

# Guide to the C. D. Williams oral history interview

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## **Summary Information**

**Repository:** University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special

Collections and Archives.

**Creator:** Williams, C.D. (Clarence Douglas), 1918-1992

**Contributor:** Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas

**Title:** C. D. Williams oral history interview

**ID:** OH-01985

**Date:** 1975 July 07

Physical 2
Description:

2 Digital Files (0.095 GB) MP3

Language of the Material:

English

Abstract:

Oral history interview with C. D. Williams conducted by Edwin R. Smith on July 07, 1975 for the Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas. In this interview, Williams discusses his career as a firefighter in Las Vegas, Nevada and the history of the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Department. He describes his early history, moving to Las Vegas in 1942, and how he obtained his position in the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Department. Williams also describes his training, the equipment they utilized, and how that equipment, as well as the fire department itself, has changed over time. He tells anecdotes of calls and his experiences in the department. Williams explains how the construction of the Basic Magnesium Plant and Nellis Air Force Base affected the fire department. He talks about how and why the Clark County Fire Department and North Las Vegas Fire Department were established, and how Las Vegas casinos paid the city for fire protection. Lastly, Williams discusses being drafted during World War II and his service as a military fire fighter.

## **Preferred Citation**

C. D. Williams oral history interview, 1975 July 07. OH-01985. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## **Scope and Contents Note**

Oral history interview with C. D. Williams conducted by Edwin R. Smith on July 07, 1975 for the Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas. In this interview, Williams discusses his career as a firefighter in Las Vegas, Nevada and the history of the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Department. He describes his early history, moving to Las Vegas in 1942, and how he obtained his position in the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Department. Williams also describes his training, the equipment they utilized, and how that equipment, as well as the fire department itself, has changed over time. He tells anecdotes of calls and his experiences in the department. Williams explains how the construction of the Basic Magnesium Plant and Nellis Air Force Base affected the fire department. He talks about how and why the Clark County Fire Department and North Las Vegas Fire Department were established, and how Las Vegas casinos paid the city for fire protection. Lastly, Williams discusses being drafted during World War II and his service as a military fire fighter. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

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#### **Administrative Information**

#### **Access Note**

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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 2019. 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.

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# **Names and Subjects**

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Fire fighters
- Veterans
- Fire departments
- Casinos