



Guide to the James H. Down Jr. Photograph Collection

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Down, James Henry, Jr., 1907-1981
Contributor:	Davis, Glenn A. (Glenn Augustus), 1894-1980
Title:	James H. Down Jr. Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00015
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1915 to 1940
Physical Description:	0.35 Cubic Feet (3 hanging folders, 1 flat file, 1 shared box of negatives, and 1 shared binder of slides)
Physical Description:	1.70 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The James H. Down Jr. Photograph Collection (approximately 1915-1940) consists of black-and-white photographic prints and negatives, as well as color photographic slides and postcards. The images depict scenes in and around Las Vegas and Goodsprings, Nevada. Also included are Glenn Davis' photographs of the Hoover Dam (Boulder Dam), Black Canyon, the Colorado River, and Lake Mead. Most of the images portray the construction phases of the Hoover Dam.

Preferred Citation

James H. Down Jr. Photograph Collection, approximately 1915-1940. PH-00015 . Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

James H. Down Jr. was born on December 19, 1907 to James H. Down Sr. and Eva Lucille Young in Michigan. Down Jr. married Lucille McKenzie on August 31, 1931. He served as head of the Clark County Chamber of Commerce, and later as Justice of the Peace. He was also a member of the Las Vegas Housing Authority for thirty-four years. He died on January 21, 1981 in Las Vegas.

James H. Down Sr. was born on September 18, 1877 in Port Huron, Michigan to George Garner and Mary E. Garner. After his parents' deaths, Down Sr. was placed in an orphanage. In 1888, Walter A. Down took in Down Sr. and adopted him in 1890. In 1907, Down Sr. married Eva Lucille Young. They moved to Portland, Oregon in 1911, then to Los Angeles, California in 1913. In 1916, the Down family moved to Goodsprings, Nevada, and Down Sr. began working at George A. Fayle's general store. In 1924, the Down family relocated to Las Vegas, Nevada, where Down Sr. opened an automobile dealership. Down Sr. served as Clark County, Nevada County Commissioner in 1933, then again in 1942. He died from a heart attack in 1946 in Las Vegas.

Sources:

"Commissioner Down." Clark County Parks & Recreation. Accessed on March 11, 2020. <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/parks/Documents/centennial/commissioners/commissioner-j-down.pdf#search=james%20h%2E%20down>

Genealogy files about "James H. Down Sr." Accessed on March 11, 2020 on familysearch.org

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Scope and Contents Note

The James H. Down Jr. Photograph Collection (approximately 1915-1940) consists of black-and-white photographic prints and negatives, as well as color photographic slides and postcards. The images depict scenes in and around Las Vegas and Goodsprings, Nevada. Also included are Glenn Davis' photographs of the Hoover Dam (Boulder Dam), Black Canyon, the Colorado River, and Lake Mead. Most of the images portray the construction phases of the Hoover Dam.

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Arrangement

Materials remain as they were received.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1975 and 1979 by James H. Down Jr., Dorothy Down Lawrence, and Lucille McKenzie Down; accession number 1979-209-B.

Processing Note

In 2020, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Ryan DiPaolo wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

James Down, Jr. oral history interview, 1972 April 07. OH-00485. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

James H. Down Sr. Scrapbooks, 1933-1979. MS-00236. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)
- photographs
- Goodsprings (Nev.)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Colorado River (Colo.-Mexico)
- Mead, Lake (Ariz. and Nev.)
- Down, James Henry, Sr., 1877-1946

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic prints, negatives, and slides; and postcard (0015_0001-0015_0007)	folder 01
Physical Description: 7 Photographic Prints	box
Physical Description: 7 Photographic Negatives	SH-016
Physical Description: 1 Photographic Slides	binder
Scope and Contents Note: The Las Vegas, Nevada photographs consist of black-and-white photographic prints and negatives and a postcard from approximately 1916 to 1940. The images portray the Salt Lake Railroad Depot, Fremont Street, and the Down family Texaco station. Also included are images of the 1930 Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department and the 1926 Las Vegas High School basketball team.	PB-001
Goodsprings, Nevada: photographic prints, negatives, and slides; and postcard, approximately 1915 to 1920 (0015_0008-0015-0017)	folder 01
Physical Description: 10 Photographic Prints	box
Physical Description: 8 Photographic Negatives	SH-016
Physical Description: 5 Photographic Slides	binder
Scope and Contents Note: The Goodsprings, Nevada photographs are comprised of photographic prints, negatives, and slides, as well as a postcard from approximately 1915 to 1920. The images depict George A. Fayle's department store, the Goodsprings Hotel, the Yellow Pine Mill tracks, and the Pioneer Saloon. Also included is an image of the Down family residence.	PB-001
James H. Down Sr. portraits: photographic prints, approximately 1920 to 1928 (0015_0018-0015_0019)	folder 01
Physical Description: 2 Photographic Prints	
Glenn Davis' photographs of the Colorado River and Hoover Dam (Boulder Dam): photographic prints, negatives, and slides, approximately 1930 to 1940 (0015_0020-0015_0077)	folder 01
Physical Description: 58 Photographic Prints	

Physical Description: 27 Photographic Negatives

folder

Physical Description: 8 Photographic Slides

02

Scope and Contents Note: The Glenn Davis' photographs of the Colorado River and Hoover Dam (Boulder Dam) consists of black-and-white photographic prints and negatives, as well as color photographic slides from approximately 1930 to 1940. The images primarily depict the construction phases of the Hoover Dam. Also included are images of Black Canyon and the Colorado River, in addition to images of Lake Mead.

folder

03

box

SH-016

binder

PB-001