



Guide to the Clarence Ray 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.

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Ray, Clarence, 1900-1993
Title:	Clarence Ray Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00326
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1930 to 1960
Physical Description:	0.03 Cubic Feet (1 hanging folder and 1 shared box of negatives)
Physical Description:	0.20 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Clarence Ray Photograph Collection (approximately 1930-1960) consists of black-and-white photographic prints and negatives of Clarence Ray, casino scenes of people playing table games, and images of Ray with black activists in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Preferred Citation

Clarence Ray Photograph Collection, approximately 1930-1960. PH-00326. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Clarence Ray was born in California on February 8, 1900. He moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in the early 1930s and began a career in the gaming industry. Ray co-owned some of the first black-owned gaming establishments in Las Vegas and worked with a variety of organizations to promote worker's rights for black citizens. During construction of the Hoover Dam, Ray petitioned to guarantee employment for black workers. He actively encouraged casinos to open more job opportunities for black card dealers. Their efforts proved successful when casino owners agreed to a consent decree in 1971 that guaranteed 12% of all jobs in resorts and casinos to be filled with black employees. The city of Las Vegas named a park in Ray's honor for his contribution to the black community in Southern Nevada.

Ray died on December 1, 1993.

Sources:

Genealogy Files about "Clarence Ray." Accessed on April 14, 2020 on familysearch.org.

"1971 Consent Decree." Documenting the African American Experience, <https://digital.library.unlv.edu/index.php/aae/consent%20decree>. Accessed on April 14, 2020.

"Clarence Ray Park." <https://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Residents/Parks-Facilities/Clarence-Ray-Park>. Accessed on April 14, 2020.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Clarence Ray Photograph Collection (approximately 1930-1960) consists of black-and-white photographic prints and negatives of Clarence Ray, casino scenes of people playing table games, and images of Ray with black activists in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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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 to UNLV Special Collections and Archives; accession number 2020-064.

Processing Note

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

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- West Las Vegas (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- African Americans
- Card dealers
- Casinos
- Equal Rights Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1930 to 1960 (0326_0001-0326_0013)	folder 01 box SH-033