



Guide to the Kathleen Cortez, Delores Gammell, Kelli Hansen, and Sallie Samis oral history interview

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Cortez, Kathleen, 1955-
Creator:	Gammell, Dee, 1950-
Creator:	Hansen, Kelli, 1973
Creator:	Samis, Sallie, 1954-
Creator:	Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project
Title:	Kathleen Cortez, Delores Gammell, Kelli Hansen, and Sallie Samis oral history interview
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Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interview with Kathleen Cortez, Delores "Dee" Gammell, Kelli Hansen, and Sallie Samis conducted by Jerwin Tiu and Stefani Evans on January 26, 2024 for the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. In this interview, three sisters of seven siblings, Delores "Dee" Gammell, Sallie Samis, and Kathleen "Kathy" Cortez, describe their beginnings in early Las Vegas alongside Dee's daughter, Kelli Hansen. This six generation family of Las Vegas natives trace their roots to Mexico and Delores, Sallie, and Kathleen all recall their childhood spent with family. Each sister eventually ended up leaving Las Vegas. However, each sister ended up returning to Las Vegas and settling in the city where they grew up. While they have their qualms about the city and it is different from when they were growing up, they savor the time they are able to enjoy as a family in the place where they all started.

Preferred Citation

Kathleen Cortez, Delores Gammell, Kelli Hansen, and Sallie Samis oral history interview, 2024 January 26. OH-03917. [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. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1vn4x>

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Scope and Contents Note

Oral history interview with Kathleen Cortez, Delores "Dee" Gammell, Kelli Hansen, and Sallie Samis conducted by Jerwin Tiu and Stefani Evans on January 26, 2024 for the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. In this interview, three sisters of seven siblings, Delores "Dee" Gammell, Sallie Samis, and Kathleen "Kathy" Cortez, describe their beginnings in early Las Vegas alongside Dee's daughter, Kelli Hansen. This six generation family of Las Vegas natives trace their roots to Mexico and Delores, Sallie, and Kathleen all recall their childhood spent with family.

Each sister eventually ended up leaving Las Vegas. Kathleen moved to California, where she eventually learned how to cook foods that trace back to her Mexican heritage. Sallie moved to San Jose, California with her husband Pete Samis. And Delores Gammell moved to Montana after retiring from a long career in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. However, each sister ended up returning to Las Vegas and settling in the city where they grew up. While they have their qualms about the city and it is different from when they were growing up, they savor the time they are able to enjoy as a family in the place where they all started. Delores had two children, one of which, Kelli Hansen, lives in Las Vegas, with her husband and daughter. She secured a job at an attorney's office and continued a long career as a legal secretary in the City Attorney's office. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

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Administrative Information

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

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 Information

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2024. Sarah Jones wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio files. The audio has been minimally reviewed and all readily available information has been included in the description.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Fremont Street (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Religion
- Oral histories (document genres)