

# OF THE STARS



## PROFILES

by Percy Villa

**WALTER L. FITZPATRICK, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE DESERT INN, is my 'Profile' for today and it was certainly a pleasure meeting this fine, genuine and wholesome person.**

He was born in Providence, Rhode Island on July 21st, 1914 and graduated from Providence College in 1935 with a PhB Degree.

During the depression days he started with the New Haven Rail Road as a Civil Engineer, later he became a Passenger Representative in New York. He worked with the Internal Revenue Service in Providence and in February of 1943 he joined the Navy. In London, England, he was Communication Watch Officer before becoming Radio Planning Officer for the Chairman of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C. He was also a Tax and Business Consultant in New York City, after leaving the Internal Revenue Department, in the 50's he was Special Agent in Charge of O.P.S. in New York.

Walter worked for several Congressional Committees in Washington.

In 1960 he joined Robert A. Maheu (number one man in the Howard Hughes Enterprises in Nevada) and has been with him ever since.

Fitzpatrick certainly has a background second to none and comes to LAS Vegas well equipped to do the big job he now holds. In 1940, he married the attractive Helen Desmond. She has two brothers in the newspaper business in the East, one of

whom has a national reputation - Jim, with a book on Ruckerfeller.

The Fitzpatricks have five children: Judy Davis, the oldest, lives in Ithaca, New York; Gail Marie, who served in the Peace Corps, now lives and works in Washington, D.C.; Walter Leo is in the landscaping business in Bel Air, Maryland; Sally works in Washington and Donna, the youngest, lives at home here in Las Vegas and is a junior at Bishop Gorman High School. The Fitzpatricks recently moved into a lovely home on Country Club Lane. It's an ideal location for them as both love golf.

The Fitzpatricks are ardent Catholics and attend St. Viator's Church here. He is a member of The American Legion, the Knights of Columbus and Variety Club, and is a Vice President of the Bluecoat in Las Vegas. He also is active on the United Fund, is on the board of Directors of the Boys Club, on the board of N.C.C.J., and is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Hotel School at Nevada Southern University. It certainly hasn't taken him long to get into the swing of things and he is doing much to make this the best possible city in America.

Walter is one of the easiest of men to meet and converse with, despite his busy schedule supervising some 1200 members of the Desert Inn family of workers. He has a ready smile, soft spoken, kind, considerate, and makes one feel at home even though he is Managing Di-



WALTER

rector of such a busy place.

He has traveled all over this continent, and most of Europe, but is supremely happy in his move to Las Vegas where he already has come to the conclusion that

the people here are the friendliest, most hospitable and nicest in the world. In his spare time he plays bridge and golf.

He likes to dress in sport shirts, slacks and sweaters. ("It's a comfortable way of being sloppy, but neat.") When dressed up, he could be called a member of the Ivy League set.

He is always trying to improve himself by reading better fiction, biography and history. He listens to Beethoven, Chopin and Mozart records.

He is one of the most polite and gentlemanly persons in Las Vegas (some of my friends are his and they told me so.) People who don't know him well believe he's putting it on when he holds the door for a stranger, etc. He isn't. He has a very sensitive consideration for other peoples' feelings.

He speaks slowly and softly, as if he were examining each word before he utters it. He speaks the truth, especially about problems.

He is the kind a person that you would like in a moment's notice. He's my kinda guy.

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