



Guide to the Merle Frehner oral history interviews

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 25, 2026. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1177g>

© 2026 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	5

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Frehner, Merle, 1905-1994
Contributor:	UNLV University Libraries Oral History Collection
Title:	Merle Frehner oral history interviews
ID:	OH-02062
Date:	1981 January 17
Date:	1981 January 19
Physical Description:	8 Digital Files (0.327 GB) MP3
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interviews with Merle Frehner conducted by Elisabeth Nelson Patrick January 17, 1981 and January 19, 1981 for the UNLV University Libraries Oral History Collection. In the first interview, Frehner talks about his upbringing in Littlefield, Arizona and moving to St. Thomas, Nevada. He talks about driving heavy-duty freight wagons, transporting mining supplies, and the formation of a school district in St. Thomas. Frehner remembers the entertainment in St. Thomas during the 1920s, recreational activities, and commuting to Overton, Nevada to attend high school. Lastly, Frehner describes the local businesses in St. Thomas, miners residing in the town, and the town's growing popularity after the construction of Arrowhead Trail (U. S. Highway 91). In the last interview, Frehner discusses transporting produce to Las Vegas, Nevada and Tonopah, Nevada during the late 1920s, the construction of Hoover Dam, and Lake Mead water levels overtaking St. Thomas.

Preferred Citation

Merle Frehner oral history interviews, 1981 January 17, 1981 January 19. OH-02062. [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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

Oral history interviews with Merle Frehner conducted by Elisabeth Nelson Patrick January 17, 1981 and January 19, 1981 for the UNLV University Libraries Oral History Collection. In the first interview, Frehner talks about his upbringing in Littlefield, Arizona and moving to St. Thomas, Nevada. He talks about driving heavy-duty freight wagons, transporting mining supplies, and the formation of a school district in St. Thomas. Frehner remembers the entertainment in St. Thomas during the 1920s, recreational activities, and commuting to Overton, Nevada to attend high school. Lastly, Frehner describes the local businesses in St. Thomas, miners residing in the town, and the town's growing popularity after the construction of Arrowhead Trail (U. S. Highway 91). In the last interview, Frehner discusses transporting produce to Las Vegas, Nevada and Tonopah, Nevada during the late 1920s, the construction of Hoover Dam, and Lake Mead water levels overtaking St. Thomas. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

No release form is on file for this interview. The interview is accessible onsite only, and researchers must seek permission from the interviewee or heirs for quotation, reproduction, or publication. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for further information.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish. Some transcripts do not exist in final form, therefore any editing marks in a transcript (deletions, additions, corrections) are to be quoted as marked.

Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted by the Oral History Research Center (OHRC) which is part of the UNLV University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Division.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2019. 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 has been minimally reviewed and all readily available information has been included in the description.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this interview:

Merle and Beulah Frehner Photograph Collection, 1905-1955. PH-00026. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Merle Frehner Map of St. Thomas, Nevada, 1981. MS-00047. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Saint Thomas (Nev.)
- Overton (Nev.)
- Cities and towns -- Growth
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Ariz. and Nev.)
- Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)