

THE RAT PACK

The original Rat Pack consisted of Humphrey Bogart, Errol Flynn, Nat King Cole, Mickey Rooney, Jerry Lewis, and Caesar Romero. They were very popular singers and actors who hung about together, partying and carousing. Lauren Bacall walked in on one of their especially loud party nights and said to them, "You all look like a pack of rats". The name stuck. The Rat Pack with which we are most familiar includes Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop, and Peter Lawford. They did not call themselves "The Rat Pack" but preferred being known as "The Summit" or "The Clan". The public, however, preferred The Rat Pack and so it has been. Their hay days began in the late 1950s and lasted only until the early 1960s when the British Invasion of the Beatles and The Rolling Stones hit the U.S. but their influence lives still today. Marilyn Monroe, Angie Dickinson, and Shirley McLaine were often referred to as The Rat Pack mascots.

Frank Sinatra had his first performance at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas in 1951. He was an instant star and performed nightly at the Sands for years attracting wild crowds. He severed ties with Las Vegas when the Sands was purchased by Howard Hughes who immediately cut off Sinatra's line of credit.

Peter Lawford was a brother-in-law of John Kennedy and often hung with the Kennedy family. He introduced Sinatra to the family who later became influential during John Kennedy's run for president. There was a falling out between the Kennedys and Sinatra when Frank's links to the mob became clear. This information also got Peter Lawford booted out of the group.

Sammy Davis Jr. was a quick-draw artist. Due to rampant racism in Las Vegas, Sammy was not allowed to stay at the hotel where he performed. He faced many forms of discrimination during his years in Vegas. Sinatra often came to his defense and because of his extreme popularity was able to bypass some of the segregation rules imposed by big hotels and casinos.

The Rat Pack recorded five albums together.

Popular songs of the "Pack";

Volare	The Naughty Lady of Shady Lane
I've Got You Under My Skin	Love & Marriage
Frankie & Johnnie	That Old Black Magic
That's Amore	Come Fly With Me
Something's Gotta Give	Embraceable You
Memories Are Made of This	Let Me Go, Lover
South of the Border	When You're Smiling
My Funny Valentine	Three Coins in a Fountain
You Make me Feel so Young	Some Enchanted Evening
It's Only a Paper Moon	The Lucky Old Sun

THE RAT PACK PARTY DAY

This party was conducted as a joint effort with the dietary department. Although the activity staff facilitated the party as usual, dietary presented an evening meal that reflected the theme. Residents enjoyed the menu and found the food titles amusing. A copy of the menu can be seen below.

Interest can be generated and built upon by the activity staff and their dedication to the project. Dressing in era costume is a big draw. For this party day, staff dressed in skinny black pants, black shoes, white shirts, skinny black ties, and fedora hats. Pieces for the dress attire can be found at thrift stores or by placing a "need list" in the staff break room. One staff member also stuck a skinny cigar behind her ear. Wearing this attire all day will generate interest in the party.

The room décor is largely casino-type and, actually, this party could be held in conjunction with casino day. Tables should be covered with black table covers and some with dark green or red. Plastic champagne flutes with flashy, inexpensive, flares, wrapped around the bottom with parts of a white boa will set the tone for the tables. Scatter playing cards, face side up, around the table and add a few dice as well. Empty wine bottles, each with a single long-stem red rose will also work well as a table center piece or accent piece around the room. Red and black balloons can also be used as accents.

If you decide to do this party in conjunction with casino day, lay out the games around the perimeter of the room so as not to interfere with seated patrons or servers. Games can include a Black Jack table, a Craps table, a poker, and roulette. Keep in mind that a staff member, or volunteer, will need to be at each game table. It is good to put out a

call for volunteers a week early so you will have the people you need. Suggest proper attire to fit the theme.

Menu for the party;

Finger foods were popular during the era of the Rat Pack so think small.

Choose different breads for 2 or 3 kinds of sandwiches; white bread, whole wheat, nut, bread, sour dough, etc.

All the breads should be trimmed of the crusts.

Layer one sandwich with mayo, cheddar cheese, and a tomato slice. Cut the sandwich into fourths or into 3-4 "fingers".

A second sandwich might consist of buttered bread, deli turkey slice, cheddar cheese, and a thin slice of apple. Again, cut the sandwich into several small ones.

Another variety that has been a hit is layering a sandwich with peanut butter, bacon, and banana slices and another favorite, sweet variety, is spreading a nut bread with strawberry cream cheese and then layering this with slices of fresh strawberries.

A fun and tasty dessert;

Mini-cream puffs. 400' oven / parchment lined baking sheet

½ cup water

¼ cup butter

½ cup flour

¼ teaspoon salt

2 large eggs

Boil water and butter until all the butter has melted. Add the flour and salt all at once and beat until blended. Cover and cook until a film forms on the bottom of the pan, about 4 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 10 min. During this time you can whip up the filling. After 10 minutes, add the eggs one at a time. After each egg, beat until smooth and shiny. Drop by 1" balls onto parchment covered baking sheet, placing about 1 1/2 " apart. Bake at 400' until firm and golden, 25-30 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Once cooled, cut the puffs in half and spoon in filling. Add the top and serve.

Filling;

1 package instant vanilla pudding (3.4 oz size)

1 ¾ cup milk

2 cups cool whip

Whisk together pudding mix and milk. Add cool whip. Blend.

DRINKS

There are a number of good non-alcoholic drinks available. This one is quite good. This recipe serves 12.


4 cups cran-apple juice, chilled

1 cup orange juice, chilled

¼ cup lemon juice, chilled

1 liter ginger ale, chilled

Serve over ice with a half slice
of orange for a garnish



Rat Pack Dinner Club
Las Vegas

Entrée

**Frank Sinatra Spaghetti
with
Dean Martin Meatballs**

Side Dishes

**Sammy Davis, Jr. Caesar Salad
High Roller Garlic Bread**

Dessert Menu

**Poker Chip New York Style
Cheesecake**

Bar Menu

**Red or White Wine
Coffee**