



ROBERT (BOB) STOLDAL (Class of 1961)

Bob Stoldal retired in June, 2008 as the top news executive for KLAS-TV Channel 8 in Las Vegas. During his career he worked for each of Channel 8's three owners:

- * The late Las Vegas Sun Publisher Hank Greenspun, who founded Channel 8 (it was the state's first TV station) in 1953.
- * Reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, who purchased Channel 8 from Greenspun in 1968.
- * Landmark Communications, the current owner, which purchased the station in 1978.

Bob is a member of the Nevada Broadcasting Hall of Fame and served the last 10 years of his career as General Manager of KLAS' sister cable channel, Las Vegas ONE.

Bob is still a news consultant for Channel 8, and his duties include producing history projects and at least two documentaries.

Bob is Chairman of the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society and a member of the Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission. The latter plans to open the Las Vegas Law Enforcement and Organized Crime Museum, commonly referred to as the "mob museum". This museum, due to open in 2010, will be housed in the historic downtown post office on Stewart Street.

Bob was born in San Francisco and worked as an apprentice in a butcher shop after school and on weekends from age 12 to 15, although he wanted to become a librarian. He was drawn into the news business as a teenage reporter for KSPO radio in San Francisco. Soon he was printing his own neighborhood newsletter. After his family moved to Las Vegas in 1957, he worked as a busboy at the Stardust, Dunes and Riviera hotels. This was before landing a job in 1960 at the Las Vegas Review Journal, first as a janitor and then as a typesetter.

The next year, because of his deep voice, Stoldal was hired as the graveyard shift DJ at KLAS radio, going by the name of Bob Free, and read news off the teletype. In 1966 he moved to what is now KTNV Channel 13 as a part-time sports reporter and weatherman.

He moved to KLAS-TV a year later as a reporter and anchor. One of his duties in 1968 was to research and record additional details of his stories for Howard Hughes.

Bob Stoldal delivered the first one-hour nightly local news program in Nevada, launched Las Vegas ONE as a 24-hour local news TV operation, and led Channel 8's transition as the valley's first high-definition news show.

These biographies are based on research and could contain discrepancies.

If there are any excerpts you feel should be changed please feel free to contact me at Dave@lvhsaa.com

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