



Guide to the Tom and Erma Godbey Photograph Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Godbey, Tom, 1899-1977
Creator:	Godbey, Erma O., 1905-1993
Title:	Tom and Erma Godbey Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00262
Date [inclusive]:	1934 to 1944
Physical Description:	0.10 Cubic Feet (1 hanging folder and 1 shared box of negatives)
Physical Description:	0.10 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Tom and Erma Godbey Photograph Collection is comprised of thirteen black-and-white photographic prints and negatives from 1934 to 1944. The photographs depict the Godbey family participating in parades and other events in Boulder City, Nevada and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Preferred Citation

Tom and Erma Godbey Photograph Collection, 1934-1944. PH-00262. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Thomas Mayborn Godbey was born in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1899. He moved west to Silverton, Colorado in 1923 to work in the mining industry. When work dried up in Colorado, he moved his family to Oatman, Arizona to continue working in the mines. After trying to organize for safer working conditions, Godbey was let go and moved his family to an area near the Colorado River in 1931. The family settled outside of what would become Boulder City, Nevada, in a tent city known as Ragtown. Tom Godbey's first job in Nevada was working to build roads into the Hoover Dam construction site. In 1932, he received the first permit to lease property and build a private residence in Boulder City. He served in the Nevada legislature as an assemblyman from 1954 to 1958 and again from 1960 to 1966. He died in 1977.

Erma Ouida Godbey was born in 1905 in Colorado. She met Tom Godbey in Silverton, Colorado at her high school graduation. The two married in 1923. The Godbeyes had five children: Thomas, Jim, Laura, Ila, and Alice. They were active members of the American Legion in Boulder City, taking part in the drum and bugle corps and orchestra. The children also participated in their school's band. Erma was president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and Navy Mothers during World War II, and remained active in the American Red Cross after the war ended. Erma Godbey died on October 1, 1993.

Sources:

Godbey, Erma O. "Erma O. Godbey: Pioneering in Boulder City, Nevada." Interview by Mary Ellen Glass. University of Nevada Oral History Program, March 7-9, 1966. Transcript. <https://archive.org/details/GodbeyErma/mode/2up>

"Sisters Recall Growing Up in Boulder City in the 30s." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. September 26, 2010. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/sisters-recall-growing-up-in-boulder-city-in-the-30s/>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Tom and Erma Godbey Photograph Collection is comprised of thirteen black-and-white photographic prints and negatives from 1934 to 1944. The photographs depict the Godbey family performing in drum and bugle corps in Boulder City, Nevada and Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection also includes photographs of the Godbeyes in Boulder City and on the Colorado River.

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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 1991; accession number 91-11.

Processing Note

In 2020, Lauren Paljusaj 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 about the materials in this collection:

Erma O. Godbey oral history interview, 1986 November 07. OH-00690. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tom Godbey oral history interview, 1974 September 18, 1984 September 27. OH-00691. 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

- Boulder City (Nev.)
- Fraternal organizations
- photographs
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographic prints and negatives, 1934 to 1944	folder 01 box SH-030