



## Guide to the Ethel Smith and Barbara Carter McCalister 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>	Smith, Ethel Q., 1947-
<b>Creator:</b>	McCalister, Barbara Carter, 1948-
<b>Contributor:</b>	African Americans in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project
<b>Title:</b>	Ethel Smith and Barbara Carter McCalister oral history interview
<b>ID:</b>	OH-03740
<b>Date:</b>	2021 March 03
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 Digital Files (0.242 GB) MP3
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Oral history interview with Ethel Smith and Barbara Carter McCalister conducted by Claytee D. White on March 3, 2021 for African Americans in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project. Barbara Carter and Ethel Smith grew up on the Westside in the 1950s, both born in the late 1940s. They attended the Westside School. Their memories of the city are colorful, vibrant, and clear. They loved school and excelled in the assigned work. After high school, before their chosen careers, both tried work as a maid and found the sexual harassment a real challenge. Their memories of entertainment, fun, customs, and business locations on Jackson Avenue and the surrounding Black business community, related on their walk down memory lane, provided good historical information. Barbara Carter entered banking at Valley Bank and Ethel Smith, the casino industry, at a time when the MOB ran Las Vegas. Their recollections remind us that businesses operated differently and these women were there to witness it. Subjects discussed include: Westside, Jackson Ave, MOB, La Concha Motel, Berkley Square, Valley Bank, Caesars Palace, Ash Resnick, Jackson Hotel.

### Preferred Citation

Ethel Smith and Barbara Carter McCalister oral history interview, 2021 March 03. OH-03740. [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 Ethel Smith and Barbara Carter McCalister conducted by Claytee D. White on March 3, 2021 for African Americans in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project. Barbara Carter and Ethel Smith grew up on the Westside in the 1950s, both born in the late 1940s. They attended the Westside School. Their memories of the city are colorful, vibrant, and clear. They loved school and excelled in the assigned work. After high school, before their chosen careers, both tried work as a maid and found the sexual harassment a real challenge. Their memories of entertainment, fun, customs, and business locations on Jackson Avenue and the surrounding Black business community, related on their walk down memory lane, provided good historical information. Barbara Carter entered banking at Valley Bank and Ethel Smith, the casino industry, at a time when the MOB ran Las Vegas. Their recollections remind us that businesses operated differently and these women were there to witness it. Subjects discussed include: Westside, Jackson Ave, MOB, La Concha Motel, Berkley Square, Valley Bank, Caesars Palace, Ash Resnick, Jackson Hotel. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

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### 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 2021. Emily Lapworth wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio files.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Oral histories (document genres)
- Westside (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Caesars Palace -- Las Vegas -- Nevada
- Organized crime -- Las Vegas (Nev)
- Casinos -- Employees
- African Americans -- Las Vegas (Nev.)