

Guide to the Cliff Trenier Papers

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1kj5s>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Trenier, Cliff, 1919-1983
Title:	Cliff Trenier Papers
ID:	MS-01137
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1950 to 1999
Physical Description:	2.47 Cubic Feet (6 boxes, 2 shared boxes)
Physical Description:	4.58 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Cliff Trenier Papers (approximately 1950-1999) document the life and career of Clifton "Cliff" Trenier, who performed with various siblings across the United States beginning in the 1940s. The collection contains photographs of Cliff with his twin brother Claude performing, documents and newspaper clippings relating to the musical group's tours and their numerous performances in Las Vegas, Nevada including at the Moulin Rouge. Also included in the collection are photographs of Cliff's wife, Bedez, and correspondence between the couple up until Cliff's illness and death in 1983.

Preferred Citation

Cliff Trenier Papers, approximately 1950-1999. MS-01137. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1kj5s>

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Biographical Note

"The Treniers," or later "The Rockin' Rollin' Treniers," was a band based around twins Clifton L. "Cliff" Trenier and Claude Oliver Trenier. They were born in Mobile, Alabama. In 1943, Claude Trenier joined Jimmie Lunceford's band as lead singer, and Cliff joined a year later. However, the twins left the Lunceford band in 1947 and began performing together as the Trenier Twins, backed by the Gene Gilbeaux Quartet and made their first recordings for Mercury Records in 1947.

The group developed a reputation for their lively performances. In 1949, they were joined by older brother Buddy Trenier, and started to be billed as "The Rockin' Rollin' Treniers."

They had their only national chart hit in 1951, when "Go! Go! Go!" reached number ten on the R&B chart, but several other records including "It Rocks! It Rolls! It Swings!" (1952) and "Rockin' Is Our Bizness" (1953) were popular. The group was considered a strong influence on many of their contemporaries, and one of the first times rock and roll appeared on national television was in May 1954 when the Treniers appeared on the Colgate Comedy Hour, hosted by Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis.

Sources:

"Milt Trenier - Biography" Milton Trenier's Homepage. <http://www.rockabilly.net/milttrenier/bio.shtml>

"The Treniers" Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Treniers

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Scope and Contents Note

The Cliff Trenier Papers (approximately 1950-1999) document the life and career of Clifton "Cliff" Trenier, who performed with various siblings across the United States beginning in the 1940s. The collection contains photographs of Cliff with his twin brother Claude performing, documents and newspaper clippings relating to the musical group's tours and their numerous performances in Las Vegas, Nevada including at the Moulin Rouge. The collection also contains posters and vinyl records from movies featuring The Treniers' music. Also included in the collection are photographs of Cliff's wife, Bedez, and correspondence between the couple up until Cliff's illness and death in 1983.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged in rough chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were purchased from Vigilante Rare Documents (via Gregory Bock) in 2023 and 2024; accession numbers 2023-001 and 2024-054.

Appraisal Note

Acquired by Director of Special Collections and Archives, Sarah Quigley, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings on African Americans in Las Vegas. All material that formed the original gift has been retained.

Processing Note

In 2023, Sarah Jones rehoused the material and created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2024, Sarah Jones rehoused and arranged the 2024 accession and updated the finding aid.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Claude Trenier oral history interview, 1997 February 13. OH-01843. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Claude, Buddy, and Skip Trenier oral history interview, 1978 March 10. OH-03347. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Frontier Hotel and Casino Collection, 1942-1988. MS-00297. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Rhythm and blues music
- African Americans -- Music
- Trenier, Cliff, 1919-1983
- Trenier, Claude
- Treniers (Musical group)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Newspaper clippings related to The Treniers performances, 1950 to 1999	box 01
Souvenir photograph with members of the Treniers and associates at Restaurant Sans Souci, Havana, Cuba, 1950 to 1959	box 01
Frank Senne's Moulin Rouge program, menu, and wine list, Hollywood, California, 1950 to 1959	box 01
The Treniers performing, backstage, and with friends and family: photographic prints, approximately 1950 to 1989 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 02
Signed headshots addressed to The Treniers: photographic prints, approximately 1950 to 1979	box 02
Newspaper clippings related to The Treniers performances in Los Angeles, California and Boston, Massachusetts, 1950 to 1975	oversized folder box 03 SH-085
Bede Trenier: photographic prints, approximately 1950 to 1979	box 02 oversized folder box 03 SH-085
The Treniers performing onstage or being interviewed: photographic prints, 1950 to 1980	box 02

Apollo Theatre (New York, New York) payroll breakdown, 1954 November 17	box 01
Correspondence to The Treniers, 1955 to 1983	box 01
<i>Life</i> magazine featuring two dancers at the Moulin Rouge in Las Vegas, Nevada, 1955 June 20	oversized box SH-085 folder 03
"The Treniers at the Moulin Rouge" Christmas gift to Cliff Trenier from Billie and Seymour Heller: photograph album, 1957 December	box 01
Correspondence from Cliff Trenier to Bedez Trenier , 1957 to 1982	box 01
Grant deed, escrow documents and insurance for Cliff and Bedez Trenier's Los Angeles, California property, 1963 October to 1963 November	box 01
Document permitting Clifton Trenier to reside at the Hotel Americana in Puerto Rico, 1965 October	box 01
Telegram memo to Cliff Trenier and paycheck to Bedez Trenier for Christmas gifts, 1966 December 05 to 1966 December 07	box 01
Bill of sale and escrow information for 2208 San Jose Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1973	box 01
The Treniers itinerary for 1973-74 tour, 1973 to 1974	box 01
Escrow statement for 8707 Gramercy Place, Los Angeles, California, 1973 February 28	box 01
Claude and Cliff Trenier life insurance correspondence, 1974 June to 1974 July	box 01
<i>Where</i> cover featuring The Treniers performing at the Milt Trenier Lounge, 600 North Lakeshore Drive in Chicago, Illinois, 1977 August 20	box 01
13th and 17th Annual "Nite of the Stars" programs benefitting St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1979 to 1983	box 01
Binion's Ranch Thanksgiving Menu, approximately 1980 to 1999	oversized box SH-085 folder 03
Members of the Trenier family gathered outside: photographic prints, approximately 1980 to 1982	box 02
Newspaper clippings related to the illness and death of Cliff Trenier, 1982 to 1983	oversized box SH-085 folder 03
Declaration of homestead at 2208 San Jose Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1982 October 19	box 01
Ticket stubs for two Cliff Trenier tribute shows in Las Vegas, Nevada, 1982 November 05, 1983 April 17	box 01
"A Tribute to Cliff Trenier" advertisement and newsclipping, 1983 April	box 01
Musicians Union of Las Vegas Local No. 369 "Cliff Trenier Honorary Member", 1983	box 01

Condolence correspondence to Trenier family after Clifton's death, 1983 February	box 01
Las Vegas, Nevada property title documents for Clifton and Bedez Trenier, 1983 July 27	box 01
Interview with Claude Trenier conducted by <i>Roctober</i> and <i>Screamin'</i> magazines: photocopies, 1990 to 1999	box 01
Books written by Pearl Bailey, signed by Bailey and addressed to Cliff, Bedez, and Lorrell Trenier, 1971 to 1975 Physical Description: 3 Items	box 04
Baby books for Bedez Trenier and Lorrell Trenier, 1911, 1960	box 04
Red jewelry box with "Cliff Trenier" stamped in gold; contains dice from Nevada Club and cuff links for Trenier, approximately 1940 to 1959	box 04
Photographs of Barry Manilow, Lola Falana, Paul Anka, and Liberace's house in loose scrapbook pages, approximately 1970 to 1979	box 04
Las Vegas, Nevada restaurant menus, tabletop cards, and show programs, approximately 1950 to 1989	box 04
Black velvet hat (presumably belonging to Cliff Trenier), undated	box 07
Family photographs, mostly Lorrell and Bedez Trenier, approximately 1970 to 1989 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 05
Photograph album pages of Trenier performances, approximately 1950 to 1959	box 05
Business cards and coupons for Las Vegas, Nevada businesses and individuals, approximately 1970 to 1989	box 05
Newspaper clippings related to the Treniers and Liberace, 1950 to 2010	box 05
"Gaming Guides" for Las Vegas, Nevada casinos, approximately 1950 to 1979	box 05
Correspondence to Lorrell Trenier, approximately 1970 to 1979	box 05
Correspondece to Bedez Trenier from Cliff and Lorrell, approximately 1960 to 1989	box 05
Correspondence to the Treniers relating to performances and payments, 1978 to 1981	box 08
Invoices and receipts from Cliff Trenier's travel, 1979 to 1980	box 08
Letter signed by Pearl Bailey addressed to "friends", 1973	box 08
Cliff Trenier Benefit Performance correspondence and financials, 1983	box 08
Personal correspondence to and from Cliff Trenier and family papers, approximately 1970 to 1983	box 08
Financials and correspondence regarding the Trenier rental property in Los Angeles, approximately 1970 to 1989	box 08
Milt Trenier and The Treniers 78rpm records, approximately 1960 to 1989	

Physical Description: 4 Items

box
SH-083

Posters, sheet music, advertisements, and other ephemera related to movies
that featured music by The Treniers, approximately 1950 to 1969

oversized folder
box 03
SH-085

flat file
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