

Guide to the Joe Andre Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Andre, Joseph Otto, 1890-1982
Title:	Joe Andre Papers
ID:	MS-00213
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1920-1980
Date [bulk]:	1920-1939
Physical Description:	0.97 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Physical Description:	1.04 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Joe Andre papers are comprised of scrapbook materials and feature articles collected by Joe Andre to document his life and career. Materials range from 1920 to 1980, with the focus of the materials on the 1920s to 1930s. The scrapbook documents Andre's career as a band leader in Nevada, and the articles trace his journey through Nevada as a musician, restaurant owner and shop owner.

Preferred Citation

Joe Andre Papers, 1920-1980 (bulk 1920s-1930s). MS-00213. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Joe Andre papers are comprised of a scrapbook compiled by Joe Andre documenting his life and career as a band leader in Nevada. Materials range from 1920 to 1980, with the focus on the 1920s to 1930s. The articles trace his journey through Nevada as a musician, restaurant owner and shop owner.

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Arrangement Note

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access

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 website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Material was donated by family members in 1981 and 2015; accession numbers T155, 81-038 and 2015-040.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Dallas Reiber in 2015 in compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following materials held by UNLV Special Collections provide additional information of the Andre family:

Joe Andre Oral History Interview, OH-00043;

Betty Andre Oral History Interview, OH-00042;

Joe Andre Photographs, approximately 1906-1980s, PH-00124. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Musicians
- Beatty (Nev.)
- Elko County (Nev.)
- Andre, Dorothy Engel, 1898-1983

Biographical Note

Musician, conductor, and business owner Joseph Otto (Joe) Andre spent the majority of his musical career performing in various mining communities in Nevada. Born and raised in Carlow, Missouri in 1890, Andre joined the United States Marines as a young man (probably 1906) and was stationed for a time in the Philippines. He learned to play the clarinet as part of the Marine marching band and also taught himself to play other instruments. After leaving the military Service, Andre traveled around the northwest with a small band, performing wherever they could.

In 1922 Andre met and married Dorothy Engel in Astoria, Oregon and opened a small music store there. The business was not successful and the couple realized they had to find another place to live. Wanting a career in the music field, Andre traveled to San Francisco where he found three opportunities: one in China, one in Australia, and one at the Big Casino as a band leader in Tonopah, Nevada. Not wanting to leave the country, the couple chose Tonopah. They knew nothing about mining communities or the State of Nevada, hence, Tonopah came as a shock.

The couple had a hard time adjusting to frontier life, but they eventually settled in and Joe found the work to be rewarding and lucrative. When the Big Casino burned down, Joe worked in other Nevada communities such as Ely, Elko, Austin, and Reno. Eventually the couple found themselves in Beatty, Nevada where, in 1942, Joe bought the Exchange Club and opened a cafe adjoining it that was a favorite stop for busses. He also owned a small dry goods store across the street from the Exchange Club that was once a boarding house.

After many years of hard work, Andre sold his businesses, bought a travel trailer, and he and Dorothy traveled throughout the southwest. Ultimately, they retired in Las Vegas. Joe Andre died in 1982 and Dorothy Engel Andre died in 1983.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Scrapbook focusing on musical performances in Nevada, 1920s-1930s Physical Description note: The last four pages of the scrabook were removed and discarded due to mold damage. Photocopies of those pages are included in the collection.	box 01
Awards and autographed photos to Joe Andre from Secretary of State Victor A. Myers, 1964 and undated	box 01
Feature newspaper articles on Joe Andre, 1979, 1980	box 01
Photocopies: scrapbook, photos, and news clippings, approximately Approximately 1920-1980	box 01
Notes and annotated photocopies of Tonopah, Nevada maps, 1980	box 01