Guide to the Frank D. Rathbun Archaeology Papers

This finding aid was created by Lee Hanover, Melise Leech, and Sarah Jones. This copy was published on July 06, 2020.
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Summary Information

Creator: Rathbun, Frank D., 1908-1968
Title: Frank D. Rathbun Archaeology Papers
ID: MS-00209
Date [inclusive]: 1918 to 1983
Date [bulk]: 1931 to 1941
Physical Description: 1.29 Cubic Feet (3 boxes, 1 oversized box, and 1 flat file)
Physical Description: 4.89 Linear Feet
Physical Description: 17 Digital Files (0.136 GB) JPG
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The Frank D. Rathbun Archaeology Papers (1918-1983) consist of photographs, field note books and sketchbooks reflecting Rathbun's interest in petroglyphs throughout Nevada, Arizona, and California. The materials also include high school yearbooks, school term papers, scrapbooks, postcards, and memos pertaining to Native American history, water projects, and engineering topics. Additionally included is an unpublished report of an archaeological survey of the petroglyph sites identified by Rathbun, conducted in 1968 by Michael Moen.

Preferred Citation

Biographical Note

Frank D. Rathbun (1908-1968) was born in 1908 to Frank De Graff and Mary Goldacker Rathbun. His father was a mining engineer and encouraged his son's interest in geology and archaeology. The younger Rathbun worked for the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District as an engineer and surveyor. He worked on water development and dam projects throughout the Southwestern United States, primarily in California, Nevada, and Arizona. Most notably Rathbun was employed on the Colorado River Aqueduct in the 1930s. Rathbun documented archaeological sites throughout his surveying work, identifying areas with Native
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American petroglyphs, artifacts, and structures, as well as areas of unusual geological interest. Frank D. Rathbun died in 1968 and was buried in Las Vegas, Nevada.


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**Scope and Contents Note**

The Frank D. Rathbun Archaeology Papers (1918-1983) contain materials detailing Rathbun's archaeological and hydrological studies in California, Arizona, and Nevada. The collection contains index books, 1918 United War Work Campaign newspapers, postcards, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, field note books, books of Native American trails and localities, an unpublished survey of the Southern Nevada petroglyphs by Michael Moen for the Museum of Natural History Archaeological Research Center at Nevada Southern University, Las Vegas, Nevada (now the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada), high school yearbooks and school term papers. The collection also includes water research materials, newspaper articles and maps concerning the Colorado River Aqueduct, and an instruction for surveyors with hand drawn illustrations. Select material has been digitized for preservation purposes and is noted at the file level of this inventory.

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**Arrangement**

Materials remain in original order.

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**Administrative Information**

**Access Note**

Collection is open for research, with the exception of materials that are restricted to protect cultural resource areas. Restrictions are noted at the file level of this inventory. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.
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 transferred to the University Archives in 1971 from the Barrick Museum of Natural History, Archaeological Research Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada; accession numbers T-144 and 1971-004.

Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog project, Lee Hanover arranged the materials, wrote the finding aid, and entered the information into ArchivesSpace. In 2019, Melise Leech rehoused the materials and revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Some items in this collection are digital surrogates. In 2020, due to insurmountable preservation issues, Sarah Jones digitized select materials from the collection for preservation purposes.

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection: Frank Rathbun Photograph Collection, undated. PH-00163. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Names and Subjects

- Water resources development -- Nevada
- Photographs
- Indians of North America
- Southern Nevada -- 20th Century
- California -- History
- Arizona
- Petroglyphs
### Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript: <em>Mirage</em> by John Hadley, undated</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: 2 Files</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript: <em>Fiat Morality</em>, undated</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript: <em>Mist of the Sun, The</em>, preface and chapters 1-3, 1921</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moen, Michael, report on petroglyph sites identified by Frank D. Rathbun, BLM #5-743, 1968</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles about anthropology, archaeology, history, special interest, and travel, 1920s-1930s</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: 5 Files</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Colorado River Aqueduct News</em>, 1934 January 15-1938 April 25</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript: <em>Instructions to Surveyors for Staking Communication Pole Lines (Hayfield-Colorado River Section)</em>, approximately 1932-1933</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletters: United War Work Campaign of the Arizona Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), 1918</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcards depicting petroglyphs, approximately 1930-1940</td>
<td>oversized box 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographic scrapbook: Paiute Springs, California, approximately 1937</td>
<td>oversized box 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographic scrapbook: &quot;Graven in Stone: petroglyphs of the Colorado River&quot; by Frank D. Rathbun, approximately 1925 to 1940</td>
<td>digital file 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: 17 Digital Files (0.136 GB) JPG</td>
<td>oversized box 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Note: Digital files are open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearbooks: <em>Blue and White</em>, Los Angeles High School, Los Angeles, California, 1929</td>
<td>oversized box 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field note books and diaries, 1931-1941</td>
<td>box 03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Description: 14 Items</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field note books, diaries, archaeological inventory and survey records, 1925-1983</td>
<td>box 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description: 10 Items (8 books and 2 files)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Restricted: Materials are restricted by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 383.011-383.540 to protect cultural resource areas. Files are closed indefinitely.

"A Proclamation by the President of the United States", by Woodrow Wilson, 1917 April 06

flat file

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