



Guide to the George Ward oral history interview

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Ward, George, Jr., 1926-2000
Contributor:	Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas
Title:	George Ward oral history interview
ID:	OH-01909
Date:	1978 March 11
Physical Description:	2 Digital Files (0.085 GB) MP3
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interview with George Ward conducted by Charles P. Hall on March 11, 1978 for the Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas. In this interview, Ward discusses moving to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1942 and his experience in the city as an African American. Ward describes the jobs African Americans were hired for in Las Vegas during the 1940s and his teaching career. He describes segregation and discrimination in the school system and in casinos. He also talks about how African American police officers were only allowed to patrol West Las Vegas, housing availability, and organized crime in the city. Lastly, Ward talks about his involvement in local politics, the beginnings of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the development of Las Vegas.

Preferred Citation

George Ward oral history interview, 1978 March 11. OH-01909. [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

Oral history interview with George Ward conducted by Charles P. Hall on March 11, 1978 for the Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas. In this interview, Ward discusses moving to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1942 and his experience in the city as an African American. Ward describes

what jobs African Americans were hired for in Las Vegas during the 1940s and his teaching career. He talks about segregation in the Las Vegas school system, specifically the schools on the west side of the city where many African Americans lived. Ward discusses the racial discrimination famous African American entertainers like Sammy Davis Jr. and Nat King Cole experienced at the venues in which they performed. He also talks about how African American police officers were only allowed to patrol West Las Vegas, housing availability, and organized crime in the city. Lastly, Ward talks about his involvement in local politics, the beginnings of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the development of Las Vegas. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

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Administrative Information

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.

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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 2017 and 2018. Kyle Gagnon 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 has been minimally reviewed and all readily available information has been included in the description.

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- African Americans -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Segregation -- Nevada
- Segregation in education
- Organized crime -- Las Vegas (Nev)
- Cities and towns -- Growth
- Entertainers