



Guide to the Ruth Poirier oral history interview

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Poirier, Ruth, 1917-2014
Contributor:	Las Vegas Women Oral History Project
Contributor:	Women's Research Institute of Nevada
Title:	Ruth Poirier oral history interview
ID:	OH-03593
Date:	2003 February 05
Physical Description:	4 Digital Files (0.085 GB) PDF/A, MP3
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interview with Ruth Poirier conducted by Joanne Goodwin on February 05, 2003 for the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) Las Vegas Women Oral History Project. Poirier opens her interview by discussing her partner Doris Pressler, who had passed away before the interview. She describes Doris' upbringing, her role in the first band at the Roseland Ballroom in New York, and explains how an all-women band in the 1930s and 1940s was a phenomenon. Poirier then discusses her own history, including how she became involved in music and all-women bands, and how she met Doris. Poirier describes in detail the importance of music to her family, the types of music she played, and what it was like to be a musician during the Depression. She talks about her relationship with Doris and recalls early interactions with other gay youths. Poirer ends her interview explaining why she and Doris decided to settle in Las Vegas, Nevada, and describes their impressions and involvement with the local LGBTQ+ community.

Preferred Citation

Ruth Poirier oral history interview, 2003 February 05. OH-03593. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

Oral history interview with Ruth Poirier conducted by Joanne Goodwin on February 05, 2003 for the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) Las Vegas Women Oral History Project. Poirier opens her interview by discussing her partner Doris Pressler, who had passed away before the interview. She describes Doris' upbringing, her role in the first band at the Roseland Ballroom in New York, and explains how an all-women band in the 1930s and 1940s was a phenomenon. Poirier then discusses her own history, including how she became involved in music and all-women bands, and how she met Doris. Poirier describes in detail the importance of music to her family, the types of music she played, and what it was like to be a musician during the Depression. She talks about her relationship with Doris and recalls early interactions with other gay youths. Poirer ends her interview explaining why she and Doris decided to settle in Las Vegas, Nevada, and describes their impressions and involvement with the local LGBTQ+ community. Digital audio and transcript available.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

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Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted by the Women's Research Institute of Nevada, part of the UNLV College of Liberal Arts Department of History. Materials from this oral history project were transferred to UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives on an ongoing basis ending in 2017; acquisition number 2017-017.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by Karla Irwin in 2019. Access copies were created for digitized and/or born-digital audio and transcript files. Hana Gutierrez wrote the collection description. The audio cassette(s) for this interview have been reformatted by the Women's Research Institute of Nevada into a digital format.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource will provide additional information related the materials in this collection:

Women's Research Institute of Nevada Oral History Records, 1995-2015. UA-00084. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Women musicians
- Depressions -- 1929
- Bands (Music)
- Lesbians
- Gay community