is most proud of his accomplishments as part of the state's Industrial Development Team. His background as an organizer has been utilized in developing

a practical method of attracting new business to Nevada, with no expense to the taxpayer. Extensive research determines firms not active on the West coast. Then letters and telegrams are dispatched for appointments. The expensive banquet approach is discarded in favor of personal contacts with potential new business. On one recent trip to a mid-West city, Fike's team made eight calls and came away satisfied with three prospective new companies for



BASKETBALL AT HOPKINS HIGH (MO.)



DURING W.W. 2.



KOREAN CONFLICT

Nevada. One has already begun site location.

Under the new procedure of monthly cabinet meetings of state officials, every one of which Fike attended, the communications is at its highest level, according to

our Lt. Gov. He prides in his intimate knowledge of exactly what every department is achieving.

The office don't carry him. He works to deserve the title. Like we said, there is no complacency in Fike.

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