

Guide to the Reno Gay Rodeo Collection

This finding aid was created by Dennis McBride and Hana Gutierrez on September 25, 2017.
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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Reno Gay Rodeo
Title:	Reno Gay Rodeo Collection
ID:	MS-00503
Date [inclusive]:	1977-1988
Physical Description:	0.21 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Reno Gay Rodeo Collection comprises organizational records collected by Dennis McBride that document the National Reno Gay Rodeo from 1977 to 1988. It includes newspaper clippings, notes, and ephemera, as well as legal documentation from two lawsuits fought unsuccessfully in 1988 to retain the Reno rodeo. The two lawsuits were the Silver State Gay Rodeo Association vs Lawlor Events Center (1988), and the Lantry, et. al. vs Third Judicial District Court, NV (Nevada Supreme Court dismissal, 1988).

Preferred Citation Note

Reno Gay Rodeo Collection, 1977-1988. MS-00503. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Organizational History

Founded in Reno, Nevada in 1975 by Phil Ragsdale, the Reno Gay Rodeo was the inspiration for gay rodeos that today are held throughout the world. The first gay rodeo was held in Reno on October 2, 1976, and served as a fund-raiser for local charities. While only 125 people attended that first event, the National Reno Gay Rodeo grew to eventually draw more than 20,000 spectators and participants in 1982. The Reno rodeo ended in 1984, but reemerged in Las Vegas in 1994 with a Gymkhana, an equestrian sporting event, and in 1996 with the first annual Big Horn Rodeo. In 2004 the gay rodeo returned to Reno, hosted by the High Sierra Rodeo Association.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Reno Gay Rodeo Collection comprises organizational records collected by Dennis McBride that document the National Reno Gay Rodeo from 1977 to 1988. It includes newspaper clippings; notes, ephemera; as well as legal documentation from two lawsuits fought unsuccessfully in 1988 to retain the Reno rodeo. The two lawsuits were the Silver State Gay Rodeo Association vs Lawlor Events Center (1988), and the Lantry, et. al. vs Third Judicial District Court, NV (Nevada Supreme Court dismissal, 1988).

Chronology	
1975	Reno Gay Rodeo founded in Reno, Nevada by Phil Ragsdale
1976	First gay rodeo held in Reno
1982	The National Reno Gay Rodeo draws more than 20,000 individuals
1984	Last National Reno Gay Rodeo
1996	First annual Big Horn Rodeo
2004	The gay rodeo returns to Reno

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Arrangement Note

Original order has been maintained

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Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

For permission to reproduce or publish from this collection, please contact the Director of Special Collections.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2005 by Dennis McBride; accession number 2005-008.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Dennis McBride in 2005. In 2014 as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hana Gutierrez revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Hana Gutierrez entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

Revision Description

The finding aid was revised by Hana Gutierrez to bring it into compliance with DACS. June 2014

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Names and Subjects

- Gay rodeos -- Nevada -- Reno
- Gay community -- Nevada -- 20th century
- Homophobia -- Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Notes, etc., undated	box 01	folder 01
Silver State Gay Rodeo Association v Lawlor Events Center, 1988	box 01	folder 02
Lantry, et. al. v Third Judicial District Court, NV , 1988	box 01	folder 03
News Articles, 1977-1988	box 01	folder 04