



Guide to the Jacob E. Von Tobel Photograph Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Von Tobel, Jacob E., 1909-1993
Creator:	Von Tobel, Edward, Jr., 1913-2009
Creator:	Von Tobel, George
Creator:	Schmitt, Sharon, 1940-
Title:	Jacob E. Von Tobel Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00204
Date [inclusive]:	1900-1980
Physical Description:	0.3 Linear Feet (4 hanging folders, 1 flat file, and 1 shared box of negatives)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Jacob E. Von Tobel Photograph Collection contains black-and-white photographs of the pioneer Von Tobel family from 1900 to 1980. The collection includes photographs of the Von Tobel family, early Las Vegas, Nevada buildings and landmarks, and aerial photographs of Las Vegas and surrounding areas.

Preferred Citation

Jacob E. Von Tobel Photograph Collection, 1900-1980. PH-00204. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Edward and Mary Von Tobel were one of the first pioneer families to arrive in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1905, and they purchased land at the original Las Vegas land auction. Later in 1905, that year, the family founded the Von Tobel Lumber Company, which remained in operation until 1976 as one of the longest lasting family owned businesses in Las Vegas. Sons Edward Jr. and George Von Tobel opened several Von Tobel retail hardware stores in Las Vegas in the 1950s and 1960s. The family was also involved in early Nevada Republican party politics and George Von Tobel served as a Nevada Assemblyman. Beginning in the 1960s, the Von Tobel family became involved in real estate endeavors. Most Von Tobel retail stores closed or were sold in the 1980s. George Von Tobel died in 2003 and his brother Edward Jr. died in 2009.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Jacob E. Von Tobel Photograph Collection contains black-and-white photographs of the pioneer Von Tobel family from 1900 to 1980. The collection includes photographs of the Von Tobel family, their hardware store and lumber company, their homes, school photographs, and organizations to which the Von Tobels belonged. A significant portion of the collection documents early Las Vegas, Nevada buildings and landmarks, including trains, the supply yard, nearby geographical features, Fremont Street, the railroad depot, wells, Las Vegas High School, and early casinos. The collection also contains aerial photographs of Las Vegas and surrounding areas.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged into three series:

Series I. People, 1908-1918;

Series II. Early Las Vegas, Nevada, 1900-1929;

Series III. Later Las Vegas, Nevada, 1930-1980.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Some collection material has been digitized and is [available online](#).

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1985 by Jacob E. Von Tobel; accession number 1985-050.

Processing Note

Materials were processed in 1985. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden wrote the collection description in compliance with current professional standards.

Revision Description

The finding aid was written by Lindsay Oden, Ian Baldwin, and Hana Gutierrez in compliance with DACS. July 2015

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Related Materials

Related Materials

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

Von Tobel Family Papers, 1905-1997. MS-00589. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ed Von Tobel. Interview, 1972 October 04. OH-00036. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

George Von Tobel. Interview, 1972 October 14. OH-00037. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jacob Von Tobel. Interview, 1985. OH-00038. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Patricia Brinton. Interview, 2014 April 30. OH-02258. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sharon Von Tobel Schmitt. Interview, 2014 April 30. OH-02259. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Margaret Carnell. Interview, 2014 April 30. OH-02260. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Maurine and Fred Wilson Photograph Collection. PH-00014. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Leon Rockwell Photograph Collection. PH-00008. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Las Vegas High School Class of 1929 Photograph Collection, 1909-1929. PH-00109. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

City of Las Vegas Photograph Collection. PH-00298. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- photographs
- Von Tobel Family

Collection Inventory

People, 1908-1918

Physical Description: 0.1 Linear Feet (1 hanging folder)

Scope and Contents Note: Materials include photographs of the Von Tobel family, their friends, and students at Las Vegas High School from 1908 to 1918.

Arrangement: Materials remain in original order.

Title/Description	Containers
Westlake family in front of a grocery store, 1909 (0204_0001) (view online)	folder 01
Mail delivery cart, Las Vegas, 1908 (0204_0002) (view online)	folder 01
Students and teachers outside of school in Las Vegas, undated (0204_0003)	folder 01
Students on steps of Las Vegas High School, undated (0204_0004)	folder 01
Men in swim wear at pool at Las Vegas Ranch, undated (0204_0005)	folder 01
Group portrait of students and faculty at Las Vegas school, 1917 (0204_0006)	folder 01
Class of 1918, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1918 (0204_0007) (view online)	folder 01
Service club members, Las Vegas, undated (0204_0008) (view online)	

flat file
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Early Las Vegas, Nevada, 1900-1929

Physical Description: 0.1 Linear Feet (2 hanging folders)

Arrangement: Materials contain photographs of early Las Vegas, Nevada from 1900 to 1930, including photographs of the Von Tobel family, Ed Von Tobel exploring Southern Nevada, early Las Vegas landmarks including Fremont Street and the railroad depot, aerial photographs of the city, and politicians.

Title/Description	Containers
Ed Von Tobel, an American bachelor in Europe in Zurich, Switzerland, 1900 (0204_0009) (view online)	folder 01
Las Vegas Townsite auction, 1905 May 15 (0204_0010) (view online)	folder 01
McWilliams Las Vegas town site, 1905 May (0204_0011) (view online)	folder 01
Negative: First State Bank, 1900s (0204_0012) (view online)	box SH-027
Wagonload of lumber from Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company, 1900s (0204_0013) (view online)	folder 01
Ed Von Tobel, Sr. inspecting the loading of a wagon carrying supplies to the Bullfrog Mining District, 1904-1915 (0204_0014) (view online)	folder 01
Jake Beckley, partner with Ed Von Tobel, Sr., next to supply wagon, 1900s (0204_0015) (view online)	folder 01
Building supply yard, Las Vegas, 1905 (0204_0016) (view online)	folder 01
Three men having a picnic, possibly Nevada, 1900s (0204_0017) (view online)	folder 01
Three men sitting in front of a cabin, possibly Nevada, 1900s (0204_0018) (view online)	folder 01
Floyd Francis, Jake Beckley, and an unidentified man swimming in an "old swimming hole" formed on the property of Von Tobel and Beckley, undated	folder 01
Floyd Francis, an unidentified man, and Jake Beckley in the swimming hole on the property in Paradise Valley owned by Von Tobel and Beckley, undated	folder 01
Ed Von Tobel, Sr. exploring a mining claim, 1900s (0204_0021) (view online)	folder 01
Jake Beckley and Tony Felix, 1900s (0204_0022) (view online)	folder 01
Old Ranch tent housing, 1905 (0204_0023) (view online)	

	folder 01
First public train into Las Vegas from Los Angeles, California, 1905 May 15 (0204_0024)	folder 01
Negative: Wild burros, undated	folder 02
Drill rig which put down the hole for the first well in the Vegas Heights District, 1905 March 21	folder 02
Jake Beckley and Ed Von Tobel, Sr. in front of Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company, undated (0204_0027)	folder 02
Ed Von Tobel, Sr. and Marie Hamerl on their honeymoon in Southern California, 1908 October 08 (0204_0028) (view online)	folder 02
Las Vegas, 1908 (0204_0029) (view online)	folder 02
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Von Tobel, Sr., Jake and William Beckley on their Paradise Valley property with their first artesian well, 1909	folder 02
Postcard of Las Vegas, 1909 June 13 (0204_0031) (view online)	folder 02
Clark County Jail, 1900s (0204_0032) (view online)	folder 02
Fremont Street, 1909 (0204_0033)	folder 02
Railroad yard, 1905-1915 (0204_0034) (view online)	folder 02
Railroad cottages in Downtown Las Vegas, 1910 (0204_0035) (view online)	folder 02
Labor Day celebration of Fremont Street, 1915 September (0204_0036) (view online)	folder 02
Fremont and 2nd Streets, 1915-1921 (0204_0037) (view online)	folder 02
Banner across Fremont Street, 1919 June 23 (0204_0038) (view online)	folder 02
Overland Hotel, 1920 (0204_0039) (view online)	folder 02
Aerial downtown, undated (0204_0040) (view online)	folder 02
Von Tobel Children, Mount Charleston, 1919-1924 (0204_0041) (view online)	folder 02
Las Vegas Grammar School Band, 1919-1923 (0204_0042) (view online)	folder 02
View of Fremont Street, buildings, and automobiles, 1920s (0204_0043)	

	folder 02
Von Tobel children, 1923 December 25 (0204_0044) (view online)	folder 02
Adcock & Ronnow Department Store, 1920s (0204_0045) (view online)	folder 02
Residential downtown Las Vegas, 1926 (0204_0046) (view online)	folder 02
Men at the signing of the Boulder Dam Bill, 1928 December 21 (0204_0047) (view online)	folder 02
Hotel Nevada, undated	folder 02
Railroad depot, 1929 (0204_0049) (view online)	folder 02

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Later Las Vegas, Nevada, 1930-1980

Scope and Contents Note: Materials contain photographs of Las Vegas, Nevada after 1930, including photographs of the Von Tobel family, Fremont Street, Hoover Dam construction, aerial photographs of the city, local organizations like the Kiwanis Club, and the Von Tobel Lumber Company.

Arrangement: Materials remain in original order.

Title/Description	Containers
Fremont Street, 1931 June 02 (0204_0050) (view online)	folder 03
Las Vegas High School, 1930 (0204_0051) (view online)	folder 03
Aerial view of Las Vegas, 1931	folder 03
Night Club Row, 1932 (0204_0053) (view online)	folder 03
Hoover Dam construction site, 1932 April 23 (0204_0054) (view online)	folder 03
First Helldorado celebration, 1935 (0204_0055) (view online)	folder 03
Wedding, 1930s (0204_0056) (view online)	folder 03
Aerial view of downtown Las Vegas, 1930s-1940s (0204_0057) (view online)	folder 03
Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company, 1940 (0204_0058) (view online)	

	folder 03
Ed Von Tobel, Sr. on a trip to Cuba, 1940 February (0204_0059) (view online)	folder 03
Three homes, 1940s (0204_0060) (view online)	folder 03
Kiwanis Club, 1943 February 03 (0204_0061) (view online)	folder 03
Las Vegas Kiwanis Club members, 1943 February (0204_0062) (view online)	folder 03
Four men on the porch of the Von Tobel home, 1944 February 27 (0204_0063) (view online)	folder 03
Aerial view of Las Vegas after World War II, 1945	folder 03
Rotary Club, Las Vegas, 1940s (0204_0065) (view online)	folder 03
Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce luncheon, 1947 May 06 (0204_0066) (view online)	folder 03
Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company, 1947 June (0204_0067) (view online)	folder 03
Ed Von Tobel, age 74, 1947 (0204_0068) (view online)	folder 03
Ed Von Tobel, Sr., 1950s (0204_0069) (view online)	folder 03
Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company employee party, 1948 (0204_0070) (view online)	folder 03
Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company, 1949 February 14 (0204_0071) (view online)	folder 03
Aerial view of downtown Las Vegas, 1950s (0204_0072) (view online)	folder 03
Interior of the Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company, 1950s (0204_0073) (view online)	folder 03
Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company, 1954 May (0204_0074) (view online)	folder 03
Australian merchants with Ed Von Tobel, Sr., 1952 (0204_0075) (view online)	folder 03
Ed Von Tobel, Sr. making a presentation to a Nellis Air Force Base airman, 1955 July (0204_0076) (view online)	folder 04
Von Tobel warehouse, 1960s (0204_0077) (view online)	folder 04
Birthday party, 1960s (0204_0078) (view online)	

folder
04

Ed Von Tobel, Sr. receiving an award, 1966 February 11 (0204_0079) (view online)	folder 04
Aerial view of new Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company, 1966 November 17 (0204_0080) (view online)	folder 04
Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company, 1967 (0204_0081) (view online)	folder 04
Old Von Tobel Lumber Company, 1967 (0204_0082) (view online)	folder 04
Aerial Ed Von Tobel Lumber Company being constructed, 1967 (0204_0083) (view online)	folder 04
Ed Von Tobel's sons receiving a plaque honoring their father, 1968 May (0204_0084) (view online)	folder 04
Von Tobel home after a fire, 1969 (0204_0085) (view online)	folder 04
Historical Marker for the Ed Von Tobel Lumber Yard, 1980s (0204_0086) (view online)	folder 04
Von Tobel family, Las Vegas, 1900s (0204_0087) (view online)	folder 04
New store, 1956 (0204_0088) (view online)	folder 04

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