

is largely irrelevant, but includes former U.S. Secretary of State Gen. Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

Aztar Corp.

2390 E. Camelback Rd. Ste 400
Phoenix, AZ 85016-3452

Aztar, formerly known as Ramada, was created in 1989, as part of the restructuring in which Ramada sold off its hotel business. Aztar owns the Tropicana hotel/casinos in Vegas and Atlantic City; the Ramada Express in Laughlin; and the Casinos Aztar in Caruthersville, Missouri, and Evansville, Indiana.

Gabelli Funds, Inc. of New York owns 8.9% of Aztar's stock. Among the directors of the various Gabelli funds, is former German Bundesbank head Karl Otto Pöhl (1980-91).

Directors of note include: Edward M. Carson, the retired chairman of First Interstate Bancorp, who now sits on the board of Wells Fargo & Co.; and Richard Snell, chairman of Pinnacle West Capital, an Arizona electric utility, and a director of Banc One Arizona.

Carnival Corp.

3655 NW 87th Ave.
Miami, FL 33178

Carnival was founded in 1972, as a subsidiary of American International Travel Service, a company owned by Meshulum Riklis, one of the moneybags behind the Drexel Burnham Lambert operation. In 1974, co-founder Ted Arison took control of Carnival to bankroll the company. The company rapidly expanded, becoming the world's largest cruise line, featuring gambling on its ships, as well as land-based casinos. It changed its name to Carnival Corp. in 1994, and announced that it would merge its land-based gaming interests with The Continental Companies, to form a new company named Carnival Hotels and Casinos, owned 50% by each. Ted Arison owns 65% of the company, which is now run by his son Mickey.

Directors of note, besides Mickey Arison, include: Uzi Zucker, a senior managing director of Bear Stearns, and a director of the Jerusalem Economic Corp.; Stuart Subotnick of Metromedia Co.; James Dubin of the Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison law firm; Maks L. Birnbach, owner of Fullcut Manufacturers Inc., a New York diamond wholesaler and importer, who is also a director of the Diamond Manufacturers and Importers Association, vice-chairman of the American Committee of the Weizmann Institute for Science and a governor of its Research Institute in Rechovot, Israel; and Ambassador Richard J. Capen, Jr., the former publisher of the *Miami Herald* and U.S. ambassador to Spain, who is also a director of the FBI-linked Wackenhut Corp.

Gambling: a timeline

1919-31: Prohibition

1931: Hoover Dam construction begins in Black Canyon, one of the great projects of the Depression; it is, ironically, the water and hydroelectric power from the Hoover Dam, which make the growth of Las Vegas possible.

1941: The Las Vegas casino business expands, with the opening of the El Rancho Vegas on the Strip, and the El Cortez Hotel downtown.

1942: Last Frontier Hotel opens.

1946: Bugsy Siegel opens Flamingo Hotel. State of Nevada levies first gaming taxes.

1955: Gaming control strengthened. Gaming Control Board created within the Nevada Tax Commission by the Legislature.

1959: The Nevada Gaming Commission is created by the state Legislature.

1964: The New Hampshire lottery is established.

1965: Caesar's World is built, the first new casino on the Strip in Las Vegas in nine years.

1966: Howard Hughes arrives to live at Desert Inn. Robert Maheu handled the purchase, from Moe Dalitz and friends. Hughes would eventually own seven casinos in Vegas.

1967: Nevada legislature passes a law allowing publicly traded corporations to obtain gambling licenses. The law is refined in 1969.

1968: Mary Carter Paint Co. becomes Resorts International.

1968: The Circus Circus, so-named because of the live circus it contains, opens.

1969: New Jersey voters approve a lottery; the first ticket is sold in 1970.

1970s: Royal Commission on gambling in the U.K., chaired by Lord Victor Rothschild.

1970: Hughes is moved to Paradise Island, on Nov. 25, by Intertel.

1970: Lansky's gambling referendum is defeated in Miami Beach, Florida.

1972: Meshulum Riklis and Ted Arison found Carnival Cruise Lines, as a subsidiary of Riklis's American International Travel Service.

1974: Bennett and Pennington buy Circus Circus.

Mid-1970s: FBI establishes a task force to clean the mob out of Las Vegas.

1975: Nevada gaming revenues first crack \$1 billion mark.

1976: Howard Hughes dies, on April 5, 1976, on his way from Mexico to Houston.

1977: The Stardust, supposedly the last mob-controlled casino, is stripped of its license.

1977: Clark County (Las Vegas) gaming revenues first crack

- \$1 billion mark. The Nevada legislature passes a foreign gaming law allowing Nevada-based casino owners to operate casinos outside Nevada's borders.
- 1978:** Seminole Indians open high-stakes bingo parlor in Florida.
- 1978:** Resorts International opens first casino in Atlantic City. Caesar's comes in the following year, with the Boardwalk Regency. Holiday Corp. opens Harrah's Marina, and Hilton builds a marina casino. In 1980, *Penthouse* publisher Bob Guccione breaks ground on a casino; Hugh Hefner opens the Playboy casino a year later, and Steve Wynn enters the market in December 1980, with the Golden Nugget.
- 1979:** Holiday Inn buys a 40% stake in River Boat Casino in Las Vegas.
- 1979:** Ramada takes over the Tropicana in Las Vegas, 22 years after the Trop opened as a mob joint.
- 1980:** Holiday Inn buys Harrah's (in 1988, the company sold off its hotels, and became Holiday Corp.; it became Promus in 1988, then changed its name again, to Harrah's, ca. 1996).
- 1980:** Cabazon tribe opens casino in California.
- 1980:** GTECH is founded by Victor Markowitz and Guy Snowden.
- 1982:** Donald Trump gets gaming license in Atlantic City, announces plans to build casino with Holiday Corp. (Harrah's at Trump Plaza); ribbon cut in 1984. Trump had begun buying up ocean-front property in 1980.
- 1983:** Drexel takes Circus Circus public, on Oct. 25, 1983.
- 1985:** Hilton's Barron Hilton is denied a New Jersey gaming license, because of his association with Sidney Korshak. Hilton had just finished a casino in the spring of 1985. Trump bought it, and renamed it the Trump Castle.
- 1985:** National Indian Gaming Association is founded.
- 1986:** Trump buys out Holiday Corp.'s stake in Harrah's at Trump Plaza, and renames it the Trump Plaza.
- 1987:** Trump buys Crosby family's 73% controlling interest in Resorts International.
- 1988:** Congress passes the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
- 1989:** The Mirage opens in Las Vegas, with 3,039 rooms.
- 1990:** Trump Taj Mahal opens in Atlantic City, New Jersey.
- 1990:** Excalibur opens on June 19, to date the world's largest resort hotel with 4,032 rooms.
- 1991:** Ground is broken on MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park; Treasure Island Hotel; and pyramid-shaped Luxor.
- 1991:** Golden Nugget changes its name to Mirage Resorts.
- 1992:** Resorts International becomes Griffin Gaming & Entertainment.
- 1993:** MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park tops off. Flamingo Hilton announces plans to raze Bugsy office.
- 1993:** Dunes Hotel is sold to Steve Wynn's Mirage Inc.; the north tower and Dunes sign are imploded on Oct. 27.
- 1993:** Money won by Nevada casinos tops the \$6 billion mark for the first time.
- 1993:** The Nevada legislature passes enabling legislation for development of "The Fremont Experience," a plan to cover several blocks of Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas, with a light show.
- 1993:** Circus Circus's Grand Slam Canyon Adventuredome amusement park opens on Aug. 23.
- 1993:** Luxor Hotel, the Circus Circus pyramid/sphinx casino, opens on Oct. 15, with 2,526 rooms.
- 1993:** Treasure Island Hotel opens on Oct. 26, with 2,900 rooms.
- 1993:** MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park opens on Dec. 18, with 5,005 rooms and a 171,500-square-foot casino; to date, it is the largest resort hotel-casino in the world.
- 1994:** Griffin Gaming files for bankruptcy, and sells its Paradise Island casino to Sol Kerzner's Sun International.
- 1994:** Mirage Resorts, Inc. and Gold Strike announce plans to jointly construct Monte Carlo, a mega-resort north of the intersection of Tropicana Avenue and the Strip. The resort will have a French Victorian theme.
- 1994:** Plans to construct New York, New York Hotel-Casino at the intersection of the Strip and Tropicana Avenue announced by MGM Grand and Primadonna Resorts.
- 1994:** Work begins on Fremont Street Experience. Downtown Fremont Street is permanently closed to automobile traffic on Sept. 7, 1994.
- 1994:** Mirage Resorts, Inc., announces plans to construct the Bellagio in Las Vegas.
- 1995:** The \$70 million Fremont Street Experience, occupying five downtown blocks and featuring a canopy above the street with over 2 million lights, opens to the public.
- 1995:** The number of visitors to southern Nevada again sets a record, reaching more than 29 million. Las Vegas ranks number one among U.S. cities in terms of hotel-motel rooms, with 90,046.
- 1995:** Clark County population for the first time is estimated at more than 1 million residents.
- 1995:** Bally Entertainment Corp. announces it will build Paris Casino Resort, a \$420 million hotel, on 25 acres adjacent to Bally's Las Vegas on the Strip.
- 1996:** The Stratosphere Tower opens, and Las Vegas becomes home to the tallest free-standing observation tower in the U.S. and the highest roller coaster in the world.
- 1996:** The Monte Carlo Hotel-Casino opens on the Strip, and ranks as the world's seventh largest hotel.
- 1996:** MGM Grand and Primadonna Resorts open the New York, New York Hotel-Casino at the intersection of the Strip and Tropicana Avenue.
- 1996:** Sun International buys the rest of Griffin Gaming, nee Resorts International.
- 1996:** Hilton buys Bally, making it the largest gambling company in the world.
- 1997:** Hilton launches a hostile takeover bid for ITT Corp., whose Sheraton subsidiary owns Caesar's World.
- 1997:** Hilton finalizes its "strategic alliance" with Ladbroke, the British gambling company which owns the rights to the Hilton name outside the United States.