

Guide to the Bill Beam Papers

This finding aid was created by Lindsay Oden and Joyce Moore on September 25, 2017.
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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Beam, Bill
Title:	Bill Beam Papers
ID:	MS-00531
Date [inclusive]:	1955-2004
Physical Description:	1.15 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Physical Description:	1.05 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Bill Beam Papers document the career of miner and poetry enthusiast Bill (William) Beam from 1955 to 2004. The papers contain mining materials, photographs, and poetry from mines Beam worked in around the Southwestern United States. Also included are two albums of photographs from the Nevada Test Site.

Preferred Citation

Bill Beam Papers, 1955-2004. MS-00531. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Miner and poetry enthusiast William "Bill" Beam was born in 1930 in Bisbee, Arizona. After graduating from high school, Beam worked as a mucker at mines in Ajo, Arizona and in Bisbee, Arizona. In the late 1950s Beam worked for the Union Carbide Corporation in Arizona and participated in their safety training program, which allowed him to work as a safety inspector in other mines around the Southwest. His experience as a safety engineer attracted attention from J. D. Hill, the Director of Safety for Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). In 1967 Beam moved to Las Vegas, Nevada and began working at the NTS.

Beam wrote a book of original poems about living and working in the Southwest titled "Southwestern Cowboy Poetry." He retired from the Nevada Test Site in 1993, the same year he published his poetry.

Sources: William "Bill" Beam, interview by Mary Palevsky, January 20, 2005, UNLV Nevada Test Site Oral History Project, <http://digital.library.unlv.edu/api/1/objects/nts/1261/bitstream>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Bill Beam Papers contain materials from the career of miner and poetry enthusiast Bill Beam from 1955 to 2004. The papers contain mine training materials, newspaper articles, correspondence, photographs, and poetry from mines Beam worked in around Nevada and the Southwest. Also included are two albums of photographs from the Nevada Test Site. The papers also include two books of cowboy poetry, including a book of poetry by Beam.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged alphabetically.

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Administrative Information

Access

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 website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2007 by William "Bill" Beam; accession number 2007-014.

Processing Note

The collection is completely processed. In 2014, Lindsay Oden wrote the collection description and subsequently entered the data into ArchivesSpace. Joyce Moore completed the processing in 2016.

Revision Description

The finding aid was revised by Lindsay Oden to bring it into compliance with DACS. July 2014

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Names and Subjects

- Nevada Test Site (Nev.)
- Mines and mineral resources -- Nevada
- Poetry -- Nevada -- History

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
"Explosives": information on explosives, photographs, 1972	box 01
Miner Trainee Manual, 1970	box 01
"A Mucker's Memoirs" photo album, 1955-1972	box 01
Nevada Test Site road and facilities map, 1994	box 01