

Guide to the Harmon Family Papers

This finding aid was created by Lindsay Oden, Sarah Jones, and Tammi Kim. This copy was published on October 14, 2019.

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Harmon Family
Contributor:	Harmon, Harley
Contributor:	Harmon, Harley E., 1918-2001
Contributor:	Harley, Harmon L., 1948-2006
Title:	Harmon Family Papers
ID:	MS-00301
Date [inclusive]:	1910 to 1999
Date [bulk]:	1910 to 1961
Physical Description:	5.35 Cubic Feet (7 boxes, 4 oversized boxes, 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	12.82 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Harmon Family Papers consist of the political and personal correspondence of Las Vegas, Nevada pioneer Harley A. Harmon from 1910-1934, and his son, Harley E. Harmon, from 1950-1966. The collection also includes correspondence, personal papers, and photographs of Harley L. Harmon from approximately 1950 to 1999. Also included are family scrapbooks with wedding announcements, photographs, birthday cards, newspaper clippings, and other ephemera.

Preferred Citation

Harmon Family Papers, 1910-1999, MS-00301. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Harley A. Harmon

Harley A. Harmon was born in 1882 in Wier City, Kansas and moved with his family to Los Angeles, California when he was nine years old. In 1905, he joined the Union Pacific Railroad as an engineer and drove one of the first construction trains to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he was stationed in 1908. That same year, Harmon introduced a proposal at the Democratic State Convention that a new county

seat be established in Las Vegas, which was passed in the next session and became effective on July 1, 1909. When Las Vegas was incorporated in 1911 Harmon became the first City Clerk, and in 1920 he was elected District Attorney. Harmon held the office until 1934, when he ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for governor. After the election, the newly elected Democratic Governor Richard Kirman appointed Harmon the chairman of the State Public Service Commission. Harmon ran again for the gubernatorial nomination in 1938 and lost a second time. He was a member of the Colorado River Commission which negotiated rights for the water and power emanating from the Colorado River and the Boulder Dam. Harley A. Harmon passed away in 1947.

Harley E. Harmon

Harley E. Harmon, Harley A. Harmon's son, was born in 1918 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was elected to the state assembly in 1948 and to the Board of Clark County Commissioners in 1950, where he served for twelve years and was a chairman for eight years. He established and was president of the Harley E. Harmon Insurance Agency, Frontier Fidelity Savings and Loan Association, and in 1961 organized the purchase of Nevada State Bank and became president. In 1976, he moved from the Nevada State Bank and joined Valley Bank as Vice President for Marketing. He resigned from that position in 1979 and passed away in 1999.

Sources:

The First One Hundred: Portraits of the Men and Women Who Shaped Las Vegas, F849.L35 F58 1999.

Hopkins, A.D. "Harley Harmon." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. October 28, 2017. Accessed March 12, 2018. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/harley-harmon/>.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Harmon Family Papers consist of the political and personal correspondence of Harley A. Harmon from 1910 to 1934, and his son Harley E. Harmon from 1950 to 1966. The papers also include family scrapbooks, correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings about Harley A. Harmon's campaigns for County Clerk, District Attorney, and Governor, and articles reporting on his death. Correspondence includes letters and greeting cards, certificates of acceptance into groups such as the Fraternal Brotherhood of Eagles, and a Western Union Telegraph from Franklin Roosevelt looking forward to counting Nevada as a Democratic state in future presidential elections. There are also political campaign advertisements for both Harvey A. Harmon and Harvey E. Harmon. The collection includes a small number of items related to Harley L. Harmon, son of Harley E. Harmon, including childhood portraits and some correspondence.

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Arrangement

The collection is organized by topic, and materials are arranged in rough chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were received periodically between 1982 and 2019; accession numbers 1982-012, 1989-001, 2003-015, 2019-031 and T180.

Processing Note

Material was minimally processed by staff in 1983 and 1989. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden revised and enhanced the collection description. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Sarah Jones rehoused and arranged the new materials, revised the collection description, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2019, Tammi Kim minimally processed and updated the finding aid to include the 2019 addition.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:
Harley E. Harmon. Interview, 1998 September 16. OH-00793. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Harmon Family Photograph Collection, 1900-1961. PH-00182. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Nevada -- History
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Politics and government
- West (U.S.) -- History
- Photographs
- Political campaigns

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Family scrapbooks and ephemera	
Family scrapbooks, 1910-1965	box 01 box 11 box 12 box 13
Photograph albums and wedding announcements, 1910-1960	oversized box 05 oversized box 08 oversized box 09
Harley A. Harmon papers	
Newspaper clippings, 1920-1947 Physical Description: 5 Files	box 02
Military documents, approximately 1910s	box 02
Personal correspondence, 1910-1934 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 02
Political correspondence, 1914-1920	box 03

Physical Description: 3 Files

Legal documents, 1917-1920	box 03
Political campaign advertisements, 1920	flat file 06
Personal correspondence, 1947	box 03
Physical Description: 3 Files	box 04
<i>Las Vegas Age</i> publications, 1903-1930	flat file 06
Harley E. Harmon papers	
Personal correspondence, approximately 1957-1961	box 04
Political campaign advertisements, 1950-1966	box 04
Portrait photographs of Harley E. Harmon and Harley L. Harmon, 1940s-1950s	oversized box 07
Newspaper clippings, Harmon and Wengert family tree information, correspondence, <i>World Book of Harmons</i> , 1975-1977, 1995-1999	box 10
Physical Description: 6 Files	