



## Guide to the Ida Brewington Pittman Papers

---

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 29, 2022. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f19p49>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents Note .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Related Materials .....	5
Names and Subjects .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Pittman, Ida Brewington, 1893-1984
<b>Title:</b>	Ida Brewington Pittman Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00243
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1906 to 1977
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.42 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.21 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Ida Brewington Pittman Papers date from 1906 to 1977 and contain personal and professional correspondence, ephemera, photographs, and newspaper clippings relating to the life of her husband, former Nevada Governor Vail Pittman. The newspaper clippings also include information about oil wells and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Nevada.

### Preferred Citation

Ida Brewington Pittman Papers, 1906-1977. MS-00243. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical Note

---

Ida Brewington Pittman was born on May 10, 1893 and raised in Macon, Missouri. She studied art and music at the State Teachers College in Kirksville, Missouri. After graduating college she became a music teacher in Centralia, Missouri. In 1915, Brewington accepted a high school teaching position in Tonopah, Nevada where she met her future husband Vail Montgomery Pittman. As a teacher, Brewington organized the first orchestra and chorus in the Tonopah schools. In her spare time she learned how to shoot a variety of guns, and she later won Tonopah's First Turkey Shoot for Women.

Brewington married Vail Pittman on May 20, 1919 in Reno, Nevada. The couple moved to Ely, Nevada on April 1, 1920 and established the *Ely Daily Times*. It was here that she acquired the

nickname "Liz." She assumed many of the responsibilities for the couple's publishing enterprises. Vail Pittman played an active role in Nevada politics. He served in the Senate of the Nevada Legislature from 1925-1929. In 1942, he was elected Lieutenant Governor and became Governor in 1945. The couple sold their newspaper holdings in 1951 and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where they resided until Vail Pittman died in 1964.

Ida Pittman traveled extensively after her husband's death, joining the Travelers Century Club, an organization open only to those who have visited one hundred countries and island groups. During her travels, Pittman toured Ethiopia, the Fiji Islands, and the South Pole. Ida Pittman died October 11, 1984 at the age of 91 in Chula Vista, California, and was buried next to her husband at Mountain View Cemetery in Reno, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents Note

---

The Ida Brewington Pittman Papers date from 1906 to 1977 and contain personal and professional correspondence, ephemera, photographs, and newspaper clippings relating to the life of her husband, former Nevada Governor Vail Pittman. The newspaper clippings also include information about oil wells and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Nevada. The collection also contains many letters of condolences over Vail Pittman's death. Other items include copies of resolutions, an inaugural invitation, some financial notes, travel papers, and notes regarding phone calls.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Materials remain as they were received.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Access Note

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 and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

## Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1985 by Ann Brewington and in 2015 by \_\_\_\_; accession numbers 1985-77 and 2015-09.

## Processing Note

Papers were processed by Marie Imus in 1995. In 2017, Joyce Moore revised and enhanced the collection to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Collections

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

Ida Brewington Pittman Photographs, 1896-1976. PH-00289. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ann Brewington Papers, 1984-1987. MS-00286. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Pittman Family Photographs, 1896-1987. PH-00053. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Names and Subjects

---

- Ely (Nev.)
- Tonopah (Nev.)
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Pittman, Vail, 1883-1964

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Newspaper clippings, various topics, 1973 to 1975	box 01
Newspaper clippings about the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and oil production, approximately 1970 to 1977	box 01
Poems, articles, and games, approximately 1965 to 1977	box 01
Correspondence to and from Ida B. Pittman, 1976	box 01
Address list, approximately 1960 to 1970	box 01
Photographs and gun registration cards, approximately 1960 to 1969	box 01
Notes regarding phone calls, approximately 1960 to 1977	box 01
Financial papers, approximately 1954 to 1977	box 01
Travel materials, 1965 to 1977	box 01
Inaugural invitation, memorandum, and resolutions, 1947 March 08	box 01
Newspaper clippings pertaining to Vail Pittman, approximately 1965 to 1977	box 01
Obituaries for Vail Pittman, 1964 January	box 01
Correspondence regarding Vail Pittman's death, memorials, and death certificate, 1964	box 01
Speeches and program honoring Vail Pittman, 1960 to 1966	box 01
Newspaper clippings regarding Vail Pittman, 1945 to 1977	box 01
Stock certificates, 1906 to 1936	box 01
"Around the World via North and South Pole" photograph album, 1970	box 02
Embossed leather portfolio belonging to Governor Vail Pittman, approximately 1940 to 1949	box 02
Certificate of Appreciation from the Nevada State Museum to Mrs. Vail Pittman, approximately 1960 to 1969	box 02