



Guide to the Blue Diamond History Committee Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Blue Diamond History Committee (Clark County, Nev.)
Contributor:	Blue Diamond Corporation (Clark County, Nev.)
Title:	Blue Diamond History Committee Collection
ID:	MS-00727
Date [inclusive]:	1920 to 2012
Date [bulk]:	1985 to 2005
Physical Description:	4.82 Cubic Feet (7 boxes, 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	7.33 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Blue Diamond History Committee Collection (1920s-2012) contains materials related to the history of the Blue Diamond Mine and nearby village located about twenty-five miles outside of Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection contains materials including environmental reports, photographs of the mine and its employees and their families, maps, a photocopy of a diary, mine operation records and accident reports, community calendars, and correspondence and property documents of the local post office.

Preferred Citation

Blue Diamond History Committee Collection, 1920s-2012. MS-00727. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Note

Blue Diamond, Nevada was once a small town named Cottonwood Springs. It was turned into a company town by the Blue Diamond Materials Company in the 1940s and today exists as an unincorporated, census-designated place (CDP).

The Blue Diamond History Committee began organizing in 2003, when community members of the village started discussing the preservation of a remnant of an old adobe house located in the village, the first dwelling of settlers in the area. The community decided to begin gathering oral histories to preserve the history of Blue Diamond residents, as well as its buildings. This oral history project captured around one-hundred stories with the help of Lied Library's Oral History Research Center in Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Along with those efforts, people donated materials from their childhood in the village, and when the Blue Diamond Mine closed for a time in 2005, many of their documents were brought down and donated as well. The committee organized the donated materials into a variety of binders and boxes meant to represent the history of their town, and also potentially preserve the area as an open air walking museum. Other projects the committee worked on were developing educational lessons for the local school children to learn how the nearby Cottonwood Springs helped sustain settlement there, and how water is a vital resource for desert settlements in general. The overall goal of these projects was to connect their community to the children and pass on the importance of their history to the next generation of Blue Diamond residents in order to help preserve the area.

Sources:

van Betten, Patricia. Interview, 2007 February 6. OH-01864. Transcript. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Blue Diamond History Committee Collection (1920s-2012) contains materials related to the history of the Blue Diamond Mine and village located about twenty-five miles southwest of Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection includes materials on environmental reports, photographs, maps, a photocopy of a diary, mine operation records and accident reports, community calendars, and correspondence and property documents of the local post office. The photographs include aerial views of the mine and village, closer views of sections of the mined landscape and related buildings, and families who lived in the company owned village. The latter include large aerial photographs, two albums of family and village life, and some photographs related to mine operations, such as specific pieces of equipment.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Where use copies do not exist, 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 donated in 2005 and 2013 by Patricia van Betten on behalf of the Blue Diamond History Committee; accession numbers 2005-015 and 2014-012.

Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Billy Marino rehoused and arranged the materials, wrote the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Blue Diamond Mine Corporation Records, 1918-2005. MS-00505. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Blue Diamond Oral History Project. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Blue Diamond (Nev.)
- Mining corporations
- Environmental impact statements
- Land use
- Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (Nev.)
- photographs
- Scrapbook
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Blue Diamond (Nev.)
- Blue Diamond Mine (Clark County, Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Blue Diamond Mine files	
Contracts between local union no. 631 and James Hardie Gypsum Company, 1990-2005 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Copy of "Department of the Interior Security Report, Blue Diamond Mine", 1943 April 12	box 01
Health and safety reports, 1942-1971	box 01
Las Vegas South Gypsum and Option Agreement including maps and contracts, 1969-1972	box 01
"Mining Notebook brought down from the mine" report, 1973-1977	box 01
Mine operations and location claims, including correspondence, copy of a diary, and reports, 1872-1970	box 01
"Notebook from the mine: Information about tram, tram wrecks, crusher, and more", 1955-1989 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 02
Community Calendars, 1970-2012	oversized box 06

Physical Description: 3 Files

Environmental reports and documentation	
Assembly Government Affairs Committee SB358 Briefing Manual Prepared by Rhodes Homes report, 2003 May 09 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 02
Draft Feasibility Report, James Hardie Industries, Bureau of Land Management Las Vegas Vegas Field Office N-66215, 2002 August	box 02
Draft Feasibility Report, James Hardie Inc., Bureau of Land Management Las Vegas Field Office N-66215, 2002 September	box 02
Environmental Assessment, James Hardie Gypsum Land Exchange, Case File N-66215 preliminary draft reports, 2000 March 24	box 03
Environmental impact and archaeological reports, 1990 February, 1994	box 03
Final Environmental Impact Statement: Blue Diamond South Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project, 1996 December	box 03
Gypsum Mine reclamation plans, 1993 March, 2011 June 29	box 03
Land use reports, 1996 July 11, 2007 July	box 03
Proposed General Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Red Rock National Conservation Area, 1999 July	box 03
Water rights and usage reports, 2001 March, 2014	box 04
Post Office history CD, photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and government documents, 1942-2012	box 04
Visual material	
"Aerials" album, 1955-1988	box 04
"Arden Mines" album, undated	box 04
Blue Diamond Company and village album, undated	box 04
"In Memory of Dick and Jim Werner" scrapbook by Ray Phelps, 1994 May	box 04
Photo albums, 1920s-1991 Physical Description: 2 Items	box 05
Gypsum Journey-From Mine to Finished Product photo album, 1940s-1960s	box 04
Oversize maps of Blue Diamond Mine and village, undated Physical Description: 2 Items	oversized box 07 flat file 08
Oversize photographs of Blue Diamond Mine and village, undated	oversized box 07
Photo albums, 1930s-1960s	box 04