



Guide to the Frank F. Watts Photograph Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Watts, Frank Frederic, 1911-2004
Title:	Frank F. Watts Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00169
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1940 to 1959
Physical Description:	0.26 Cubic Feet (2 hanging folders, 1 flat file, 1 shared box of negatives, and 1 shared binder of slides)
Physical Description:	4.30 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Frank F. Watts Photograph Collection (approximately 1940-1959) contains black-and-white photographic prints, negatives, and slides. The photographs were taken in and around the El Rancho Vegas Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada and include publicity photographs, celebrity images, wedding photographs, and images of the hotel interior and exterior. Also included are images of the El Rancho's executives with national figures, including Eleanor Roosevelt and Walter Winchell. A few additional images depict the Hoover Dam (Boulder Dam) and Lake Mead.

Preferred Citation

Frank F. Watts Photograph Collection, approximately 1940-1959. PH-00169. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Frank Frederick Watts (1911-2004) was born in Columbus, Ohio and attended Ohio State University before graduating from Franklin University in Columbus. He came to Las Vegas in 1950 with his wife, Jane. He spent his career as a hotel controller, working at the El Rancho until it closed in 1960 and then at the Riviera. Watts, along with the Nevada Resort Association, helped

found the hotel college at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in 1966. Watts died on on December 10, 2004.

Source:

"Frank Watts," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, December 10, 2004.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Frank F. Watts Photograph Collection (approximately 1940-1959) contains black-and-white photographic prints, negatives, and slides. The photographs were taken in and around the El Rancho Vegas Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada and include publicity photographs, celebrity images, wedding photographs, and images of the hotel interior and exterior. Also included are images of the El Rancho's executives with national figures, including Eleanor Roosevelt and Walter Winchell. A few additional images depict the Hoover Dam (Boulder Dam) and Lake Mead.

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Arrangement Note

Materials remain as they were received.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Frank Watts in 1978; accession number 1978-100.

Processing Note

In 2020, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Melise Leech wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

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

James Reece Photographs of the El Rancho Vegas, approximately 1950-1962. PH-00048. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

El Rancho Vegas Collection, 1953-1961. MS-00194. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Frank F. Watts Collection of Casino Memorabilia, 1880-1990. MS-00255. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Frank Watts oral history interview, 1981 April 01. OH-01928. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas Strip (Nev.)
- Casino interiors
- photographs
- El Rancho Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographic prints, slides, and negatives, approximately 1940 to 1959 (0169_0001-0169_0055)	folder 01
Physical Description: 57 Photographic Prints	folder 02
	box SH-024
	binder PB-003
	flat file 03