



Guide to the Las Vegas Ambassadors Collection

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1020s>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	LaFavor, Harry
Title:	Las Vegas Ambassadors Collection
ID:	MS-01195
Date [inclusive]:	1968 to 1985
Physical Description:	0.66 Cubic Feet (1 oversized box)
Physical Description:	1.35 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Las Vegas Ambassadors Collection (1968-1985) primarily consists of a scrapbook, newspaper articles, and photographs documenting the activities of the Las Vegas Ambassadors youth singing group. The materials were compiled by Harry LaFavor, the Ambassadors' business manager, who co-founded the group with Norman Kaye and Richie Astone to promote a positive image of Las Vegas. The collection also includes a songbook, vinyl record and ¼" tape recording, and promotional materials.

Preferred Citation

Las Vegas Ambassadors Collection, 1968-1985. MS-01195. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1020s>

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Historical Background

The Las Vegas Ambassadors were a youth singing group formed in 1968 by business manager Harry LaFavor, music director Norman Kaye, and choreographer Richie Astone. The members of the Ambassadors were middle school, high school, and college students from throughout the Las Vegas Valley, selected by audition and ranging in age from 11 to 21 years old. LaFavor, Kaye, and Astone created the group with the goal of promoting a positive image of Las Vegas through the local youth entertainers.

The Las Vegas Ambassadors performed at local community events, fundraisers, holiday parties, political rallies, and conventions. They frequently performed weekend matinee shows at casinos on the Las Vegas Strip. The group also traveled across the United States and internationally, showcasing their talents and promoting Las Vegas in places such as Hawaii and Tokyo, Japan. The Ambassadors' repertoire consisted mostly of original songs composed by music director and third Poet Laureate of Nevada, Norman Kaye.

Harry LaFavor resigned as business manager of the Las Vegas Ambassadors in February 1970. The group continued performing under the direction of Norman Kaye and Richie Astone and signed a recording contract with Kings Recording Company in 1970. The Las Vegas Ambassadors recorded several singles under their contract, with their song "And So For Now, Aloha" becoming a hit single in Hawaii in late 1970. The group continued auditioning new members, performing concerts, and making recordings for the next three years. In July 1973, the three founding partners agreed to disband the Las Vegas Ambassadors.

Source:

Duke, Forrest. "Las Vegas Ambassadors Tidal Wave in Hawaii!" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, August 1, 1970. NewsBank.

The Las Vegas Ambassadors Songbook. Vic Vegas Music Publishing Company, 1970.

Valder, Ann. "We Heard." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, May 23, 1970. NewsBank.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Las Vegas Ambassadors Collection (1968-1985) primarily consists of a scrapbook, newspaper articles, and photographs documenting the activities of the Las Vegas Ambassadors youth singing group. The materials were compiled by Harry LaFavor, the group's business manager. The scrapbook contains correspondence, newspaper articles, performance advertisements, photographs, and a 45 rpm vinyl recording of the Ambassadors. The collection also includes a proclamation from Governor Richard H. Bryan to commemorate Harry LaFavor's fiftieth birthday, as well as a ¼" audio tape recording.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. The donor, Mike LaFavor, transferred all right, title and interest they had in the Las Vegas Ambassadors Collection (MS-01195) to UNLV. However, some material may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Acknowledgement of the UNLV University Libraries is requested. For more information, please see the UNLV Special Collections policies on [reproductions and use](#) or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2024 by Mike LaFavor; accession number 2024-109.

Appraisal Note

Acquired by Su Kim Chung, curator, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings on entertainment. All material that formed the original gift has been retained.

Processing Note

In 2024, Landon Paljusaj accessioned the collection, refoldered the materials, arranged and described the collection, and created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Norman Kaye Papers, 1952-1969. MS-00131. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1q59r>

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Names and Subjects

- Entertainers
- Scrapbook
- photographs
- Vocal groups
- Las Vegas Ambassadors

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Scrapbook compiled by Harry LaFavor, 1968 to 1970	oversized box 01
Las Vegas Ambassadors songbook, newspaper clippings, and photographic prints, 1968 to 1970	oversized box 01
"Client: Pride of Las Vegas," 1/4" audio tape recording, 1970 November 19 Physical Description: 1 Reels	oversized box 01
Proclamation from Governor Richard H. Bryan to Harry LaFavor, 1985 April 25	oversized box 01