

## **Guide to The Thunderbird Hotel Records**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Thunderbird Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)
<b>Title:</b>	Thunderbird Hotel Records
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00180
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1964-1973
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.6 Linear Feet (9 boxes)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Thunderbird Hotel Records comprise material that documents the work of the Las Vegas, Nevada hotel's entertainment department from 1964 to 1973. The records consist of photographs, memos, newspaper clippings, and publicity materials.

### Preferred Citation

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

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## Historical Note

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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 an homage to the very first resort to open on the Strip.

The Thunderbird hosted a number of noted entertainers and production shows over the years. It had the distinction of being the resort that saw 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.

On July 6, 1992, the El Rancho Casino resort permanently closed its doors. For eight years the property remained vacant. In 2000 the land was purchased by Turnberry Associates, and on October 3, 2000 the old resort was imploded.

For a detailed history of the Thunderbird, see George Stamos' profile of the Thunderbird Hotel and Casino in the *Las Vegas Sun Magazine*, May 6, 1979.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Thunderbird Hotel Records comprise material that documents the work of the Las Vegas, Nevada hotel's entertainment department from 1964 to 1973. The records consist of photographs, memos, newspaper clippings, and publicity materials.

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## Arrangement

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Materials are organized by show name and then alphabetically by the type of material. Headliners are listed alphabetically by surname.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access

The records in this collection must be reviewed for protected information prior to public access. Requests for access must be made in advance to allow time for the materials to be reviewed. Please contact Special Collections and Archives to arrange access.

### 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

These materials were donated in 1976 by the Entertainment Department of the Thunderbird Hotel via Jim Seagrave; accession number T-100.

## Processing Information

Material was processed by Joyce Moore in 2011. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Dallas Reiber revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Dallas Reiber entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

## Revision Description

The finding aid was revised by Dallas Reiber to bring it into compliance with DACS. July 2014

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## Names and Subjects

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- Thunderbird Hotel and Casino
- Hotels -- Nevada -- Las Vegas

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers	
Del Webb Corporation newspaper clippings, 1967-1971	box 01	folder 01
Entertainers contract, 1969-1973	box 01	folder 02
Entertainment payroll, 1969	box 01	folder 03
Entertainment payroll, 1970	box 01	folder 04
Entertainment payroll, 1971	box 01	folder 05
Johnny Haig relied orchestra, 1961	box 01	folder 06
Lounge entertainment, 1965-1972	box 01	folder 07
Newspaper clippings, 1968-1971	box 02	folder 01
Piano Bar entertainers, 1970-1971	box 02	folder 02
Latin Fire Folies		
Correspondence, 1969	box 03	folder 01
Correspondence, 1971	box 03	folder 02
Correspondence, 1972	box 03	folder 03

Correspondence, 1973	box 03	folder 04
Newspaper clippings, 1971	box 03	folder 05
Newspaper clippings, 1973	box 03	folder 06
Orchestra, 1970	box 03	folder 07
Orchestra, 1971	box 03	folder 08
Orchestra, 1972	box 03	folder 09
Photographs, 1971	box 04	folder 01
Photographs, 1972	box 04	folder 02
Photograph release forms, 1971	box 04	folder 03
Press releases, undated	box 04	folder 04
Programs, undated	box 04	folder 05
Publicity, 1971-1973	box 04	folder 06
Publicity questionnaires, 1971	box 04	folder 07
Show counts, 1970	box 04	folder 08
<b>Artists and Models</b>		
Monthly reports, 1969-1970	box 05	folder 01
Newspaper clippings, 1970-1971	box 05	folder 02
Photographs, 1969-1970	box 05	folder 03
Photo release, 1970	box 05	folder 04
Show counts, 1970	box 05	folder 05
<b>Bedtime Riot</b>		
Correspondence, 1971	box 05	folder 06
Contracts, 1971	box 05	folder 07
Newspaper clippings	box 05	folder 08
Orchestra, 1971	box 05	folder 09
Photographs, 1971	box 05	folder 10
Press releases, 1971	box 05	folder 11
Show counts, 1971	box 05	folder 12
<b>Booby Hatch</b>		
Contracts, 1969-1970	box 05	folder 13
Newspaper clippings, 1970	box 05	folder 14
Orchestra, 1969-1970	box 05	folder 15

Photographs, undated	box 05	folder 16
Press releases, 1969-1970	box 05	folder 17
Bottoms Up: contracts, 1966-1967	box 05	folder 18
Flower Drum Song		
Contracts and correspondence, 1969	box 06	folder 01
Orchestra, 1969	box 06	folder 02
Radio advertising, 1969	box 06	folder 03
Funky Fiesta		
Contract, 1969	box 06	folder 04
Newspaper clippings, 1969	box 06	folder 05
Photographs, 1969	box 06	folder 06
Fun and Dames		
Correspondence, 1970	box 06	folder 07
Newspaper clippings, 1970	box 06	folder 08
Orchestra, 1970	box 06	folder 09
Photographs, undated	box 06	folder 10
Publicity, 1970	box 06	folder 11
Visa applications, 1969-1970	box 06	folder 12
Geisha Rella		
Contracts, 1970-1971	box 06	folder 13
Correspondence, 1971-1972	box 06	folder 14
Newspaper clippings, 1971-1973	box 06	folder 15
Orchestra, 1971-1972	box 07	folder 01
Photographs, undated	box 07	folder 02
Questionnaires, undated	box 07	folder 03
Show counts, 1971	box 07	folder 04
Show counts number two, 1972	box 07	folder 05
Good Humor Company		
Contracts and correspondence, 1970	box 07	folder 06
Orchestra, 1970	box 07	folder 07
The Madam		
Contracts and correspondence, 1969	box 07	folder 08

Orchestra, 1969	box 07	folder 09
Nudes on Ice: Contracts, 1969	box 07	folder 10
Contracts, 1970	box 07	folder 11
Newspaper clippings, 1970	box 07	folder 12
Photographs, undated	box 07	folder 13
Pardon my Can Can		
Press Releases, 1970	box 07	folder 14
Computer reports and show counts, 1969	box 08	folder 01
Photographs of cast, 1969	box 08	folder 02
Publicity, 1969-1971	box 08	folder 03
The Tahitian Review: contracts, 1969	box 08	folder 04
Tokyo Holiday: photographs and contracts, 1969	box 08	folder 05
Tokyo Holiday: orchestra, 1969	box 08	folder 06
Under the Yum Yum Tree		
Cast members, 1969-1970	box 08	folder 07
Computer restaurant and show counts, 1969	box 08	folder 08
Contracts, 1969	box 08	folder 09
Correspondence, 1969	box 08	folder 10
Newspaper clippings, 1964	box 08	folder 11
Photographs, undated	box 08	folder 12
Press Releases, 1969	box 08	folder 13
Tent cards, undated	box 08	folder 14
Ziegfeld Follies: Tent cards, 1965	box 08	folder 15
Headliners		
Al Bello: contracts and show counts, 1970	box 09	folder 01
Al Bello: newspaper clippings, 1971	box 09	folder 02
Al Bello: photographs, undated	box 09	folder 03
Al Bello: press releases, 1970	box 09	folder 04
Charo: New Years Eve, 1971	box 09	folder 05
Charo: New Years Eve, 1972	box 09	folder 06
Ed Diamond: contracts, 1971-1972	box 09	folder 07
Ed Diamond: photographs, undated	box 09	folder 08



Ed Diamond: publicity, 1972	box 09	folder 09
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: contracts, 1971-1972	box 09	folder 10
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: newspaper articles, 1971	box 09	folder 11
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: orchestra, 1971	box 09	folder 12
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: photographs, 1971-1972	box 09	folder 13
Bob Fletcher and Vicky Lano: publicity, 1971-1972	box 09	folder 14
Vic Garcia: contracts, photographs and press releases, 1971	box 09	folder 15
Frank Gorshin: New Years Eve, 1970	box 09	folder 16
Frank Gorshin: New Years Eve, 1971	box 09	folder 17
Primo and Gia: New Years Eve, 1970	box 09	folder 18
Don Rickles: New Years Eve, 1968	box 09	folder 19
Bobby Sherwood and Phyllis Dorne, 1969	box 09	folder 20
Bobby Sherwood's Big Band Concert, 1971	box 09	folder 21
Kenny Sampson: Children's Christmas Party, 1969	box 09	folder 22
Orange Colored Skye, 1970	box 09	folder 23