



Guide to the Clarence Ray oral history interview

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Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives. |
| Creator: | Ray, Clarence, 1900-1993 |
| Contributor: | African Americans in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project |
| Title: | Clarence Ray oral history interview |
| ID: | OH-02432 |
| Date: | 1991 |
| Physical Description: | 1 Digital Files (0.059 GB) PDF/A |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | Oral history interview with Clarence Ray conducted by Eleanor L. Walker in 1991 for the African American in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project. In this interview, Ray provides details of his ancestry and upbringing, his education, and race relations in the western United States before 1930. He then moves on to his first visit to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1922, and his movements before settling permanently in the 1940s. He explains that the main source of employment for the relatively small Black population during the 1920s and early 1930s was the railroad, but a number were also in business. Mr. Ray provides thumbnail sketches of many of the early residents, and is particularly informative about "Mammy" Pinkston, Mary Nettles, the Stevens family, and the Ensley family. Systemic racial discrimination against Blacks developed in southern Nevada during the 1930s, and Mr. Ray provides some useful details on this along with his discussion of his career in gaming and his social and political activities. |

Preferred Citation

Clarence Ray oral history interview, 1991. OH-02432. [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 Clarence Ray conducted by Eleanor L. Walker in 1991 for the African American in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project. In this interview, Ray provides details of his ancestry and upbringing, his education, and race relations in the western United States before 1930. He then moves on to his first visit to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1922, and his movements before settling permanently in the 1940s. He explains that the main source of employment for the relatively small Black population during the 1920s and early 1930s was the railroad, but a number were also in business. Mr. Ray provides thumbnail sketches of many of the early residents, and is particularly informative about "Mammy" Pinkston, Mary Nettles, the Stevens family, and the Ensley family. Systemic racial discrimination against Blacks developed in southern Nevada during the 1930s, and Mr. Ray provides some useful details on this along with his discussion of his career in gaming and his social and political activities. Digital transcript available; no digital audio available.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

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Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted and transcribed 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 2016 and 2022. Melise Leech wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-

digital audio and/or transcript files. The audio has been minimally reviewed and all readily available information has been included in the description.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Ray, Clarence, Helen M. Blue, Jamie Coughtry, and University of Nevada, Reno. Oral History Program. *Clarence Ray: Black Politics and Gaming in Las Vegas, 1920s-1980s*. Reno, Nevada: University of Nevada Oral History Program, 1991. See call number: HV6721.L3 R39x 1991.

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Gaming -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Race discrimination
- Railroads
- Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)