

## **Guide to the Richard B. Taylor Papers**

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections  
and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

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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>	Taylor, Richard B. (Richard Blackburn), 1929-
<b>Title:</b>	Richard B. Taylor Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00341
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1920-1993
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1956-1993
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.73 Linear Feet (9 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5.46 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Richard B. Taylor Papers (1920-1993) document Richard Taylor's career and interests as a longtime Las Vegas, Nevada businessman and local historian, including his work as an executive at the Hacienda Hotel and Casino. The materials also include maps, development plans, and local publications for the Nevada communities of Laughlin and Mount Charleston, as well as publicity and promotional materials for these projects. As an amateur historian, Taylor also collected information on Las Vegas, Laughlin, and Mount Charleston.

### Preferred Citation

Richard B. Taylor Papers, 1920-1993. MS-00341. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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Richard "Dick" Blackburn Taylor was a prominent businessman in Las Vegas, Nevada and amateur historian of Southern Nevada. Taylor was born on January 31, 1929 in Quincy, Illinois and grew up in Glendale, California. After graduating high school in 1947, he attended Washington and Lee University, the University of Southern California, and the University of Hawaii. He served in the 4th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in Germany during the occupation following WWII. In 1957, he married Charlene Flora Belknap and had four children.

Taylor spent his career in the hotel, stock market, security systems, publishing, and real estate development businesses. He began at the Hacienda Hotel chain in Fresno, California that was owned by developer and

hotelier Warren "Doc" Bayley. Taylor was transferred to Las Vegas where he became resident manager of the Hacienda. He was soon promoted to General Manager of the Hacienda, and at age twenty-seven was one of the youngest hotel executives in America. When Bayley decided to expand his hotel empire by purchasing the New Frontier Hotel, Taylor served as an officer on the Board of Directors. Taylor was also heavily involved with Bayley when the latter purchased land on Mount Charleston in the hopes of developing the existing lodge building and property in Kyle Canyon into a resort. Just prior to Bayley's death in 1964, Taylor resigned from the Hacienda.

After leaving the hotel and casino industry, Taylor pursued various career interests. For a time, he left Las Vegas and worked as a stockbroker in Palm Springs, California. After returning to Las Vegas, he was the owner of Metro Alarm, and published the Mormon newspaper, *The Beehive*. Taylor also ran a real estate business in Las Vegas later in life.

Taylor became known in his later years as an avid amateur historian and author, self-publishing many works on topics of local interest. Taylor, a devout Mormon, critically examined the city and gambling in his first book, *Las Vegas, City of Sin?*, which he co-wrote with Pat Howell in 1964. Another early book documented the history of the Hacienda Hotel, and another focused on the origins and growth of the boomtown of Laughlin located on the Colorado River. Taylor also published a genealogical research book, *Nevada Tombstone Record Book*, which contained 750 pages of ghost town cemetery headstones.

Taylor was active in the community during both his early and later years in Las Vegas. In the 1950s and 1960s, Taylor rode with the Sheriff's Mounted Posse - an all-volunteer group that worked with Clark County authorities, served on the Board of the Directors of the YMCA, and worked with the Boy Scouts of America. In the 1980s and 1990s, he participated in the Secret Witness program.

Taylor spent his later years living in his mountain home at Mount Charleston, where he began to document the history of Mount Charleston by compiling newspaper articles on the area into several volumes. During the last year of his life, he received a proclamation from the Clark County Commission naming him "Historian Laureate" of Mount Charleston, and had his birthday proclaimed as "Richard B. Taylor Day." Dick Taylor passed away at his home on March 10, 2011.

Source:

"Richard B. Taylor obituary." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, March 13, 2011. Accessed November 8, 2018. <https://obits.reviewjournal.com/obituaries/lvrj/obituary.aspx?n=richard-taylor&pid=149212825>

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Richard B. Taylor Papers (1920-1993) are comprised of newspaper clippings, newsletters, minutes, legal papers, and correspondence from Taylor's career and interests as a longtime Las Vegas, Nevada businessman, including his work as an executive at the Hacienda Hotel and Casino. As an amateur local historian, Taylor also collected information on Las Vegas, Laughlin, and Mount Charleston, Nevada. The collection also includes maps, development plans, and local publications for the Southern Nevada

communities of Laughlin and Mount Charleston as well as publicity and promotional materials for these projects.

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## Arrangement

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The collection is divided into four series:

Series I. Hacienda Hotel, 1955-1990;

Series II. Laughlin, Nevada, 1986-1992;

Series III. Mount Charleston, 1920-1989;

Series IV. Organizations, 1960-1993.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

The 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 and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated periodically by Richard Taylor between 1986 and 1994; accession numbers 1994-030, 1993-037, 1993-042, 1990-013, 1989-055, 1989-049, 1986-017, 1986-030, and 1986-058.

### Processing Information

The materials were processed by Su Kim Chung in 1995 and reprocessed by Joyce Moore in 2011. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Lindsay Oden entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2018, Douglas Emery rehoused the materials and updated the finding aid.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Casinos -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Hotels -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Laughlin (Nev.) -- History
- Mount Charleston (Nev.)
- Hacienda Hotel and Casino

## Collection Inventory

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### Hacienda Hotel and Casino, 1955-1990

Physical Description: 0.9 Linear Feet (2 boxes)

Physical Description: 1.02 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Hacienda Hotel and Casino Series (1955-1990) contains material that documents Taylor's work as General Manager of the Hacienda Hotel, such as newspaper articles, newsletters, photographs, correspondence, daily reports, and Taylor's notes about the Hacienda's history. The newspaper clippings and Taylor's notes cover the Hacienda's early history under the ownership of Warren "Doc" Bayley, as well as its history under subsequent owners Judy Bayley, and then Paul Lowden.

Arrangement Note: Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Containers	
Casino Cheaters newspaper articles, 1961-1989	box 01	folder 01
Casino Newspaper, August-September 1990	box 01	folder 02
Christmas photograph of the Hacienda cocktail waitresses, 1958	box 01	folder 03
Correspondence, 1956-1987	box 01	folder 04-05
Daily reports, 1958-1963	box 01	folder 06
Hacienda history		
Hacienda documents, 1963-1981	box 01	folder 07
History book artwork, 1982-1989	box 01	folder 08
Microfiche, 1980s	box 01	folder 09
Judy Bayley history, 1969-1972	box 01	folder 10
"The Lusty Years", 1962-1968	box 01	folder 11

Paul Lowden history, 1972-1987	box 01	folder 12
Historical Album of Nevada, 1955	box 02	folder 01
Legal papers, 1961	box 02	folder 02
Nevada Report Newsletters, 1969 September-1971 May	box 02	folder 03
Promotional materials for the Hacienda, brochures, handbag, 1950s-1960s	box 02	folder 04
Stationery, 1960s	box 02	folder 05
Stockholder's reports, 1955-1972	box 02	folder 06
Victorville, California promotion that saved the Hacienda Hotel and Casino from bankruptcy, 1957	box 01	

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## Laughlin, Nevada, 1986-1992

Physical Description: 1.3 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Physical Description: 2.71 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Laughlin, Nevada Series (1986-1992) contains Taylor's materials on the growth and development of Laughlin, Nevada, including Chamber of Commerce meeting information, newsletters, El Mirage property and shopping center plans, appraisals, and history book research material.

Arrangement Note: Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Containers	
Chamber of Commerce meeting, 1989	box 03	folder 01
Colorado River Pioneers Historical Society newsletters, 1989-1990	box 03	folder 02
El Mirage property plans, 1989-1990	box 03	folder 03
El Mirage shopping center plans, 1989	box 03	folder 04
Gold River Properties appraisal reports, 1991 July	box 03	folder 05
Gold River Partners investors presentation, 1992	box 03	folder 06
Gold River Partnership bankruptcy proceedings, 1991-1992	box 03	folder 07
Growth and development analysis, 1990-1991	box 03	folder 08
Laughlin history book research materials, 1986-1989	box 03	folder 09
Laughlin history book artwork and paste-ups, 1989	box 03	folder 10
Laughlin history book, 1987-1989	box 04	folder 01
Laughlin history book project and publishing materials, 1987-1991	box 04	folder 02
Laughlin promotional materials and photographs, 1988	box 04	folder 03
Laughlin plans and other documents, 1990	box 04	folder 04
Mojave Valley, Arizona, Gold Sands Community, 1991		

	box 04	folder 05
Needles, California, option agreement, 1989-1990	box 04	folder 06
Newspaper clippings, 1987-1988	box 04	folder 07
Newspaper clippings, 1988-1990	box 05	folder 01-03
Silverado Marina RV Resort, 1990	box 05	folder 04
Photo slides and commentary, 1989	box 05	folder 05
Spirit Mountain project, 1990	box 05	folder 06

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## Mount Charleston, 1920-1989

Physical Description: 0.9 Linear Feet (2 boxes)

Physical Description: 1.02 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Mount Charleston Series (1920-1989) contains materials on Mount Charleston, including billing plans, correspondence, historical notes, Taylor's book, legal files, newspaper articles, and appraisals.

Arrangement Note: Materials are arranged alphabetically.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Containers</b>	
Alpine Village Homesite plans, 1960	box 06	folder 01
Correspondence, 1961-1989	box 06	folder 02
Correspondence: library, 1986-1989	box 06	folder 03
Development plan, 1971	box 06	folder 04
Historical news clippings, 1920-1980	box 06	folder 05
History book artwork and photographs, 1988	box 06	folder 06
History book literature and flyers, 1989	box 06	folder 07
History book publicity, 1989	box 06	folder 08
History book publisher and printer information, 1988-1989	box 06	folder 09
History book sales, 1988-1989	box 06	folder 10
Inquiries and promotional, 1971-1989	box 06	folder 11
Legal papers, 1968-1971	box 06	folder 12
Local publications on Mount Charleston, 1943-1989	box 07	folder 01
Lodge fire, 1961	box 07	folder 02
Lot 29 Charleston Park, 1968	box 07	folder 03
Maps, 1960s	box 07	folder 04



Newspaper articles, 1964-1986	box 07	folder 05
Property appraisals, 1974	box 07	folder 06
Public speaking engagements at service clubs, 1988	box 07	folder 07
U2 spy plane crash clippings and photographs, 1974	box 07	folder 08
Video tape history, 1989	box 07	folder 09
"The View" newsletter, 1982-1983	box 07	folder 10

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## Organizations, 1960-1993

Physical Description: 0.63 Linear Feet (2 boxes)

Physical Description: 0.71 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Organization Series (1960-1993) contains meeting minutes, correspondence, bylaws, and newspaper articles covering the organizations of which Taylor was a member. The organizations include Secret Witness, Pioneer Monument, and the Sheriff's Mounted Posse of Clark County.

Arrangement Note: Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Containers	
Secret Witness		
Board meeting minutes, 1989-1993	box 08	folder 01-04
Board of Trustees, 1989-1992	box 08	folder 05
Bumper stickers, 1990s	box 08	folder 06
Correspondence and memoranda, 1990-1992	box 08	folder 07
Crime Free video contents, 1993	box 08	folder 08
Events, 1981-1990	box 08	folder 09
Introduction and bylaws, 1990	box 08	folder 10
Newspaper articles, 1989-1990	box 08	folder 11
Pioneer Monument, 1969-1973	box 09	folder 01
Sheriff's Mounted Posse of Clark County, 1960-1975	box 09	folder 02

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