



Guide to the Richard B. Taylor Photograph Collection

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 29, 2022. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f12q1b>

© 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

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Taylor, Richard B. (Richard Blackburn), 1929-2011
Title:	Richard B. Taylor Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00283
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1957 to 1991
Physical Description:	0.48 Cubic Feet (1 hanging folder and 1 shared box of negatives)
Physical Description:	0.10 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Richard B. Taylor Photograph Collection (approximately 1957-1991) consists of black-and-white and color photographic prints and negatives. The images depict Taylor alongside Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers playing table games and seated at a bar inside the Arizona Club in Las Vegas, Nevada. Additional images portray Taylor's home on Trotter Circle in Las Vegas decorated for Halloween.

Preferred Citation

Richard B. Taylor Photograph Collection, approximately 1957-1991. PH-00283. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Richard "Dick" Blackburn Taylor was a prominent businessman in Las Vegas, Nevada and amateur historian of Southern Nevada. Taylor was born on January 31, 1929 in Quincy, Illinois and grew up in Glendale, California. After graduating high school in 1947, he attended Washington and Lee University, the University of Southern California, and the University of Hawaii. He served in the 4th Infantry Division of the United States Army in Germany during the occupation following WWII. In 1957, he married Charlene Flora Belknap and they had four children.

Taylor spent his career in the hotel, stock market, security systems, publishing, and real estate development businesses. He began at Warren "Doc" Bayley's Hacienda Hotel chain in Fresno, California. Taylor transferred to Las Vegas where he became resident manager of the Hacienda Resort Hotel and Casino. He assumed the role of General Manager of the Las Vegas Hacienda. When Bayley expanded his hotel holdings in purchasing the New Frontier Hotel, Taylor served on the Board of Directors of the New Frontier. Taylor worked with Bayley when the latter purchased land on Mount Charleston in the hopes of developing the existing lodge building and property into a resort. Just prior to Bayley's death in 1964, Taylor resigned from the Hacienda.

After leaving the hotel and casino industry, Taylor pursued various career interests. For a time, he left Las Vegas and worked as a stockbroker in Palm Springs, California. After returning to Las Vegas, he owned Metro Alarm, and published the Mormon newspaper, *The Beehive*. Taylor also ran a real estate business in Las Vegas later in life.

Taylor was known known as an avid amateur historian and author. Taylor critically examined, through a Mormon lens, the city and gambling in his first book, *Las Vegas, City of Sin?*, which he co-wrote with Pat Howell. Other books he wrote documented the history of the Hacienda Hotel and the origins and growth of the boomtown of Laughlin located on the Colorado River. Taylor also published a genealogical research book, *Nevada Tombstone Record Book*, containing 750 pages of ghost town cemetery headstones.

Taylor remained active in the Las Vegas community throughout his life. In the 1950s and 1960s, Taylor rode with the Sheriff's Mounted Posse (an all-volunteer group that worked with Clark County authorities) served on the Board of the Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), and worked with the Boy Scouts of America. In the 1980s and 1990s, he participated in the Secret Witness program.

Taylor spent his later years living in his mountain home at Mount Charleston, where he compiled local newspaper articles from the area into several volumes to document the history of Mount Charleston. During the last year of his life, he received a proclamation from the Clark County Commission naming him "Historian Laureate" of Mount Charleston, and had his birthday proclaimed as "Richard B. Taylor Day." Taylor died on March 10, 2011.

Source:

"Richard B. Taylor obituary." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, March 13, 2011. Accessed November 8, 2018. <https://obits.reviewjournal.com/obituaries/lvrj/obituary.aspx?n=richard-taylor&pid=149212825>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Richard B. Taylor Photograph Collection (approximately 1957-1991) consists of black-and-white and color photographic prints and negatives. The images depict Taylor alongside Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers playing table games and seated at a bar inside the Arizona Club in Las

Vegas, Nevada. Additional images portray Taylor's home on Trotter Circle in Las Vegas decorated for Halloween.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials remain as they were received.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

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 and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1992 by Richard B. Taylor; accession number 1992-024.

Processing Note

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Richard B. Taylor Papers, 1920-1993. MS-00341. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Fraternal organizations
- Gambling

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1957 to 1991 (0283_0001-0283_0005)	folder 01 box SH-031