



## Guide to the James A. "Jimmy" Gay III oral history interview

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Gay, James A., III, 1916-1999
<b>Contributor:</b>	Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas
<b>Contributor:</b>	Black Experience in Southern Nevada
<b>Title:</b>	James A. "Jimmy" Gay III oral history interview
<b>ID:</b>	OH-00664
<b>Date:</b>	1973
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2 Digital Files (0.063 GB) MP3, PDF
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Oral history interview with James A. (Jimmy Gay) Gay III conducted by Joyce M. Wright in 1973 for the Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas. In this interview, Gay recalls details about his education in Arkansas and his training in mortuary science in Chicago, Illinois and discusses the nine-year delay in obtaining his license to practice as a mortician in Nevada because of racial discrimination. He recounts his move to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1946, his experiences as a recreation director and as a personnel and communications director for the hotel industry, work that he took while waiting for his licensure to practice. He also talks about his career as a mortician with Palm Mortuary in Las Vegas, the atomic testing of the 1950s and 1960s, and his long involvement with the NAACP and the Freedom Fund. He closes by reciting two poems that have inspired him and express his philosophy.

### Preferred Citation

James A. "Jimmy" Gay III oral history interview, 1973. OH-00664. [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.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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Oral history interview with James A. (Jimmy Gay) Gay III conducted by Joyce M. Wright in 1973 for the Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas. In this interview, Gay recalls details about his education in Arkansas and his training in mortuary science in Chicago, Illinois and discusses the nine-year delay in obtaining his license to practice as a mortician in Nevada because of racial discrimination. He recounts his move to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1946, his experiences as a recreation director and as a personnel and communications director for the hotel industry, work that he took while waiting for his licensure to practice. He also talks about his career as a mortician with Palm Mortuary in Las Vegas, the atomic testing of the 1950s and 1960s, and his long involvement with the NAACP and the Freedom Fund. He closes by reciting two poems that have inspired him and express his philosophy. Digital audio available; digital transcript available.

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## Administrative Information

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### 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

University of Nevada, Las Vegas History Professor Ralph Roske donated materials for this oral history project to UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in the 1980s.

### Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2015, 2017, and 2018. Miguel Dominguez wrote the collection description. The audio cassette(s) for this interview have been reformatted by an external vendor into a digital format. MP3 files of the audio are available for research use. The audio and transcript has been minimally reviewed and all readily available information has been included in the description.

## **Bound Transcript Availability**

A bound transcript is available for use in University Libraries Special Collections and Archives.  
See call number: F 849.L35 G39.

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## **Names and Subjects**

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- Oral histories (document genres)
- Education
- Race discrimination
- Atomic bomb -- Testing