



Guide to the Elizabeth Harrington Collection of Essays

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1gc7w>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Harrington, Elizabeth, 1898-1992
Title:	Elizabeth Harrington Collection of Essays
ID:	MS-00220
Date [inclusive]:	1975-1979
Physical Description:	.23 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Physical Description:	0.21 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This collection contains the original drafts of the thirteen essays that Elizabeth Harrington wrote about her life in early Las Vegas, Nevada. These articles were written from her memory and experiences of life in Las Vegas beginning in the early 1900s, and were published in the Nevadan section of the Las Vegas Review-Journal from 1975-1979.

Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Harrington Collection of Essays, 1975-1979. MS-00220. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Elizabeth Harrington was born January 25, 1898 in Salida, Colorado. She married Arthur Harrington, a bookkeeper with the Empire Zinc Company of New Jersey. In 1916, they moved to Southern Nevada, as the Empire Zinc Company owned the Potosi Mine just outside of Las Vegas, Nevada. After the Potosi mine closed around 1920, the Harrington family moved to Hanover, New Mexico. They later returned to Las Vegas where Arthur Harrington started the Harrington Insurance Company. He also was a founding member of the Las Vegas chapter of the Kiwanis Club, a fraternal organization for businessmen, and the Bank of Nevada in February 1926 and May 1941, respectively. He served as the Kiwanis Club's first secretary and was named secretary of the board for the Bank of Nevada.

In 1946, the Harrington family moved to Santa Monica, California due to Elizabeth Harrington's declining health. Arthur Harrington died in California in 1961. From 1975 to 1979, Elizabeth wrote a series of historical articles from her personal knowledge and experience living in Southern Nevada. These articles were published in the *Nevadan*, the former Sunday supplement magazine to the *Las Vegas-Review Journal*. Her articles described life in early Las Vegas and at the Potosi mine, detailing aviation, Helldorado parades, banking, hotels, and medicine.

Elizabeth Harrington died in 1992.

Source:

Elizabeth Harrington Collection of Essays, 1975-1979. MS-00220. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Elizabeth Harrington Collection of Essays (1975-1979) contains original drafts of thirteen essays that reflect life in early Las Vegas, Nevada. These articles were written from Harrington's memory and experiences. They were published in the *Nevadan* section of the *Review Journal* from 1975 to 1979. The time span of these essays is from 1904 to the early 1940s, yet a few of these writings cover a broader time period. While Harrington's essays often mention early residents and their businesses, her work focuses on the ambiance of a by gone era instead of presenting the details of daily life. Harrington included over fifty photographs of early Las Vegas, including its citizens and their activities, as they related to the essays. These photographs were removed to the photo collection, but Xerox copies remain with the articles. The collection also includes a copy of the Hotel Nevada registry on its opening day, May 29th through June 1st, 1905, and a grammar school commencement program from May 29, 1935.

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Arrangement of the Records

Material remains in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

This 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

Materials were donated in 1984 by Elizabeth Harrington; accession numbers T-165 and 84-42.

Processing Note

Material was processed in 1996 by Marie Imus.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

Photographs of early Las Vegas, Nevada were removed from the collection and placed in Elizabeth Harrington Collection. PH-0291. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Related Collections

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

Ellen B. Jensen Collection, MS-00133. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Celesta Lowe Collection, MS-00360. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

C. P. and Delphine Squires Collection, MS-00009. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Women
 - Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
 - Las Vegas (Nev.) -- Social life and customs
 - Potosi (Nev.)
 - Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)
 - Gay, Sam, 1860-1932
-

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Typed Essay: "Pioneer Doctors" (Las Vegas), approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 1
Typed Essay: "First Las Vegas Hotels, 1904-1906", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 2
Typed Essay: "Potosi, 1913-1919", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 3
Typed Essay: "First Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas, 1920-1936", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 4
Typed Essay: "Growing Up in Early Las Vegas, 1920's", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 5
Typed Essay: "The First Helldorado as I Knew It, 1934-1935", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 6
Typed Essay: "First Shows in Las Vegas, 1905-1929", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 7
Typed Essay: "A History of Early Las Vegas Schools, 1905-1966", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 8
Typed Essay: "First Las Vegas Banks, 1905-1966", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 9
Typed Essay: "Beginning of Las Vegas and Early Pioneers, 1885-1920", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 10
Typed Essay: "Early Las Vegas Airports...Western's Lost Plane, 1918-1941", approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 11
Typed Essay: "Big Days for a Little Town", on Hoover Dam, 1911-1970, 1975-1979	box 1	folder 12
Typed Essay: "Sam Gay-Sheriff-Pioneer: His Search for Queho" (Paiute), approximately 1975-1979	box 1	folder 13