

Guide to the Hazel Baker Denton Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Denton, Hazel Baker, 1887-1962
Title:	Hazel Baker Denton Papers
ID:	MS-00387
Date [inclusive]:	1907-1957
Date [inclusive]:	1937-1955 (bulk)
Physical Description:	4 Linear Feet (7 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Hazel Baker Denton Papers (1907-1957) contain correspondence, family artifacts, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and family biographical information. Included are journals that chronicle the years Denton served as an Assemblywoman for the Nevada State Legislature and a copy of her book, <i>Ironing Day</i> , her newspaper columns, and speeches.

Preferred Citation

Hazel Baker Denton Papers, 1907-1957. MS-00387. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Writer, educator, and Nevada State Assemblywoman Hazel Baker Denton was born in Monroe, Utah on June 25, 1887. She graduated from Ogden High School in 1907, at which time she was given her Teachers Certificate. Denton moved to Prince Mine in Nevada in 1914 to teach in a one-room all-grade school, then to Caliente, Nevada, in 1916, to teach the first and second grades. It was here that she met Floyd Howard Denton of Nebraska, a saloon owner and future under-sheriff of Caliente. They married in 1916 and had four children: Lewis, Henrietta Marie, Betty Jeanne and Ralph.

Denton's love of education was rewarded in 1931 when she received a Nevada Life Diploma. After more than forty years of service, she retired from teaching in 1952. In addition to her achievements in the classroom, Denton was an accomplished writer. Her published work is

comprised of several newspaper columns including "Caliente all the Time" (1937-1939) and "While the Toast Burns" (1948-1953). In 1955, she published her book, *Ironing Day*, a collection of poetry, essays, and short stories. To honor her grandmother, Jeanne Marie Rio, Denton used the initials "JMR" as a pen name on much of her work.

Denton's civic and professional activities were considerable. She served as President of the Lincoln County Board of Education for twelve years and as Director for the National Education Association of Nevada from 1933 to 1936. She also served as President of the Nevada Federation of Women's Clubs (1944-1946) and the Lincoln County Classroom Teacher's Association (1948-1949). She was elected as a Democrat to the Nevada State Assembly in 1952 and was re-elected in 1954. During her time in the Assembly, she introduced bills and resolutions that were intended to improve free public libraries and state parks.

Hazel Denton died in Las Vegas on January 30, 1962 at the age of 74.

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Scope and Contents Note

Hazel Baker Denton Papers (1907-1957) contain correspondence, family mementos, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and family biographical information. Included are journals that chronicle the years Denton served as an Assemblywoman for the Nevada State Legislature and a copy of her book, her newspaper columns, and speeches.

Denton's columns appeared in several Lincoln County newspapers from approximately 1937 to 1953. Most of this work is in the society columns "Caliente All the Time" and "While the Toast Burns." She also wrote "The Tidewater Sketches," a column that tells of her summer in Washington, D.C. attending Wilson Teachers College. Denton's book *Ironing Day* is included along with correspondence from the publisher and handwritten drafts of the book.

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Arrangement

The Hazel Baker Denton collection consists of two series:

Series 1. Writings;

Series 2. Personal papers.

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access

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 1997 by Ralph Denton; accession number 97-3.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Alexis Rajnoor in August, 1998. In 2017 Joyce Moore revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it up to current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

Some of the photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in Hazel Baker Denton Photographs, 1907-1957. PH-00312. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Legislators -- Nevada -- Biography
- Women educators -- Nevada -- Lincoln County -- Biography.
- Women journalists-- Nevada-- Lincoln County -- Biography.

- Women in politics – Nevada – Lincoln County – Biography.
- Lincoln County (Nev.) -- Politics and government
- Nevada. Legislative Assembly

Collection Inventory

Series I. Writings, 1937-1953

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Scope and Contents: The Writing Series contains all of Hazel Denton's written work, both published and manuscript (drafts for a book and college papers for example), and demonstrates her growth as a writer and the relative position of professional women in society during the time she was writing.

Denton's columns appeared in several Lincoln County newspapers from approximately 1937 to 1953. Most of this work is in the society columns "Caliente All the Time" and "While the Toast Burns." She also wrote "The Tidewater Sketches," a column that tells of her summer in Washington, D.C. attending Wilson Teachers College. Denton's book *Ironing Day* is included in this series along with correspondence from the publisher and handwritten drafts of the book.

Arrangement: Materials remain in original order.

Title/Description	Containers	
Caliente All the Time, 1937 January 07- 1937 October 28	box 1	folder 1
Caliente All the Time, 1937 November 04-1938 October 20	box 1	folder 2
Caliente All the Time, 1938 October 27-1939 January 26	box 1	folder 3
Caliente All the Time, undated	box 1	folder 4
Tidewater Sketches, 1947	box 1	folder 5
Journal for Tidewater Sketches, 1947	box 1	folder 6
Citizen Tom Dixon, 1949	box 1	folder 7
While the Toast Burns, 1948	box 1	folder 8
While the Toast Burns, 1949	box 1	folder 9
While the Toast Burns, 1950	box 1	folder 10
While the Toast Burns, 1951	box 1	folder 11
While the Toast Burns, 1952	box 1	folder 12
While the Toast Burns, 1953	box 1	folder 13
While the Toast Burns, undated	box 1	folder 14

Newspaper Articles by Hazel Baker Denton

	box 1	folder 15
Drafts for columns and articles	box 1	folder 16
Correspondence re: articles	box 1	folder 17
Scrapbook from Salt Lake City Tribune Short Story Competition, 1939	box 2	folder 1
Nevada Business Women Magazine, 1941 December	box 2	folder 2
Libraries and the Love of Great Books -a speech given for Book Week Program, 1948	box 2	folder 3
Desert Magazine, 1951	box 2	folder 4
Speech given at the Business and Professional Women's District Convention	box 2	folder 5
Drafts and copies of writings for Ironing Day	box 2	folder 6
Ironing Day, copyright, 1955	box 2	folder 7
Correspondence from Exposition Press (publisher of Ironing Day)	box 2	folder 8
Correspondence re: Ironing Day	box 2	folder 9
Correspondence re: writing submissions (rejection letters)	box 2	folder 10
Poems by Hazel Baker Denton	box 2	folder 11
Western History (college paper), 1914	box 3	folder 1
College papers written for English I and II, 1930	box 3	folder 2
Burton School of Creative Writing (correspondence writing course), 1936-1938	box 3	folder 3
Poetry report, undated	box 3	folder 4
Nevada: Essays written about towns in Lincoln County	box 3	folder 5
Miscellaneous writings	box 3	folder 6
Notebooks containing short stories, poems, and miscellaneous writings	box 3	folder 7

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Series II: Personal, 1907-1957

Physical Description: 4 boxes

Scope and Contents: The personal series consists of journals, correspondence and family mementos including three scrapbooks. Though some of the journals and diaries do record personal feelings and thoughts, for the most part they are comments on daily activities. Three journals represent the years

Denton served as an Assemblywoman for the Nevada State Legislature. Also included is family biographical information.

Arrangement: Material remain in original order.

Title/Description	Containers	
The Classicum Souvenir Book: Ogden High School, 1907	box 4	folder 1
Postcards from trip to Europe (in album), 1908	box 4	folder 2
Postcards from trip to Europe (loose), 1908	box 4	folder 3
Souvenir book from The Royal Opera Convent Gardens, 1908	box 4	folder 4
Program from the Theatre National De L'Opera	box 4	folder 5
Baby book: Lewis Denton, 1917	box 4	folder 6
Baby book: Henrietta Marie Denton, 1919	box 4	folder 7
Journal (photocopied), 1935	box 4	folder 8
Budget notebooks, 1937-1943	box 4	folder 9
Program and journal for The Second Writers Conference at the University of Utah	box 4	folder 10
Guest sign-in book, 1955-1956	box 5	folder 1
Daily Journal, 1957	box 5	folder 2
Correspondence: personal (letters and cards)	box 5	folder 3
Correspondence from Ralph Denton	box 5	folder 4
Correspondence to Ralph Denton	box 5	folder 5
Correspondence incoming re: Ralph and Lewis Denton from various politicians	box 5	folder 6
Correspondence: miscellaneous outgoing	box 5	folder 7
Information on Atomic Energy	box 5	folder 8
National Education	box 5	folder 9
Biographical information on the Baker family	box 5	folder 10
Baker Family Reunion information	box 5	folder 11
Memorial Speech for Lieutenant Hugh Jacobson (family friend)	box 5	folder 12
Newspaper clippings about Hazel Baker Denton	box 5	folder 13
Newspaper clippings: friends and family	box 5	folder 14
Scrapbook of miscellaneous news clippings		

	box 5	folder 15
Miscellaneous news clippings	box 5	folder 16
Miscellaneous writings by others	box 5	folder 17
Miscellaneous records	box 5	folder 18
Nevada Life Diploma (holder and letter only)	box 6	folder 1
Handbook of Nevada Legislature, 1949	box 6	folder 2
Assembly prayers, 1953	box 6	folder 3
Program for the First Annual Memorial Rose Day, Caliente, 1954	box 6	folder 4
Nevada Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs: notebook and outline for a speech	box 6	folder 5
Proclamation of the Governor of the State of Nevada convening the legislature, 1956	box 6	folder 6
Correspondence re: Irish Mountain Mine	box 6	folder 7
Miscellaneous correspondence: business	box 6	folder 8
Deed for cemetery plot in Richfield Utah, 1909	box 6	folder 9
Deed for sale of the Baker's home and all its contents, 1918	box 6	folder 10
Journal from first year in the Nevada State Assembly, 1953	box 6	folder 11
Journal from the second year in the Nevada State Assembly, 1954	box 6	folder 12
Journal from the third year in the Nevada State Assembly, 1955	box 6	folder 13
Scrapbooks Physical Description: 3 Items		oversized box 7

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