

Guide to the James H. Down Sr. Scrapbooks

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1pw21>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Lawrence, Dorothy Down (Dorothy Ferne Lawrence)
Title:	James H. Down Sr. Scrapbooks
ID:	MS-00236
Date [inclusive]:	1933-1979
Physical Description:	1.3 Linear Feet (1 oversized box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The James H. Down Sr. Scrapbooks (1933-1979) contain newspaper clippings and political advertisements about his political and civic involvement in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Preferred Citation

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

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Biographical Note

County Commissioner and business owner James H. Down Sr. (1877-1946) was born in Michigan on September 20, 1877. After the death of both of his parents, he was adopted by Walter A. Down. In 1907 James H. Down married his first wife, Rogena Mahar. They moved to Nevada in 1916 and settled in Goodsprings, Nevada where he worked for George A. Fayle. In 1923, Down relocated to Las Vegas and operated a garage. He opened a Studebaker automobile dealership at the corner of Main and Carson Streets in downtown Las Vegas.

In Las Vegas, James H. Down Sr. was active in the Fraternal Order of Eagles and was a founding member of the Las Vegas Kiwanis Club. He served as president of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce in 1932 and remained actively involved with the Chamber until his death. He sought political office in Las Vegas several times, running for Las Vegas mayor, Las Vegas City Commission, and Clark County Commission. Voters elected him for one term to the Las Vegas City Commission in 1933 and to the Clark County Commission in 1942. James H. Down Sr. died from a heart attack in 1946. His son, James H. Down Jr., was a member of the Las Vegas Housing Authority and also served as president of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce in 1948.

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Scope and Contents Note

The James H. Down Sr. Scrapbooks (1933-1979) contain newspaper clippings and political advertisements about his political and civic involvement in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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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

Materials were donated in 1979 by Dorothy Down Lawrence; accession number 79-209.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Angela Moor revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

The photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in James Down Photographs. PH-00015. 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:

Down, James H., Jr. Interview, 1972 April 07. OH-00485. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Politicians--Nevada--Las Vegas--Biography
- Down, James Henry, Sr., 1877-1946

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Scrapbook: James Henry Down Sr., Public Service Record, Las Vegas and Clark County, Nevada. Project and materials by: Dorothy Down Lawrence, daughter of James H. Down Sr. Contains newspaper clippings and political advertisements for James H. Down Sr., 1933-1946	oversized box 01
Scrapbook: James Henry Down Sr., Pioneer Southern Nevadan. Contains family history of the Down family; copies of photographs from the James H. Down Photograph Collection; newspaper clippings, 1946-1979	oversized box 01