

Guide to The Thunderbird Hotel Records

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Thunderbird Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)
Title:	Thunderbird Hotel Records
ID:	MS-00180
Date [inclusive]:	1964 to 1973
Physical Description:	3.6 Linear Feet (9 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract :	The Thunderbird Hotel Records are comprised of material that documents the work of the Las Vegas, Nevada hotel's entertainment department from 1964 to 1973. The records consist of photographs, memorandum, newspaper clippings, and publicity materials.

Preferred Citation

Thunderbird Hotel Records, 1964-1973. MS-00180. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Note

The Thunderbird Hotel and Casino opened on September 2, 1948 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and was the fourth resort constructed on the Las Vegas Strip. The hotel, which took its name from a Navajo legend, was founded by developer Marion Hicks and Lieutenant Governor of Nevada, Clifford A. Jones. The exterior of the hotel contained a stylized thunderbird, while its interior was characterized by Native American themed decor. In 1964 the property was sold to Del Webb, and in 1972 to Caesars World. After the hotel was sold to the owner of the Dunes Hotel in 1977, it was briefly known as the Silverbird Hotel. Five years later, the hotel was purchased by Ed Torres, owner of the Aladdin Hotel, and renamed the El Rancho Casino in an homage to the very first resort to open on the Strip.

The Thunderbird hosted a number of noted entertainers and production shows over the years. It had the distinction of being the resort that saw the Las Vegas debuts of both Nat King Cole

and Rosemary Clooney, and was the showroom where Judy Garland made her final Las Vegas appearance in 1965.

On July 6, 1992, the El Rancho Casino resort permanently closed its doors. For eight years the property remained vacant. In 2000 the land was purchased by Turnberry Associates, and on October 3, 2000 the old resort was imploded.

For a detailed history of the Thunderbird, see George Stamos' profile of the Thunderbird Hotel and Casino in the *Las Vegas Sun Magazine*, May 6, 1979.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Thunderbird Hotel Records are comprised of material that documents the work of the Las Vegas, Nevada hotel's entertainment department from 1964 to 1973. The records consist of photographs, memorandum, newspaper clippings, and publicity materials.

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Arrangement

Materials are organized by show name and then alphabetically by the type of material. Headliners are listed alphabetically by surname.

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Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

These materials were donated in 1976 by the Entertainment Department of the Thunderbird Hotel via Jim Seagrave; accession number T-100.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Joyce Moore in 2011. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Dallas Reiber revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Dallas Reiber entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- Hotels -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Thunderbird Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Del Webb Corporation newspaper clippings, 1967-1971	box 01	folder 01
Entertainers contract, 1969-1973	box 01	folder 02
Entertainment payroll, 1969	box 01	folder 03
Entertainment payroll, 1970	box 01	folder 04
Entertainment payroll, 1971	box 01	folder 05
Johnny Haig relied orchestra, 1961	box 01	folder 06
Lounge entertainment, 1965-1972	box 01	folder 07
Newspaper clippings, 1968-1971	box 02	folder 01
Piano Bar entertainers, 1970-1971		

box 02 folder
02

Latin Fire Folies

Correspondence, 1969 box 03 folder
01

Correspondence, 1971 box 03 folder
02

Correspondence, 1972 box 03 folder
03

Correspondence, 1973 box 03 folder
04

Newspaper clippings, 1971 box 03 folder
05

Newspaper clippings, 1973 box 03 folder
06

Orchestra, 1970 box 03 folder
07

Orchestra, 1971 box 03 folder
08

Orchestra, 1972 box 03 folder
09

Photographs, 1971 box 04 folder
01

Photographs, 1972 box 04 folder
02

Photograph release forms, 1971 box 04 folder
03

Press releases, undated box 04 folder
04

Programs, undated box 04 folder
05

Publicity, 1971-1973 box 04 folder
06

Publicity questionnaires, 1971 box 04 folder
07

Show counts, 1970 box 04 folder
08

Artists and Models

Monthly reports, 1969-1970 box 05 folder
01

Newspaper clippings, 1970-1971

	box 05	folder 02
Photographs, 1969-1970	box 05	folder 03
Photo release, 1970	box 05	folder 04
Show counts, 1970	box 05	folder 05
Bedtime Riot		
Correspondence, 1971	box 05	folder 06
Contracts, 1971	box 05	folder 07
Newspaper clippings	box 05	folder 08
Orchestra, 1971	box 05	folder 09
Photographs, 1971	box 05	folder 10
Press releases, 1971	box 05	folder 11
Show counts, 1971	box 05	folder 12
Booby Hatch		
Contracts, 1969-1970	box 05	folder 13
Newspaper clippings, 1970	box 05	folder 14
Orchestra, 1969-1970	box 05	folder 15
Photographs, undated	box 05	folder 16
Press releases, 1969-1970	box 05	folder 17
Bottoms Up: contracts, 1966-1967	box 05	folder 18
Flower Drum Song		
Contracts and correspondence, 1969	box 06	folder 01
Orchestra, 1969		

	box 06	folder 02
Radio advertising, 1969	box 06	folder 03
Funky Fiesta		
Contract, 1969	box 06	folder 04
Newspaper clippings, 1969	box 06	folder 05
Photographs, 1969	box 06	folder 06
Fun and Dames		
Correspondence, 1970	box 06	folder 07
Newspaper clippings, 1970	box 06	folder 08
Orchestra, 1970	box 06	folder 09
Photographs, undated	box 06	folder 10
Publicity, 1970	box 06	folder 11
Visa applications, 1969-1970	box 06	folder 12
Geisha Rella		
Contracts, 1970-1971	box 06	folder 13
Correspondence, 1971-1972	box 06	folder 14
Newspaper clippings, 1971-1973	box 06	folder 15
Orchestra, 1971-1972	box 07	folder 01
Photographs, undated	box 07	folder 02
Questionnaires, undated	box 07	folder 03
Show counts, 1971	box 07	folder 04
Show counts number two, 1972		

box 07 folder
05

Good Humor Company

Contracts and correspondence, 1970 box 07 folder
06

Orchestra, 1970 box 07 folder
07

The Madam

Contracts and correspondence, 1969 box 07 folder
08

Orchestra, 1969 box 07 folder
09

Nudes on Ice: Contracts, 1969 box 07 folder
10

Contracts, 1970 box 07 folder
11

Newspaper clippings, 1970 box 07 folder
12

Photographs, undated box 07 folder
13

Pardon my Can Can

Press Releases, 1970 box 07 folder
14

Computer reports and show counts, 1969 box 08 folder
01

Photographs of cast, 1969 box 08 folder
02

Publicity, 1969-1971 box 08 folder
03

The Tahitian Review: contracts, 1969 box 08 folder
04

Tokyo Holiday: photographs and contracts, 1969 box 08 folder
05

Tokyo Holiday: orchestra, 1969 box 08 folder
06

Under the Yum Yum Tree

Cast members, 1969-1970 box 08 folder
07

Computer restaurant and show counts, 1969

	box 08	folder 08
Contracts, 1969	box 08	folder 09
Correspondence, 1969	box 08	folder 10
Newspaper clippings, 1964	box 08	folder 11
Photographs, undated	box 08	folder 12
Press Releases, 1969	box 08	folder 13
Tent cards, undated	box 08	folder 14
Ziegfeld Follies: Tent cards, 1965	box 08	folder 15
Headliners		
Al Bello: contracts and show counts, 1970	box 09	folder 01
Al Bello: newspaper clippings, 1971	box 09	folder 02
Al Bello: photographs, undated	box 09	folder 03
Al Bello: press releases, 1970	box 09	folder 04
Charo: New Years Eve, 1971	box 09	folder 05
Charo: New Years Eve, 1972	box 09	folder 06
Ed Diamond: contracts, 1971-1972	box 09	folder 07
Ed Diamond: photographs, undated	box 09	folder 08
Ed Diamond: publicity, 1972	box 09	folder 09
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: contracts, 1971-1972	box 09	folder 10
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: newspaper articles, 1971	box 09	folder 11
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: orchestra, 1971		

	box 09	folder 12
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: photographs, 1971-1972	box 09	folder 13
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: publicity, 1971-1972	box 09	folder 14
Vic Garcia: contracts, photographs and press releases, 1971	box 09	folder 15
Frank Gorshin: New Years Eve, 1970	box 09	folder 16
Frank Gorshin: New Years Eve, 1971	box 09	folder 17
Primo and Gia: New Years Eve, 1970	box 09	folder 18
Don Rickles: New Years Eve, 1968	box 09	folder 19
Bobby Sherwood and Phyllis Dorne, 1969	box 09	folder 20
Bobby Sherwood's Big Band Concert, 1971	box 09	folder 21
Kenny Sampson: Children's Christmas Party, 1969	box 09	folder 22
Orange Colored Skye, 1970	box 09	folder 23