



Guide to the Gerald Schaffer Professional Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Schaffer, Gerald, 1924-2018
Title:	Gerald Schaffer Professional Papers
ID:	MS-01065
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1949 to 1999
Physical Description:	11.95 Cubic Feet (15 boxes, 3 oversized boxes)
Physical Description:	12.56 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Gerald Schaffer Professional Papers (approximately 1949-1999) contain materials from Schaffer's time working as a political executive assistant, private sector consultant, and developer of commercial, residential, and gaming projects throughout Clark County, Nevada. The collection includes newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence, and administrative files from Schaffer's time working as an executive assistant for Nevada Congressman Walter S. Baring Jr. Schaffer's work with organizations is represented through programs, photographs, and correspondence. Documents relating to his work as Commissioner of Public Housing on the Clark County Public Housing Authority, service as Clark County Planning Commissioner, and as a commercial and residential developer in Las Vegas are also present in the collection.

Preferred Citation

Gerald Schaffer Professional Papers, approximately 1949-1999. MS-01065. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Gerald "Jerry" Schaffer held leadership positions in various companies, governmental boards and authorities, as well as public service agencies in Clark County, Nevada. A resident of Las Vegas, Nevada since 1954, Schaffer helped shape Nevada in a number of ways.

Born February 18, 1924, Gerald Schaffer served in the United States Marines during World War II and was assigned to New Zealand, Tutuila Samoa, Guam, and many other locations. He was honorably discharged in 1945. When he returned from the war, he began working for Paramount Pictures in New York City, New York; Detroit, Michigan; and Chicago, Illinois as a Public Relations and Government Affairs Consultant. He moved to MGM Studios in Los Angeles, California to work in a similar position.

His first time serving in a political capacity was as a volunteer for Harry Truman's 1948 presidential campaign. Schaffer later advanced to become the Executive Assistant to United States Congressman Walter S. Baring Jr. Baring served as Nevada's Congressman between 1949 and 1973, and was known for his conservative views and leading the opposition to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. After Baring retired, Schaffer served as Commissioner of Public Housing on the Clark County Public Housing Authority, Clark County Planning Commissioner, and member of the Clark County Comprehensive Plan and Steering Committee.

Throughout his life, Schaffer volunteered for organizations including the Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital (CARIH) in Denver, Colorado; City of Hope Medical Institute in Duarte, California; International Footprinter Association; Nevada Constables Association; Nevada Peace Officers Association; and many more. He also worked closely with the Jewish War Veterans Post No. 711 in Las Vegas which hosted charitable events and programs for veterans in the region. Schaffer was instrumental in securing over one million dollars in private contributions to fund student scholarships at both University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Upon leaving public office, Schaffer worked as a developer and was instrumental in the development of commercial, residential, and gaming projects covering more than 3,000 acres.

Gerald Schaffer passed away in Las Vegas on May 31, 2018.

Sources:

Donor provided biographical information.

Gerald Schaffer Professional Papers, approximately 1954-1999. MS-01065. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Gerald Schaffer Professional Papers (approximately 1949-1999) contain materials from Schaffer's time working as a political executive assistant, private sector consultant, and developer of commercial, residential, and gaming projects throughout Clark County, Nevada. The collection includes newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence, and administrative files from Schaffer's time working as an executive assistant for Nevada Congressman Walter S. Baring Jr. The collection also contains administrative files and correspondence from Schaffer's work on campaigns for Jean Dutton, Harry Reid, Richard Bryan, and Joe LaVoie.

Schaffer's work with organizations including the Nevada Peace Officers, the Nevada Constables Association, International Footprint Association, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, and others is represented through programs, photographs, and correspondence. He also performed consultant work for the Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital (CARIH) in Denver, Colorado and City of Hope Medical Institute in Duarte, California. Documents relating to his work as Commissioner of Public Housing on the Clark County Public Housing Authority, service as Clark County Planning Commissioner, and as a commercial and residential developer in Las Vegas are also present in the collection.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by topic.

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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 2021 and 2022 by Sandra Schaffer; accession numbers 2021-098 and 2022-022.

Processing Note

In 2021, Sarah Jones rehoused the collection and created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2022, Sarah Jones added an additional box of material to the collection. This collection is minimally processed.

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Politics and government
- Political campaigns
- Real estate development -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Golden Gloves Tournament
- Constables
- Baring, Walter S. (Walter Stephan), 1911-1975
- Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital (Denver, Colo.)
- Nevada Constables Association
- Nevada Peace Officers
- Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Inc.

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Political papers	
State of Nevada Executive Department certificate confirming election of Walter S. Baring to Congress, 1948 November 02	oversized box 17
Political newsclippings related to Walter S. Baring's loss of 1972 election, 1972	box 08
Physical Description: 3 Files	box 09
Walter S. Baring political campaign donation records, 1972	box 08
Physical Description: 2 Files	
Walter S. Baring at the "Man of the Year" event at Dunes Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: contact sheets, 1971 to 1972	box 10

Walter S. Baring campaign and congressional memorabilia, stationary, and photographic prints, 1960 to 1972	box 10
Walter S. Baring and Gerald Schaffer: photographic prints, 1960 to 1972	box 10 box 18
Walter S. Baring declaration of candidacy letter, 1972	box 18
Newspaper clippings reporting death of Walter S. Baring, 1975 July	oversized box 17
Political correspondence and newsclippings related to Walter S. Baring's career, approximately 1960 to 1973 Physical Description: 8 Files	box 11 box 12
Woody Cole, Joe LaVoie, and Walter S. Baring campaign signs, approximately 1960 to 1969 Physical Description: 5 Items	oversized box 17
Incoming correspondence to Gerald Schaffer in various political capacities, approximately 1954 to 1999 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 12
<i>Congressional Record</i> published proceedings and debates of the 90th Congress, 1967 March 15	box 11
<i>Political Concerns and Candidate Awareness and Image Among Voters in Nevada as Related to the 1972 U.S. Representative Campaign</i> by Haug Associates, Inc., 1972 July Physical Description: 3 Items	box 11
House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 2nd Session, 91st Congress: photographic print, approximately 1969	oversized box 17
1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, Mexico administrative files, 1968	box 01
1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, Mexico: photographic prints, 1968	box 01
Autographed scrapbook from Schaffer's trip to Mexico for the 1968 Summer Olympics, 1968	oversized box 15
Gambling tax petition newsclippings, 1965	box 10
Various Nevada politicians: photographic prints and negatives, 1954 to 1965	box 12
<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> reporting on Richard Ham campaign, 1975 July 15	oversized box 17
"Committee to Elect Jean Dutton" political campaign donation records, correspondence, and photographs, 1974 Physical Description: 7 Files	box 01 box 18
Letter from inaugural Hughes Airwest flight, 1972	box 18
Clark County Sanitation letter to Gerald Schaffer, 1971 December 03	box 18
<i>Nevada Democrat</i> publication, 1972 April	box 18

Affiliated professional organizations	
American G.I. Forum programs and photographic prints, 1961	box 02
"Golden Gloves" programs and photographic prints, 1959 to 1965	box 02
Las Vegas, Nevada "Golden Gloves" advertisement posters for 1959, 1965, and 1966, 1959 to 1966 Physical Description: 6 Items	oversized box 17
Nevada All-Star Football game program and photographic prints, 1959 to 1960	box 02
Nevada Constables Association annual convention programs, 1960 to 1971 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 02
Nevada Constables Association photographic prints, 1960 to 1971 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 02 box 03
Nevada Constables Association correspondence and political endorsements, 1960 to 1971 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 02 box 18
Membership registry book (possibly Nevada Constables Association), 1949 to 1962	box 18
Lionel, Sawyer, and Collins Invitational program, 1993	box 18
Nevada Peace Officers newspaper clippings and convention photographs, 1961 to 1970	box 03
Nevada Peace Officers annual programs, 1961 to 1963	box 03
International Footprint Association correspondence and newsletters, 1966 to 1969	box 03
Daylite Lodge No. 44 membership file, 1971 to 1977	box 03
Nevada Chapter of Jaycees annual program, 1962	box 03
Jewish War Veterans of the United States Post No. 711 Las Vegas, Nevada: correspondence, programs, and photographic prints, 1959 to 1960	box 03
B'nai B'rith photographs and material, 1960 to 1979	box 03
"Israel support function" event slides with Jackie Rosen, 1980 to 1989	box 18
<i>Southern Cross: the Official Newspaper of the Diocese of San Diego</i> file, 1979	box 05
American Lung Association file, 1974 to 1988	box 05
Scrapbook with newsclippings related to Nevada Peace Officers, Nevada Constables Association, Golden Gloves, and International Footprint Association, approximately 1960 to 1969	oversized box 16
Scrapbook with newsclippings related to the Police Protective Association's annual North-South Football game, and Nevada Chapter of City of Hope, 1959 to 1960	oversized box 15

City of Hope luncheon and nuclear medicine tour, Los Angeles, California: photographic prints, 1959 to 1969	box 04
Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital (CARIH) files, 1960 to 1979	box 04
Physical Description: 5 Files	box 05
	box 18
Schaffer and others at various events around Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1980 to 1999	box 14
Southern Nevada materials	
Schaffer's work as a developer, 1974 to 1999	box 06
Physical Description: 11 Files	box 07
	box 13
Midby-Byron awards: correspondence and photographic prints, 1980 to 1999	box 05
UNLV Foundation dinner information and program, 1990 November 02	box 05
"Old Nevada 1950s and 1960s" photographic prints, clippings, and correspondence, 1950 to 1969	box 03
Helldorado Days: proclamation and photographic prints and negatives, 1956 to 1969	box 03
Physical Description: 2 Files	box 04
Scrapbook with newsclippings related to 1956 Helldorado Parade which featured a number of notable people including Rex Bell and William Boyd as Grand Marshalls, Stan Irwin, and Joe LaVoie, approximately 1956 to 1959	oversized box 16
"Majestic Mt. Charleston" scrapbook from the Nevada Development Authority, 1966	oversized box 15
Mt. Charleston recreation park proposal, 1965	box 18
Personal papers	
Schaffer correspondence, personal, 1954 to 1989	box 05
Schaffer family documents, 1980 to 1989	box 05
Zodiac and horoscope informational materials, 1960 to 1969	box 05
<i>LIFE Magazine</i> 1970s special issue, 1979 December	box 04