

## **Guide to the Carolyn Sparks oral history interview**

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## Table of Contents

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

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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>	Sparks, Carolyn, 1942-
<b>Contributor:</b>	Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project
<b>Title:</b>	Carolyn Sparks oral history interview
<b>ID:</b>	OH-03865
<b>Date:</b>	2022 June 07
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 Digital Files (0.194 GB) MP3, JPG
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Oral history interview With Carolyn Sparks conducted by Claytee D. White on June 7, 2022 for the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. In this interview, Sparks describes her childhood growing up in Overton, Nevada where her father worked as a mining engineer. Later the family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where her father invested in the El Cortez and Showboat hotels. Sparks received a degree from the University of California, Berkeley before returning to Las Vegas to work at an insurance company, where she met her husband, Kenneth. Sparks discusses their shared adventure insuring many of the businesses on the Las Vegas Strip while simultaneously entering the world of philanthropy. Sparks became area Chairperson of the American Cancer Society, a fundraiser for Junior Mesquite Club, and founded the Nevada Children's Center. Sparks served on the Nevada Board of Regents from 1984 to 1996, on the Board of Directors of the Showboat Hotel & Casino, and as president of the family's International Insurance Services, Ltd.

### Preferred Citation

Carolyn Sparks oral history interview, 2022 June 07. OH-03865. [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

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Oral history interview With Carolyn Sparks conducted by Claytee D. White on June 7, 2022 for the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. In this interview, Sparks describes her childhood growing up in Overton, Nevada where her father worked as a mining engineer. Later the family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where her father invested in the El Cortez and Showboat hotels. Sparks received a degree from the University of California, Berkeley before returning to Las Vegas to work at an insurance company, where she met her husband, Kenneth. Sparks discusses their shared adventure insuring many of the businesses on the Las Vegas Strip while simultaneously entering the world of philanthropy. Sparks became area Chairperson of the American Cancer Society, a fundraiser for Junior Mesquite Club, and founded the Nevada Children's Center. Sparks served on the Nevada Board of Regents from 1984 to 1996, on the Board of Directors of the Showboat Hotel & Casino, and as president of the family's International Insurance Services, Ltd. A building on the campus of the College of Southern Nevada is named after Sparks. At the time of the interview, Sparks remains active with the International Woman's Forum, the Rotary Club, and the UNLV Foundation. Digital audio and photographs available; no transcript available.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### 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 2022. Sarah Jones wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio files.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Names and Subjects

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- Oral histories (document genres)
- Insurance agents
- Overton (Nev.)
- Rotary Club (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- University of Nevada System. Board of Regents