



Guide to the George Kelly Ryan Photograph Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Ryan, George Kelly, 1911-1977
Title:	George Kelly Ryan Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00044
Date:	1929
Physical Description:	0.01 Cubic Feet (1 hanging folder, 1 shared box of negatives)
Physical Description:	0.01 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The George Kelly Ryan Photograph Collection (1929) depicts waterways in Southern Nevada and Northern Arizona. The collection consists of eight photographic prints and two photographic negatives depicting Saint Thomas, Black Canyon, Boulder Canyon, and the Colorado River.

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Biographical Note

George Kelly Ryan was a geological engineer, prospector, and land use advisor who lived in Las Vegas, Nevada from 1959 until his death. He served in the Marines during World War II and was a member of the Disabled American Veterans. George was also active in the Nevada Mining Council and the First United Methodist Church.

George was born June 3, 1911 in Salt Lake City, Utah. His father was Archer De Vol "Archie" Ryan and his mother was Maggie Kelly. Archie was a member of the original railroad survey crew who laid out the Union Pacific railroad route in Las Vegas between August 1903 and October 1904. In the late 1920s, Archie served as the head of the Salt Lake Office of the United States General Land Office, Department of the Interior. During this time, Archie got George a job as part of the General Land Office survey party. Beginning in 1929, Archie assisted in performing preliminary surveys in Southern Nevada for the construction of Hoover (Boulder) Dam. George later met Ora Smith and married her in March 5, 1960. After her marriage, Ora was also known as Ora Palmer Prichard Ryan.

George Kelly Ryan died June 6, 1977.

Sources:

"Retired geologist dead at 66." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. June 7, 1977. Accessed October 18, 2019.

"Railway Pioneers Tell of Vegas in Early 1900s." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. March 6, 1955. Accessed October 18, 2019.

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Scope and Contents Note

The George Kelly Ryan Photograph Collection (1929) depicts waterways in Southern Nevada and Northern Arizona. The collection consists of eight photographic prints and two photographic negatives depicting Saint Thomas, Black Canyon, Boulder Canyon, and the Colorado River prior to the construction of the Hoover Dam. Once the Hoover Dam was built, the town of Saint Thomas was flooded and now sits at the bottom of Lake Mead.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1976 by George Kelly Ryan; accession number 76-45.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2016, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Maryse Lundering-Timpano wrote the collection description in compliance with current professional standards. In 2019, Jimmy Chang revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Glenn Davis Photograph Collection, approximately 1914-1960. PH-00020. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

George Kelly Ryan Papers, 1929-1971. MS-00120. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Southern Nevada -- 20th Century -- Rural Nevada
- Colorado River (Colo.-Mexico)
- Saint Thomas (Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Arizona side of the Colorado River looking towards Callville, Nevada-Arizona border: photographic print, 1929 (0044_0001) (view online)	folder 01
Black Canyon, Arizona at water level viewing hills before flooding: photographic print, 1929 (0044_0002) (view online)	folder 01
Colorado River, Boulder Canyon, Nevada-Arizona border looking upstream from a boat with a drill rig visible on the left: photographic print, 1929 August (0044_0003) (view online)	folder 01

Colorado River, Boulder Canyon, Nevada-Arizona border viewing the first core drill rig on the Nevada side of the Colorado River: photographic print, 1929 August (0044_0004) (view online)	folder 01
Colorado River, Boulder Canyon, Nevada-Arizona border with Merle Emerory's boat visible from the top of Boulder Canyon: photographic print, 1929 (0044_0005) (view online)	folder 01
Deer hung by Colorado River, Boulder Canyon, Nevada-Arizona border along the river's shore: photographic print, 1929 (0044_0006) (view online)	folder 01
Mercantile store, Saint Thomas, Nevada made from brick, currently submerged in Lake Mead: photographic print and photographic negative, 1929 (0044_0007) (view online)	folder 01 box SH-018
Photograph of George Kelly Ryan taken on his birthday: photographic print and photographic negative, 1929 June 03 (0044_0008) (view online)	folder 01 box SH-018