

Guide to the Dottie Dee Dancers Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Tomlin, Dorothy, 1922-2014
Title:	Dottie Dee Dancers Collection
ID:	MS-00544
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1940 to 2002
Physical Description:	0.23 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Physical Description:	0.21 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	13 Digital Files (0.267 GB) JPG
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Dottie Dee Dancers Collection (approximately 1940-2002) is comprised of newspaper clippings and photographs documenting the career of Dorothy (Dalton) Tomlin who led a line of dancers known as the Dottie Dee Dancers. The dancers performed in nightclubs in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other western cities. Other items in the collection include scans of the original costume drawings by Hollywood costume designer Lloyd Lambert that were created for the Dottie Dee Dancers, and the transcripts of a 2002 oral history of Dottie and her husband, Donald Tomlin.

Preferred Citation

Dottie Dee Dancers Collection, approximately 1940-2002. MS-00544. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Dancer and choreographer Dorothy Dalton (stage name Dottie Dee) was born on September 9, 1922. By age 16 Dorothy was managing a dance studio, and at age 18, on the road as a professional dancer. In 1941 she was performing with the La Bard Dancers in Las Vegas when they performed at the opening of the El Rancho. Dorothy spent time on tour as a solo act, and shortly thereafter

established the Dottie Dee Dancers in San Francisco. In 1943 the group began appearing at the El Rancho in Las Vegas with a line of 12 women who also ran a tour rotation from Los Angeles to Las Vegas to San Francisco. The group was in such demand that it grew to two lines making the rotation and another line performing in Texas and Colorado. In 1948 Dalton took a line of dancers to Alaska where she met and eventually married Donald Tomlin. The Dottie Dee Dancers would continue to perform at the El Rancho until 1954. Donald managed the chorus line.

By 1959 the Tomlins had left Las Vegas to travel with their two sons. They moved back to Las Vegas in the late 1970s and settled permanently. Dorothy passed away on March 13, 2014 in Las Vegas.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Dottie Dee Dancers Collection (approximately 1940-2002) is comprised of newspaper clippings and photographs documenting the career of Dorothy (Dalton) Tomlin who led a line of dancers known as the Dottie Dee Dancers. The dancers performed in nightclubs in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other western cities. Other items in the collection include scans of the original costume drawings by Hollywood costume designer Lloyd Lambert that were created for the Dottie Dee Dancers, and the transcripts of a 2002 oral history of Dottie and her husband, Donald Tomlin.

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Arrangement Note

Materials are arranged in alphabetical 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 2008 by Ron Tomlin; accession number 2008-024.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Joyce Marshall Moore in 2008. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Ian M. Baldwin revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently, Ian M. Baldwin entered this information into ArchiveSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- Showgirls -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Entertainment -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Costume design

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Dottie Dee Dancers: El Rancho Hotel, 1951	box 01	folder 01
El Rancho Hotel playbill, undated	box 01	folder 02
Newspaper clippings, 1953	box 01	folder 03
Oral history with Dottie and Don Tomlin, conducted by Ron Tomlin, 2002 April 03	box 01	folder 04
Photographs: Dottie Dancers, Las Vegas, 1940-1959	box 01	folder 05
Photographs: entertainers, undated		

box 01 folder
06

Photographs: family, 1950-1959

box 01 folder
07

Photographs: 50th wedding anniversary, undated

box 01 folder
08

Photographs: professional, undated

box 01 folder
09

Scans of costume designs by Lloyd Lambert, undated
Physical Description: 13 Digital Files (0.027 GB) JPG

digital
file 00