

Guide to the Richard Ronzone Photographs

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Ronzone, Ann Barbara, 1913-2007
Contributor:	Ronzone, Richard James, 1917-1989
Contributor:	Ronzone, Bertha Bishop, 1885-1969
Title:	Richard Ronzone Photographs
ID:	PH-00343
Date [inclusive]:	1920-1989, 2001
Date [bulk]:	1950-1980
Physical Description:	0.2 Linear Feet (2 hanging folders)
Physical Description:	0.17 Cubic Feet (2 hanging folders)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Richard Ronzone Photographs depict Las Vegas, Nevada storeowner and politician Richard "Dick" Ronzone and his family from 1920 to 1989 and 2001. The photographs primarily depict Ronzone at Ronzone's Store in Las Vegas, at events with politicians such as Nevada Governor Paul Laxalt, or at the Las Vegas Valley Water District. The photographs also depict Ronzone during his service with the Nevada National Guard; portraits of Ronzone, his wife Ann Roeth Ronzone, and his mother Bertha Ronzone; and events during Ronzone's tenure as a Clark County Commissioner from 1972 to 1980.

Preferred Citation

Richard Ronzone Photographs, 1920-1989, 2001. PH-00343. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

The Ronzone Family left an important legacy to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada through the business ventures of Bertha Ronzone and later through the local political work of Richard "Dick" Ronzone.

After silver was struck in central Nevada in the early 1900s Bertha, her husband Ben, and their daughter Amy moved from Alaska to Nevada and settled in a mining camp in Tonopah, Nevada in 1904. Their children Richard and Esther were born in Manhattan, Nevada in 1917 and 1920. Bertha Ronzone noted that the local miners had no way to get basic supplies, so she began selling cloth, thread, jeans, socks, clothing, and light hardware.

Bertha Ronzone opened a store in Manhattan between 1915 and 1917, but the First World War significantly harmed the mining industry. The Ronzone's retail business reacted slowly to the drop in mining activity, however, and in 1919 Bertha and Amy opened a second store in Tonopah. Business in Manhattan soon slowed to the point that Ben and the younger two children joined them in Tonopah. The family business continued to grow and the Ronzones opened additional stores in Silver Peak, Nevada and Beatty, Nevada. Leaving Amy and her husband to tend the Tonopah store, the rest of the family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1929 to open a ladies ready-to-wear store situated downtown at Carson and First streets, one of the first such stores in the city. The construction of the Hoover Dam bolstered the Ronzone's Store, and in 1935 the store moved to Fremont Street and added a men's department.

Richard Ronzone returned from the University of Nevada to Las Vegas after his father died in 1938 to manage the store. He joined the Nevada National Guard in 1941 and served in an anti-aircraft battalion during the Second World War, including two years in Europe. In 1946 he became the general manager of the store, which had grown into a popular fixture in the commercial district of Las Vegas. Under his management the store moved to an even larger space a few blocks up Fremont Street in 1946. In 1969 the Ronzone's Store moved to Las Vegas's first mall, the Boulevard on Maryland Parkway, where it was sold the following year to the national Dayton-Hudson chain and later renamed Diamonds.

Dick Ronzone's success in local politics began in the 1950s. He was elected to the Clark County School District, served as a member of the Nevada Southern Campus Fund, and acted as founding chairman of the Las Vegas Downtown Improvement Committee. After selling the store in 1970 Ronzone became even more involved in state and local politics, serving as Clark County Commissioner from 1972 to 1984, Nevada State Assemblyman for the 1971-1972 session, and Regent for the University Board of Regents in the 1950s and 1960s. Ronzone also took leadership roles in the Las Vegas Valley Water District (including president in 1978), the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, and the Regional Transportation Commission. He also helped shape the Municipal Golf Course and was active in local chapters of the Elks Lodge, Rotary Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Reserve Officers Association, and the Boulder Dam Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Richard Ronzone married Ann Roeth in January 1947. He retired from business and politics in 1985. He died in January of 1989.

References

Hyman, Harold. "Las Vegas Leader Ronzone Dies," *Las Vegas Sun*. January 22, 1989.

Thompson, Sandy. "What they did for love: Ronzones helped dusty town grow into flowering community," *Las Vegas Weekend*. January 25, 1985.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Richard Ronzone Photographs depict Las Vegas, Nevada storeowner and politician Richard "Dick" Ronzone and his family from 1920 to 1989 and 2001. The photographs primarily depict Ronzone at Ronzone's Store in Las Vegas, at events with politicians such as Nevada Governor Paul Laxalt, or at the Las Vegas Valley Water District. The photographs also depict Ronzone during his service with the Nevada National Guard; portraits of Ronzone, his wife Ann Roeth Ronzone, and his mother Bertha Ronzone; and events during Ronzone's tenure as a Clark County Commissioner from 1972 to 1980.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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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 2005 by Ann Roeth Ronzone; accession number 2005-27.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Dana Miller in 2006. In 2016, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden wrote the collection description in compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

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

Ronzone Family Papers, 1900-1991. MS-00509. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ronzone, R. J. Interview, October 20, 1972. OH-01594. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ronzone, R. J. Interview, March 08, 1985. OH-01594. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Politicians
- photographs
- Ronzone's Department Store (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Richard Ronzone as a child, Manhattan, Nevada, approximately 1920-1930 (0343_0001)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, approximately 1930-1940 (0343_0002)	

	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, approximately 1930-1940 (0343_0003)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, approximately 1930-1940 (0343_0004)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, approximately 1930-1940 (0343_0005)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, approximately 1930-1940 (0343_0006)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, approximately 1930-1940 (0343_0007)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, 1939 (0343_0008)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone in military uniform, 1945 (0343_0009)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone and others in the Nevada National Guard anti-aircraft battalion, approximately 1941-1946 (0343_0010)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone and others in the Rotary Club, 1959 (0343_0011) (view online)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone at the Stardust Hotel, 1962 (0343_0012)	folder 01
Nevada Retail Association board meeting at the Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: Allan Williams of Montgomery Ward, Reno, Nevada; Moylan Brown of American Retail Federation, Washington, D.C.; and Richard Ronzone, president of the Nevada Retail Association, 1967 November 16 (0343_0013)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, Nevada Governor Paul Laxalt, and California Governor Ronald Reagan, 1968 (0343_0014)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone and others at the Clark County Central Fire Station, Winchester, Nevada, approximately 1970-1980 (0343_0015)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone and others sworn in as Clark County Commissioners, approximately 1972-1980 (0343_0016)	folder 01
Harvey E. Luce at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Harvey E. Luce Reservoir, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1976 (0343_0017)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, Harvey E. Luce, Thalia Dondero, and Tom Weisner at the dedication of Harvey E. Luce Reservoir, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1976 (0343_0018)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, Harvey E. Luce, Thalia Dondero, and Tom Weisner at the dedication of Harvey E. Luce Reservoir, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1976 (0343_0019)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, Jack Petitti, Jean Ford, and others at a party, 1980 November 13 (0343_0020)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone and Tom Weisner, approximately 1976-1980 (0343_0021)	

	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, Jack Petitti, Thalia Dondero, Robert Broadbent, Manny Cortez and others at the Las Vegas Valley Water District, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1978 (0343_0022)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, Jack Petitti, Thalia Dondero, Robert Broadbent, Manny Cortez and others at the Las Vegas Valley Water District, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1978 (0343_0023)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, Jack Petitti, Thalia Dondero, Robert Broadbent, Manny Cortez, and others, 1978 (0343_0024)	folder 01
Tom Weisner, Thalia Dondero, Jack Petitti, Richard Ronzone, and others, approximately 1970-1980 (0343_0025)	folder 01
Richard Ronzone, approximately 1970-1989 (0343_0026)	folder 02
Richard Ronzone and another person, approximately 1970-1980 (0343_0027)	folder 02
Moe Dalitz's 80th birthday party: Manny Cortez, Richard Ronzone, Moe Dalitz, and Jack Petitti, 1980 August (0343_0028)	folder 02
Dick Ronzone and others at Moe Dalitz's 80th birthday party, 1980 August (0343_0029)	folder 02
"Little Jimmie" in a goat cart, possibly Richard Ronzone's Aunt Jimmie, undated (0343_0030)	folder 02
Bertha Ronzone, Richard Ronzone's mother, 1941 (0343_0031)	folder 02
Jimmie Ronzone, Richard Ronzone's aunt, 1941 (0343_0032)	folder 02
Ann Roeth Ronzone and Bertha Ronzone near a Trans World Airlines plane, approximately 1950-1960 (0343_0033)	folder 02
Ann Roeth Ronzone at the Desert Inn Country Club after winning a golf tournament, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1950-1970 (0343_0034)	folder 02
Richard and Ann Ronzone in Halloween costumes at the Desert Inn Country Club, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1950-1970 (0343_0035)	folder 02
Ann Ronzone with former Nevada Governor Grant Sawyer at the Desert Inn Country Club, Las Vegas, Nevada, undated (0343_0036)	folder 02
Ann Ronzone, 2001 (0343_0037)	folder 02
Bertha Ronzone and Corinne Johnson, 1962 (0343_0038)	folder 02
Sam Diamond, Willy Alderman, Davy Berman, Joe Rosenberg, Sam Belkin, Ed Barrick, Sam Preras, and others, undated (0343_0039)	folder 02
Ronzone's Store on Fremont Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1950-1960 (0343_0040)	folder 02

Billboard advertising Ronzone's Store, 1957 (0343_0041)	folder 02
Billboard advertising Ronzone's Store, 1957 (0343_0042)	folder 02
Ronzone's Store parade float during the Helldorado Parade, approximately 1940-1950 (0343_0043)	folder 02
Ronzone's Store parade float during the Helldorado Parade, approximately 1940-1950 (0343_0044)	folder 02
People in costume for Helldorado, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1945 (0343_0045)	folder 02
Ronzone's Store employees and Bertha Ronzone, Ann Ronzone, and Richard Ronzone, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1950-1960 (0343_0046)	folder 02
Ronzone's Store employees and Bertha Ronzone, Ann Ronzone, and Richard Ronzone, Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1950-1960 (0343_0047)	folder 02
Bertha Ronzone and a display judge evaluating Ronzone's Store advertising, 1956 (0343_0048)	folder 02