



Guide to the Ned V. Bearden Sr. Photograph Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Bearden, Ned V., Sr., 1916-1987
Title:	Ned V. Bearden Sr. Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00188
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1940 to 1960
Physical Description:	0.15 Cubic Feet (2 hanging folders and 1 shared box of negatives)
Physical Description:	0.20 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Ned V. Bearden Sr. Photograph Collection contains black-and-white photographic prints and negatives of early Las Vegas, Nevada Fremont Street hotels, casinos, as well as Las Vegas businesses and residences between approximately 1940 to 1960. These photographs detail air conditioning units installations by Bearden throughout Las Vegas.

Preferred Citation

Ned V. Bearden Sr. Photograph Collection, approximately 1940-1960. PH-00188. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Ned V. Bearden Sr. was born on January 6, 1916 in Ellijay, Georgia, and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1939 seeking business opportunities. Bearden served in the United States Army during World War II as a trade school teacher for hydraulics, mechanics, and electricity. In 1946, Bearden purchased Belsmith Company on 125 South Main Street in Las Vegas. In 1947, he changed the company's name to Desert York Company and became the first air conditioning company in Las Vegas. In 1980, the business changed its name again to Humbelt Corporation and operated as an independent wholesaler and distributor of air conditioning machinery. Bearden retired in 1982 and left his business to his two sons.

Bearden died in 1987 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Source:

"Longtime LV Businessman Ned V. Bearden Sr. Dies." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, June 5, 1987.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Ned V. Bearden Sr. Photograph Collection contains black-and-white photographic prints and negatives of early Las Vegas, Nevada Fremont Street hotels, casinos, as well as Las Vegas businesses and residences between approximately 1940 to 1960. These photographs detail air conditioning units installations by Bearden throughout Las Vegas.

Hotel and casino properties include the Apache Hotel, Golden Nugget, Pioneer Club, Las Vegas Club, Monte Carlo Club, Thunderbird Hotel and Casino, El Cortez Hotel & Casino, California Club, and Fortune Club. The collection also depicts businesses such as stores for jewelry, liquor, clothing, air conditioning, ice, and farming equipment, as well as various single-family residences with their names and addresses noted.

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Arrangement

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 in 1984 by Ned V. Bearden Sr.; accession number 1984-050.

Processing Note

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

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Related Materials

Related Collection

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

Ned V. Bearden Sr. Collection, 1958-1966. MS-00229. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Fremont Street (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Hotels (public accommodations)
- Casinos
- Single-family dwellings

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographic prints and negatives (0188_0001-0188_0049)	

folder
01

folder
02

box
SH-025