



'HILLSWAY'

by

Roland Hill

(A NEW COLUMN BY AUTHOR, WORLD-TRAVELER, GOURMET, ROLAND HILL, WHO WAS NAMED "MR. SEE AMERICA FIRST." HIS VIEWS WILL APPEAR HERE FROM TIME TO TIME, COMMENCING WITH, "A GENTILE'S IMPRESSION OF LAS VEGAS JEWISH COMMUNITY.")

I was born and raised in a narrow-minded small Scandinavian town in western Minnesota and had seen only one Jewish person or family until I was a graduate of the high school and had then gone to Minneapolis to work. It was the same for a Catholic. There just weren't such "foreigners" out our way. Subsequently when I got away from this narrow environment and learned more about life and its people I turned Catholic after learning all the bad things I had been taught about them in church and public schools simply were not true. And that goes for the Jewish people too. But I never really got to know Jewish people well until the advent of my coming to Las Vegas, and there-in lies the purpose of this column.

In 1940 I made my first visit to Las Vegas while campaigning for Wendell Willkie and instantly I took a liking to the town and have been coming back here ever since -- save for the three years I spent in the service -- two of which were in Algiers, North Africa where I served for quite a spell as secretary to General Eisenhower and Sir Arthur Teddar at Allied Force Headquarters.

In Las Vegas I first met Jewish people and immediately like them. Oh, I had known New York Jews and others on the east coast where all people are naturally rude and haven't time for the niceties of life, where they are loud

and boastful and show-offey. I tried Florida for many seasons but soon tired of the place because of the above rudeness of all who frequented the place. It was then I found Las Vegas and have been coming back ever since.

Here in Vegas the people, all-Jews, Gentiles and people of all nationalities are kind and considerate and friendly and mannerly,

I have spent much time in politics in my life and have always said had I been born an Irishman or a Jew I would have been president long ago because those two races have warmth and friendliness and finesse that a Scandinavian doesn't have -- the latter having not much tact at all. I now, after living here so long, can see why Jesus Christ said that the Jews were his chosen people. Because they are so big-hearted, war-hearted, kind, friendly, outspoken in their love and friendship, and show it. They are not afraid to show their feelings. Even a dog likes a pat on the back once in a while, and the trouble with the world today is that so few humans "dare" to pat another on the back or tell him what they think of him, or show any affection or love. Not so, however, with the Jewish people.

Just the other day while in the Sands Hotel I saw a Jewish father meeting his son who had just arrived by plane from the east and they kissed each other long and hard and tears came to their eyes, and the son, mind you, was at least thirty years old. I thought how wonderful that was and if more of our Americans "dared" do that how much more wonderful this old world would be.

Our greatest single fault in the United States today is "lack of appreciation". And that goes for lack of appreciating friends and relatives and all the good things we have in life -- we have so much to be thankful for in this country and still do not show it. The Jewish people love their own, love their families, and their friends, and God love them for showing it. I have never known a Jewish person who wasn't kind to me and have heard one rant or rave or cuss or swear or talk about other people, or drink too much, and I certainly cannot say that for any of my own kind. Oh sure, they might do it among their own, but I doubt it. Jewish children are the luckiest in the world because their parents pay attention to them, teach them, answer their questions and take them to every place they possibly can in order to train them for their future lives. I remember when I was a kid I was told that children should be seen and not heard and we were never allowed to talk when grown-ups were around. My father was "too busy" to be a father I guess. I watch with envy when I see Jewish families dining out. How lucky the children are. And

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how lucky the fellows and girls are in the casinos here who work under Jewish bosses where they are shown kindnesses, consideration and sincerity.

Some of my happiest times here in Las Vegas have been my invitations to Jewish homes and going to the Synagogue. Speaking of the latter, I wish it were possible for every person in town to hear Rabbi Aaron Gold speak.

And how beautifully the Jewish people entertain and live. Their homes are immaculate and their party manners and ways are exquisite, and they are so proud of these attributes. There is not the attitude that I have been used to all my life back in the Midwest where your friends casually say "Come on over, I won't bother a bit." Friends are worth bothering for and the Jewish people do bother.

Las Vegas is a place where everyone, rich or poor, educated or not, cultured or not, can come and feel at home and be treated like an equal and with the dignity of man that Christ came on earth to teach us, and where one can play his nickel alongside of a millionaire spending fortunes, and get the same kind treatment. The Jewish people made Las Vegas and God has certainly showered His blessings on this town because it has prospered beyond all human comprehension and it is one place the whole world can come to enjoy and be happy, be it even for just a fleeting day or a short vacation. It is one visit that every human being will remember all the rest of his days and we owe it all to the wonderful Jewish citizens living here. I salute them.

It would take another column to tell of the charities of the Jewish people here in Las Vegas and we Catholics and Protestants would be hard put here if it weren't for all the help and generosity of the Jews, God bless them all.

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