

Guide to the Joan Adams Shoofey Papers

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f15z1p>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Shoofey, Joan Adams, 1936-
Title:	Joan Adams Shoofey Papers
ID:	MS-01244
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1943 to 2024
Physical Description:	0.23 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Physical Description:	0.21 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Joan Adams Shoofey Papers (approximately 1943-2024) consist of photographs, newspaper clippings, and written anecdotes documenting the life of Las Vegas, Nevada beauty queen, public relations professional, and entrepreneur Joan Adams Shoofey. The photographs detail various aspects of Shoofey's life, including marriages, social events, beauty pageants, and businesses. Notable local and national celebrities and politicians featured in the images include Elvis Presley, Don Rickles, Tom Jones, Sam Boyd, Paul Laxalt, Oscar Goodman, and Oran Gragson, among others.

Preferred Citation

Joan Adams Shoofey Papers, approximately 1943-2024. MS-01244. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f15z1p>

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Biographical Note

Born in Fresno, California, Joan Adams Shoofey moved to Stateline, Nevada after graduating from high school, where she and a friend ran the Stateline Country Club. Shoofey moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1955, where she competed in beauty pageants and earned the title of Miss Sahara Hotel, and later, Miss Nevada. She worked in public relations as an entertainment coordinator at the Sahara, and later went on to hold that role at the Flamingo and the International. She

married Alex Shoofey in 1962 and the couple had a daughter, Teri Shoofey, before divorcing in the 1970s. In addition to her work in public relations, Shoofey was an entrepreneur and ran multiple businesses. As of 2026, Joan Adams Shoofey resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Source:

Joan Adams Shoofey oral history interview, 2024 January 30. OH-03915. Audio recording. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1447c>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Joan Adams Shoofey Papers (approximately 1943-2024) consist of photographs, newspaper clippings, and written anecdotes documenting the life of Las Vegas, Nevada beauty queen, public relations professional, and entrepreneur Joan Adams Shoofey. The photographs detail various aspects of Shoofey's life, including marriages, social events, beauty pageants, and businesses. Notable local and national celebrities and politicians featured in the images include Elvis Presley, Don Rickles, Tom Jones, Sam Boyd, Paul Laxalt, Oscar Goodman, and Oran Gragson, among others.

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Arrangement

Material is arranged by topic.

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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. Material in this collection 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. Please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives (special.collections@unlv.edu) for additional information.

Acquisition Note

Donated in 2026 by Joan Adams Shoofey; accession number 2026-072.

Appraisal Note

Acquired by Stefani Evans, Oral History Research Center project manager, to supplement Joan Adams Shoofey's oral history interview with UNLV Special Collections and Archives. All material that formed the original gift has been retained.

Processing Note

In 2026, Landon Paljusaj rehoused, arranged, and described the materials, and wrote 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:

Joan Adams Shoofey oral history interview, 2024 January 30. OH-03915. [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. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1447c>

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Names and Subjects

- Beauty contestants
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- Social life and customs
- Women -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Entrepreneurship

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographs of Joan Adams Shoofey's childhood, personal belongings, and home, approximately 1943 to 1980	box 01
Photographs and publicity of beauty pageants, including Miss Sahara Hotel and Miss Nevada, 1956 to 1959	box 01
Photographs of Joan Adams Shoofey with Las Vegas and national celebrities and politicians, approximately 1956 to 1985	box 01
Newspaper clippings and photographs of Joan Adams Shoofey's businesses, marriage to Alex Shoofey, and various events, 1962 to 1987	box 01
Written anecdotes with photographs, approximately 1970 to 2024	box 01
Biographical information, notes, and correspondence regarding Shoofey's oral history interview, approximately 1990 to 2024	box 01