

Guide to the Dorothy Keeler Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Keeler, Dorothy A.
Title:	Dorothy Keeler Papers
ID:	MS-00195
Date [inclusive]:	1811-1977
Date [bulk]:	1929-1973
Physical Description:	1.9 Linear Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Dorothy Keeler Papers (1811-1977) document early Las Vegas history, the life and career of former United States Mint director Eva Adams, and contain images of the Western United States and Southern Nevada in the 1930s. The collection contains clippings on the history of Las Vegas and early Las Vegas weddings as well as photographs documenting the Keelers' travels throughout the Western United States and the construction and dedication of Hoover Dam.

Preferred Citation

Dorothy Keeler Papers, 1811-1977. MS-00195. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Dorothy Keeler (1900-1976) served as the Chief Deputy County Clerk in Clark County, Nevada in the 1930s. In this position, she issued many marriage licenses to Hollywood celebrities and others who came to Las Vegas to get married. Born Dorothy Alice Vandewerkern in Otego, New York, she married Charles Keeler in Reno, Nevada in 1927. The couple relocated to Las Vegas where Charles Keeler worked for Frank Garside at the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. The Keelers later moved to Washington, D.C. Dorothy Keeler passed away on December 31, 1976.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Dorothy Keeler Papers (1811-1977) document early Las Vegas history and the life and career of Eva Adams, director of the United States Mint from 1961 through 1969. Keeler held the position of Chief Deputy Clerk in Clark County, Nevada and issued many marriage licenses. The collection contains materials about early Las Vegas celebrity weddings as well as general Las Vegas history. It also contains extensive clippings about Eva Adams, who taught at Las Vegas High School in the 1930s. The collection also includes family correspondence and photos. A photo album documenting the Keelers' extensive travels throughout the Western United States and the construction and dedication of Hoover Dam offers excellent images of automobile travel, the American West, and Southern Nevada in the 1930s.

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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

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

Materials were donated in 1978 by Charles D. Keeler; accession number 78-33.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Angela Moor revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with

current professional standards. In 2017 Joyce Moore edited the content and pulished the ArchivesSpace finding aid.

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Names and Subjects

- History -- Las Vegas -- Nevada
- Photographs
- Clark County (Nev.) -- History
- Memorabilia
- Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.) -- Design and construction
- Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.) -- History
- Adams, Eva B.
- United States Mint

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Eva Adams Director of the Mint, biography reprinted from "A Dozen Sierra Success Stories," 24 pages, undated	box 01
Clippings: telegrams and clippings about early Las Vegas weddings; clippings on Las Vegas history and Eva Adams, 1929-1976	box 01
Christmas Cards: Christmas cards to the Keelers from Don Schuyler, Marion Earl, Eva Adams; invitation to opening of Philadelphia US Mint, 1967-1976	box 01
Biographical notes and family materials: handwritten biography of Dorothy Keeler by Charles D. Keeler; mine claim to Dorothy K. mine in Nye County, Nevada; correspondence to J.D. Vanderwerken; stock certificates; papers of Martin A. Edson; photograph, Marion Louise Birdsall; "Discover the Wonderful World of Colorful Arizona with Arizona Highways" booklet; clippings on Abraham Lincoln; Charles and Dorothy Keeler wedding book; reelect Richard Ottinger advertisement, 1811-1970	box 01
Correspondence: Dorothy Keeler's automobile operator's license; newspaper clipping about Dorothy Keeler possibly running for County Clerk; letter from the Keelers; letter to Hal Erickson from Eva Adams; letter from Patrick McCarran introducing the Keelers; letter from William E. Orr to the Keelers, 1931-1977	box 01
Photos: construction of Hoover Dam; Pat McCarran postcard; United States Senate chamber pass signed by Pat McCarran; Boulder Dam photo booklet; Helldorado Crew group photo; Helldorado Kangaroo Court; Dorothy Vanderwerken Keeler; Peter H. Dominick signed photo; clipping "Old Timers Frolic Tonight at Helldorado;" Helldorado Crew from the Las Vegas Review print; family photos, 1930-1948	box 01

Inauguration: materials from inauguration of President John F. Kennedy, 1961 January 20	box 01
Miscellaneous: Carolyn Kay Shafer Disney business card, Christmas card from Frank and Carolyn Churchill, clippings about Carolyn Kay Shafer and Frank Churchill; business card, I.S. Thompson, Las Vegas attorney, with note to Dorothy Keeler on back, undated	box 01
Typed story, "Riley Grannan's Last Adventure" by Sam C. Dunham, undated	box 01
Salute to Nevada's Outstanding Women of the Century: newspaper clippings on Pat Nixon and Nevada women's honor roll; guest seating assignments, invitation, dinner ticket, and programs to Salute to Nevada's Outstanding Women of the Century dinner, 1973	box 01
100th Anniversary of the State of Nevada Dinner (Washington DC): invitation, program, place cards, and cocktail napkin, 1964 May 23	box 01
Program: "What Nevada Gave to the Nation" play at Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, Nevada, 1966	box 01
Magazines and clippings: World Championship Tennis Tour program; Nevada magazine; Opening of US Mint in Philadelphia programs; Lichtenstein booklet; bicentennial newspaper Washington DC, 1948-1976	box 01
Clippings and correspondence: newspaper clippings about Eva Adams; Cornerstone ceremony Philadelphia mint program; United States Senate chamber pass signed by Pat McCarran; invitation to presentation of McCarran statue at the Capitol rotunda, 1929-1970	box 01
The Mint Story, two copies, one signed by Eva Adams, 1967	box 01
Inauguration tickets and family correspondence: program and tickets to inauguration of President Lyndon B. Johnson; program and tickets to inauguration of President Richard Nixon; newspaper clippings about Frank McNamee; family correspondence, 1895-1969	box 01
Eva Adams clippings and correspondence, 1960-1968	box 01
Ephemera: piece of Mexican pottery; Salute to Nevada's Outstanding Women of the Century, five table flags; Nevada Centennial dinner, two table flags; Black Canyon Country Club golf trophy (broken); NAMA nametag, 1927-1973	box 02
Photo album: photographs document Dorothy and Charles Keeler's travels to Reno, Nevada; Death Valley, California; Mt. Charleston, Nevada; Big Bear, California; Lake Arrowhead, California; Valley of Fire, Nevada; Bunkerville, Nevada; Rhyolite, Nevada; Goodsprings, Nevada; Nye County, Nevada; Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming; Zion National Park, Utah; Multnomah Falls, Oregon; Mission San Juan Capistrano, California; Grand Canyon, Arizona; Colorado Springs, Colorado; their home in Las Vegas, Nevada; the construction and dedication of Hoover Dam and Lake Mead; and assorted family photos, 1927-1935	box 02