



Guide to the Southern Nevada Historical Society Records

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Contributor:	Lowe, Celesta, 1917-2004
Contributor:	Sadovich, Maryellen Vallier
Creator:	Southern Nevada Historical Society
Title:	Southern Nevada Historical Society Records
ID:	MS-00205
Date [inclusive]:	1948 to 1983
Physical Description:	2.10 Linear Feet (5 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Southern Nevada Historical Society Records document the management and development of the Southern Nevada Historical Society (SNHS) as well as various historical projects in Las Vegas and Southern Nevada that the society sponsored from 1948 to 1983. The records include SNHS correspondence (1951-1978), meeting minutes (1958-1983), and accounting information (1959-1980). It also contains copies of the SNHS <i>Backtrails</i> Newsletter, promotional material for events, membership lists, and research materials for various projects related to the history of southern Nevada and Las Vegas.

Preferred Citation

Southern Nevada Historical Society Records, 1948-1983. MS-00205. Special Collections and Archives, UNLV Libraries, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

Maryellen Vallier Sadovich, a Nevada historian educated at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and Celesta Lowe, the first director of the UNLV Special Collections, founded the Southern Nevada Historical Society (SNHS) in the 1950s. SNHS operated unofficially until July 28, 1959 when the society was officially incorporated and recognized by the state of Nevada. Former Nevadan governor Vail Pittman served as the first Chairman of the Board of Directors. The society's

initial goals outlined in the bylaws were to conduct historical research about southern Nevada, produce public lecture programs, sponsor field trips to historical and archaeological sites, develop historical libraries, assist in the building and operation of local museums, submit publications to history journals, and fund history scholarships.

In the early years of the SNHS, members formed a collection committee that gathered artifacts documenting the early settlement of the area and visited archaeological sites in southern Nevada. The society also was integral to the campaign to have the Old Las Vegas Fort declared as a state historic site and the formation of the group the Friends of the Fort in the 1980s. The SNHS held annual banquets with guest speakers from various academic fields, published the *Backtrails* newsletter that documented the society's activities, and organized many historical field trips. The SNHS ended in the mid-1980s.

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Scope and Content Note

The Southern Nevada Historical Society Records document the management and development of the Southern Nevada Historical Society (SNHS) as well as various historical projects in Las Vegas and Southern Nevada that the society sponsored from 1948-1983. The records include SNHS correspondence (1951-1978), meeting minutes (1958-1983), and accounting information (1959-1980). It also contains copies of the SNHS *Backtrails* Newsletter, promotional material for events, membership lists, and research materials. The research materials include, but are not limited to, information about the history of Basic Magnesium Inc., the Southern Nevada Power Company, Native Americans, and the Las Vegas Springs.

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Arrangement Note

Material is arranged topically.

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Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Accession number T-136.

Processing Note

Material inventoried by UNLV Special Collections staff member. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hannah Robinson revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Hannah Robinson entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Basic Magnesium, Inc.

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Correspondence, 1980	box 01	folder 01
Correspondence, 1970-1978	box 01	folder 02
Correspondence, 1966-1969	box 01	folder 03
Correspondence, 1951-1965		

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	box 01	folder 04
Legal Documents, bylaws and certificates of incorporation, 1959, 1975, 1977	box 01	folder 05
Board of Directors, Agenda Minutes, 1960s and 1970s	box 02	folder 01
Meeting Minutes, 1977-1983	box 02	folder 02
Meeting Minutes, 1971-1974	box 02	folder 03
Meeting Minutes, September 1966-June 1971	box 02	folder 04
Meeting Minutes, 1963-1966	box 02	folder 05
Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Reports, November 1958-May 1963	box 02	folder 06
Membership Lists, 1960s-1970s	box 02	folder 07
Receipts and Invoices, 1975-1977	box 03	folder 01
Checking Account Statements, September 9, 1972-May 25, 1977	box 03	folder 02
Bank Records, 1962-1975	box 03	folder 03
Receipts and Invoices, 1959-1967	box 03	folder 04
Treasurer's Reports, 1963-1971	box 03	folder 05
Receipts and Cancelled Checks, 1964-1974	box 03	folder 06
Receipt Book and Deposit Slips, 1970s	box 03	folder 07
Special Projects, 1970s	box 04	folder 01
Manuscripts and Presentations on Nevada History, 1970s	box 04	folder 02
Basic Magnesium Inc. and Henderson Research Materials for Nevada Centennial Celebration, correspondence collected, 1948-1965	box 04	folder 03
Backtrails Newsletter, Permanent File Copy, 1970s	box 04	folder 04
Backtrails Newsletter, Original Manuscript Copies, 1970s		

	box 04	folder 05
Backtrails, 1970s-1980s	box 04	folder 06
Newspaper Clippings, 1960s-1970s	box 04	folder 07
News Releases, April 1961-August 1964	box 04	folder 08
Program Notices, April 1960-May 1963	box 04	folder 09
Annual Banquet Records, 1970s	box 04	folder 10
73rd annual Anniversary of Las Vegas Town Site Auction, Program and Proclamation, May 12, 1978	box 04	folder 11
Guest Book, Lawn Party and 20th Anniversary Potluck Dinner, 1960 June 3 and 1979 September 25	box 04	folder 12
Preservation Association of Clark County (PACC) Correspondence, February 1, 1980	box 05	folder 01
Preservation Association of Clark County Literature, 1970s	box 05	folder 02
Las Vegas Springs-Application for Addition to National Register of Historic Places, 1970s	box 05	folder 03
National Trust for Historic Preservation Literature, 1970s	box 05	folder 04
Plan for Historical Preservation in Nevada, 4th Edition, 1973-1975	box 05	folder 05
Las Vegas Historic Preservation Documents, 1970s	box 05	folder 06
Allied Arts Council, 1970s	box 05	folder 07
American West Magazine, three issues, Winter, Spring, Fall 1994	box 05	folder 08
Certificate of Appreciation Awards, 1978-1979	box 05	folder 09
EPA resource materials, c. 1969-1970	box 05	folder 10
Old Economy Village Literature, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission historical tour, 1977-1978	box 05	folder 11
Miscellaneous Brochures, Catalogs, and Pamphlets from Utah, Nebraska, and Nevada, 1970s	box 05	folder 12
Museum Related Material, Las Vegas Museum of Natural History and others, 1970s		

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Samples of Bicentennial Stationary, 1970s

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Open Spaces Council, Red Rock Canyon, 1972

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Essay Aboriginal Peoples written by Phillip I. Earl, 1970s

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