



Guide to the Fred A. and Clara G. Monson Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Monson, Fred A., 1880-1959
Creator:	Monson, Clara G., 1887-1978
Title:	Fred A. and Clara G. Monson Papers
ID:	MS-00207
Date [inclusive]:	1860s-1977
Date [bulk]:	1929-1969
Physical Description:	1.35 Cubic Feet (2 boxes and 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	2.75 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Fred A. and Clara G. Monson Papers (1860s-1976) consist of photographs, postcards, scrapbooks, greeting and sympathy cards, and documents related to Fred Monson's employment and the Monson's Las Vegas "Rock House" residence.

Preferred Citation

Fred A. and Clara G. Monson Papers, 1860s-1976. MS-00207. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Fred and Clara Monson settled in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1922, deciding on the location after their car broke down on the outskirts of the city. Monson quickly established himself in business, first operating a machine shop and then moving into mining and construction. For many years he owned and operated lead and silver mines near Tonopah, Nevada, as well as stone quarries in Crystal, Nevada and Ione, California. Additionally, he ran the Monson Sand and Gravel Plants in Boulder City and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Monson purchased extensive property in the city, eventually building fifteen homes for resale. The Monson's private home was called the "Rock House," a structure he built himself between 1946

and 1947. It was constructed almost entirely from travertine and white quartz, quarried from his mines in huge slabs.

Although Fred and Clara Monson had no children, they enjoyed a close relationship with their niece from her birth; many of the photographs in the collection show this relationship. Fred Monson died in 1959, at the age of 72; his wife Clara survived him, dying in 1978.

Source:

Las Vegas Review-Journal clipping, dated 1959.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Fred A. and Clara G. Monson Papers (1860s-1976) consist of photographs, postcards, scrapbooks, greeting and sympathy cards, and documents related to Fred Monson's employment and Monson's Las Vegas "Rock House" residence. The bulk of the photographs date to the 1930s and 1940s, and include images of family, hunting trips, excursions to various western states, the construction of Monson's stone-built "Rock House" in 1946, and an image of the interior of Monson's Machine shop, taken about 1926.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Accession numbers T-139 and 1971-003.

Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Melise Leech rehoused the materials and created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- photographs
- Architecture -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Twentieth century
- Residential structures
- Construction -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- House construction
- Mining districts -- Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographs, greeting cards, post cards, architectural documents, job logs, 1860s-1977 Physical Description: 18 Files	box 01
Photograph albums, scrapbook, memory book, framed photograph, 1920s-1960s Physical Description: 5 Files	box 02
Photograph, employment document, 1904-1946 Physical Description: 2 Items	flat file 03