



## Guide to the Thunderbird Plane Photograph Collection

---

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 28, 2022. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1862d>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Historical Background .....	3
Scope and Contents Note .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Related Materials .....	5
Names and Subjects .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Seagrave, Jim, 1939-
<b>Title:</b>	Thunderbird Plane Photograph Collection
<b>ID:</b>	PH-00205
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 1960s-1970s
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.1 Linear Feet (1 hanging folder)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Thunderbird Plane Photograph Collection contains seven photographs of the Thunderbird Plane, its crew, its owners, and a photograph of Lake Mohave Resort from the 1960s to the 1970s. The Thunderbird Plane was owned by the Thunderbird Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### Preferred Citation

Thunderbird Plane Photograph Collection, 1960s-1970s. PH-00205. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Historical Background

---

The Thunderbird Hotel and Casino opened on September 2, 1948 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and was the fourth resort constructed on the Las Vegas Strip. The hotel, which took its name from a Navajo legend, was founded by developer Marion Hicks and Lieutenant Governor of Nevada, Clifford A. Jones. The exterior of the hotel contained a stylized thunderbird, while its interior was characterized by Native American themed decor.

In 1964 the property was sold to Del Webb, and in 1972 to Caesars World. After the hotel was sold to the owner of the Dunes Hotel in 1977, it was briefly known as the Silverbird Hotel. Five years later, the hotel was purchased by Ed Torres, owner of the Aladdin Hotel, and renamed the El Rancho Casino in homage to the very first resort to open on the Strip.

The Thunderbird hosted a number of noted entertainers and production shows, including the Las Vegas debuts of both Nat King Cole and Rosemary Clooney, and was the showroom where Judy Garland made her final Las Vegas appearance in 1965.

Source: John Wilen, "Sale possible of old El Rancho on the Strip," *Las Vegas Sun*. June 7, 1999.  
<http://lasvegassun.com/news/1999/jun/07/sale-possible-of-old-el-rancho-on-the-strip/>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents Note

---

The Thunderbird Plane Photograph Collection contains seven photographs of the Thunderbird Plane, its crew, its owners, and a photograph of Lake Mohave Resort from the 1960s to the 1970s. The Thunderbird Plane was owned by the Thunderbird Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Materials remain in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1976 by Jim Seagrave; accession number 1976-155.

### Processing Note

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 and Joyce Moore in compliance with DACS. July 2015

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

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

Thunderbird Hotel Records, 1964-1973. MS-00180. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. MS-00180.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Names and Subjects

---

- Hotels -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- photographs
- Airplanes
- Thunderbird Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)

---

## Collection Inventory

---

Title/Description	Containers
Airplane for the Thunderbird Hotel, undated (01)	folder 01
Airplane for the Thunderbird Hotel, undated (02)	folder 01
Thunderbird employees receiving award, undated (03)	folder 01
Thunderbird employees and guests, undated (04)	folder 01
Airplane for the Thunderbird Hotel, undated (05)	

folder  
01

---

Airplane for the Thunderbird Hotel, undated (06)

folder  
01

---

Lake Mohave Resort Inc., undated (07)

folder  
01