



## Guide to the Harmon Family Papers

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Harmon family (Las Vegas, Nev.)
<b>Title:</b>	Harmon Family Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00301
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1910 to 1999
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1910 to 1961
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8.56 Cubic Feet (12 boxes, 6 oversized boxes, 1 flat file)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	17.52 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Harmon Family Papers consist of the political and personal correspondence of Las Vegas, Nevada pioneer Harley A. Harmon from 1910 to 1934, and his son, Harley E. Harmon, from 1950 to 1966. The collection also includes correspondence, personal papers, and photographs of Harley L. Harmon from approximately 1950 to 1999. Also included are family scrapbooks with wedding announcements, photographs, birthday cards, newspaper clippings, and other ephemera.

### Preferred Citation

Harmon Family Papers, 1910-1999, MS-00301. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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Harley A. Harmon was born in 1882 in Wier City, Kansas. His father, Elmer Harmon, was an attorney who moved the family to Los Angeles, California when Harmon was nine years old. In 1903, Harley A. Harmon unsuccessfully ran for Los Angeles City Clerk. In 1905, Harley A. Harmon joined the Union Pacific Railroad as an engineer and drove one of the first construction trains to Las Vegas, Nevada, where Harley A. Harmon was stationed in 1908.

That same year, Harley A. Harmon attended the Democratic State Convention and advocated for the establishment of Clark County in Las Vegas, which passed in the next session and became effective on July 1, 1909. When Las Vegas was incorporated in 1911, Harley A. Harmon became Clark County's first City Clerk. Harmon took his bar examination and passed in 1919, and in 1921 he was elected District Attorney. Harmon held the office until 1934, when he ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for governor. After the election, the newly elected Democratic Governor Richard Kirman appointed Harmon the chairman of the State Public Service Commission. Harmon ran again for the gubernatorial nomination in 1938 and lost a second time. He was a member of the Colorado River Commission which negotiated rights for the water and power emanating from the Colorado River and the Boulder Dam.

Harley A. Harmon married Leona McGovern in 1911 and had two children, Charles E. Harmon and Harley E. Harmon. Harley A. Harmon died October 10, 1947.

Sources:

*The First One Hundred: Portraits of the Men and Women Who Shaped Las Vegas*, F849.L35 F58 1999.

Hopkins, A.D. "Harley Harmon." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. October 28, 2017. Accessed March 12, 2018. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/harley-harmon/>.

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## Biographical Note

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Harley Emmett Harmon was born November 21, 1918 to Harley A. Harmon and Leona Gates Harmon in Las Vegas, Nevada. He attended school in Las Vegas, Nevada and graduated in 1937. Harley E. Harmon graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno. In 1947, Harley E. Harmon married Cleo L. Katsaros, and the couple had two sons, Harley L. Harmon and Jeffrey E. Harmon. Harley E. Harmon was elected to the Nevada State Assembly for one term in 1948 and to the Board of Clark County Commissioners in 1950, where he served for twelve years and was a chairman for eight years. He established and was president of the Harley E. Harmon Insurance Agency, Frontier Fidelity Savings and Loan Association, and in 1961 organized the purchase of Nevada State Bank and became president. In 1976, he moved from the Nevada State Bank and joined Valley Bank as Vice President for Marketing. He resigned from that position in 1979 and later began Harley E. Harmon Insurance with his wife. Harley E. Harmon died on September 24, 2001.

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## Biographical Note

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Harley L. Harmon, son of Harley E. Harmon and grandson of Harley A. Harmon, was born January 6, 1948. He graduated from Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas, Nevada. He later served in the Nevada State Assembly. After leaving the legislature, he worked at the insurance company started by his father, Harley E. Harmon Insurance. Harley L. Harmon also founded the Harley L. Harmon Mortgage Company in 1981. In 2003, he was convicted of mail fraud related to Harley L. Harmon Mortgage Company. Harley L. Harmon married Barbara Jeanne McBride on August 7, 1971 and had three children, Heather Harmon, Alexa Harmon, and Nicki Harmon. Harley L. Harmon passed away September 2, 2006.

Source:

Radke, Jace. "Harmon gets nearly five years." *Las Vegas Sun*. September 23, 2003. Accessed May 13, 2020. <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2003/sep/23/harmon-gets-nearly-five-years/>

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Harmon Family Papers consist of the political and personal correspondence of Harley A. Harmon from 1910 to 1934, and his son Harley E. Harmon from 1950 to 1966. The papers also include family scrapbooks, correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings about Harley A. Harmon's campaigns for County Clerk, District Attorney, and Governor, and articles reporting on his death. Correspondence includes letters and greeting cards, certificates of acceptance into groups such as the Fraternal Brotherhood of Eagles, and a Western Union Telegraph from Franklin Roosevelt looking forward to counting Nevada as a Democratic state in future presidential elections. There are also political campaign advertisements for both Harvey A. Harmon and Harvey E. Harmon. The collection includes a small number of items related to Harley L. Harmon, son of Harley E. Harmon, including photographs, high school yearbooks, and some correspondence.

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## Arrangement

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Collection is organized by individual family member and grouped by topic.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research. If use copies of the recordings do not exist, reformatting/production of use copies is required before access will be granted; this may delay research requests. Advanced notice is required.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

Materials were received periodically between 1982 and 2022; accession numbers T180, 1982-012, 1989-001, 2003-015, 2019-031, 2021-030, and 2022-021.

### Processing Note

Material was minimally processed by staff in 1983 and 1989. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden revised and enhanced the collection description. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Sarah Jones rehoused and arranged the new materials, revised the collection description, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2019, Tammi Kim minimally processed and updated the finding aid to include the 2019 addition. In 2021, Tammi Kim accessioned the 2021 addition and updated the finding aid. In 2022, Sarah Jones added one additional box of material.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

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

Harley E. Harmon oral history interview, 1972 April 14. OH-00793. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Harley E. Harmon oral history interview, 1998 April 16. OH-00794. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Harmon Family Photograph Collection, 1900-1961. PH-00182. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Nevada -- History
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Politics and government
- photographs
- Political campaigns
- Harmon, Harley, 1882-1947
- Harmon, Harley E., 1918-2001
- Harley, Harmon L., 1948-2006

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Family scrapbooks and ephemera	
Family scrapbooks, 1910-1965	box 01 box 11 box 12 box 13
Photograph albums and wedding announcements, 1910-1960	oversized box 05  oversized box 08  oversized box 09
Harmon family home movies, approximately 1955 to 1960	

Physical Description: 26 Reels	box 14 oversized box 19
Family photographs and negatives in decorative wooden box, approximately 1930 to 1960	box 14
Harmon family vacations: photographic prints and slides, approximately 1960 to 1980 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 18
Harley A. Harmon papers	
Newspaper clippings, 1920-1947 Physical Description: 5 Files	box 02
Military documents, approximately 1910s	box 02
Personal correspondence, 1910-1934 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 02
Personal and political correspondence, approximately 1914 to 1920	box 16
Political correspondence, 1914-1920 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 03
Legal documents, 1917-1920	box 03
Political campaign advertisements, 1920	flat file 06
Personal correspondence, 1947 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 03 box 04
<i>Las Vegas Age</i> publications, 1903-1930	flat file 06
Harley E. Harmon papers	
Personal correspondence, approximately 1957-1961	box 04
Political campaign advertisements, 1950-1966	box 04
Portrait photographs of Harley E. Harmon and Harley L. Harmon, 1940s-1950s	oversized box 07
Newspaper clippings, Harmon and Wengert family tree information, correspondence, <i>World Book of Harmons</i> , 1975-1977, 1995-1999 Physical Description: 6 Files	box 10
"This Is Your Life" testimonial scrapbook for Harley E. Harmon, 1963	oversized box 15
Harley E. Harmon insurance company radio spot jingle, 1999 Physical Description: 1 Audio Cassettes	box 14
Press clippings from local Las Vegas newspapers on Harley E. and Cleo Harmon's community service, 1984 to 1986	box 18



Harley E. and Cleo Harmon portrait photographs, 1970 to 1987	box 18
Valley Bank of Nevada "Bellagio Fine Art Collection" art information sheets, transparencies, and book, approximately 1975 to 1980 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 18 oversized box 19
Continental National Bank, Las Vegas, Nevada bank deposit bag, approximately 1983 to 1994	box 18
Harley L. Harmon papers	
Nevada State Assembly member group photograph, 1977	box 16
58th and 60th sessions, Nevada State Assembly photographs with signatures, 1975 to 1979	box 18
Harley L. Harmon's honorable discharge paper, 1974 June	box 18
Harley L. Harmon plaster hand impression, 1953 May	box 18
Bellarmino College Preparatory High School yearbook, San Jose, California, 1963	box 17
Bishop Gorman High School yearbooks, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1963, 1966	box 17