



Guide to the Nevada Biltmore Hotel Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Contributor:	Brooks, Jewel, 1925-2015
Creator:	Brooks, Robert Lee, 1907-1995
Title:	Nevada Biltmore Hotel Collection
ID:	MS-00479
Date [inclusive]:	1942 to 1986
Physical Description:	0.66 Cubic Feet (1 oversized box)
Physical Description:	1.35 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The collection dates from 1942 to 1986 and contains a scrapbook and other materials related to the Nevada Biltmore built by Robert Brooks in Las Vegas, Nevada. The scrapbook includes photographs of the resort and newspaper clippings. It also contains some materials from the Seven Seas restaurant owned by Brooks in Hollywood, California. The collection includes newspaper clippings related to Las Vegas gaming and politics, some photographs of Bob Brooks and his wife Jewel at social events in Las Vegas, and a Biltmore menu and stationary.

Preferred Citation

Nevada Biltmore Hotel Collection, 1942-1986. MS-00479. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

Robert Lee "Bob" Brooks, who owned the Seven Seas popular Polynesian nightspot in Hollywood, California, built the Nevada Biltmore at the corner of Main Street and Bonanza Road in Las Vegas, Nevada. It opened on June 22, 1942 to much acclaim and attracted top names in entertainment. It consisted of a hotel, casino, and 32 detached bungalows. Brooks recreated his Seven Seas nightclub at the resort. He sold the Biltmore in 1944 and the property then changed hands several times.

It reopened briefly as a resort for African Americans in 1949. After several tumultuous years, it reopened as the Shamrock Motel. By the early 1960s, it became the Shamrock Furniture Store. Bob Brooks continued to operate the Seven Seas Nightclub in Hollywood until 1964. He invested in land throughout the Las Vegas valley and owned the Royal Hotel on Convention Center and a Travelodge on the Strip. Bob Brooks passed away in 1995.

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Scope and Contents Note

The collection dates from 1942 to 1986 and contains a scrapbook and other materials related to the Nevada Biltmore built by Robert Brooks in Las Vegas, Nevada. The scrapbook includes photographs of the resort and newspaper clippings. It also contains photographs depicting the construction of bungalows around the Biltmore. The scrapbooks contains some materials from the Seven Seas restaurant owned by Brooks in Hollywood, California as well as his other business interests. The collection includes newspaper clippings related to Las Vegas gaming and politics, some photographs of Bob Brooks and his wife Jewel at social events in Las Vegas, and a Biltmore menu and stationary. The collection offers valuable images and history of the opening of the Biltmore, one of the earliest resorts to open in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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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 2003 by Jewel Brooks via Thalia Dondero; accession number 2003-028.

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Names and Subjects

- Hotels -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History
- Casinos -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History
- photographs
- Correspondence
- Nevada Biltmore Hotel

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Nevada Biltmore menu, undated	oversized box 01
Nevada Biltmore stationary, blank, undated	oversized box 01
Playboy magazine, "History of Organized Crime: V for Victory, Vice, and Vegas," photocopy, undated	oversized box 01
Newspaper clippings about Nevada gaming and politics, 1965-1986	oversized box 01
Correspondence and materials: copy of letter from Bob Brooks, "Salute to M.B. Dalitz," 1976-12-07; Robyne Brooks business card; Campbell Realty 1961 LV "Strip" Map; Nevada Biltmore advertisement, undated, 1961, 1976	oversized box 01
Photographs: Includes Nevada Biltmore, Bob and Jewel Brooks at social events, Bob Brooks' properties, undated	oversized box 01
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings and photographs about the Nevada Biltmore, Seven Seas, and Brooks' other business investments, 1942-1947	oversized box 01