

Guide to the Von Tobel Family Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Von Tobel Family
Creator:	Von Tobel, George W., 1918-2003
Creator:	Von Tobel, Jacob E., 1909-1993
Creator:	Von Tobel, Edward, Jr., 1913-2009
Title:	Von Tobel Family Papers
ID:	MS-00589
Date [inclusive]:	1905-1997
Physical Description:	7.06 Cubic Feet (9 boxes, 1 flat file, 1 roll)
Physical Description:	9.86 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Von Tobel Family Papers (1905-1997) consist of photographs, correspondence, and financial reports pertaining to the early Las Vegas Von Tobel family and their businesses, which they operated in Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection also contains newspaper clippings covering the life of Edward Von Tobel Sr. and some of the operational business records of the Von Tobel Hardware Store No. 301.

Preferred Citation

Von Tobel Family Papers, 1905-1997. MS-00589. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Edward and Mary Von Tobel were one of the early families to arrive in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1905. In that year, the family founded the Von Tobel Lumber Company, which remained in operation until 1976 as one of the longest family-owned businesses in Las Vegas, Nevada. Sons Edward Jr. and George Von Tobel opened several Von Tobel retail hardware stores in Las Vegas in the 1950s and 1960s. The family was also active in early Nevada Republican party politics and George Von Tobel served as a Nevada Assemblyman. In the 1960s, the Von Tobel family focused their attention on real estate, and they were involved in buying, selling, and appraising numerous properties in and around the Las Vegas valley. Most Von Tobel retail

stores closed or were sold to other companies in the 1980s. George Von Tobel passed away in 2003 and his brother Edward Jr. passed away in 2009.

Source:

"Longtime Businessman Ed Von Tobel, Jr., 96, Dies," accessed January 28, 2019. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/longtime-businessman-von-tobel-jr-96-dies/>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Von Tobel Family Papers (1905-1997) consist of photographs, correspondence, and financial reports pertaining to the early Las Vegas Von Tobel family and their businesses, which they operated in Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection also contains newspaper clippings covering the life of Edward Von Tobel Sr. and some of the operational business records of the Von Tobel Hardware Store No. 301.

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Arrangement

These records are organized into three series:

Series I. Von Tobel business records, 1916-1995;

Series II. Von Tobel family papers, 1905-1997;

Series III. Early Las Vegas, Nevada historical materials, 1905-1980.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

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 in 1996, 2012, and 2014 by the Von Tobel family; accession numbers 96-11, 2012-006, and 2014-025.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by UNLV Special Collections staff in 2012. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Ian M. Baldwin revised descriptions of the accessions in compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently, Hana Gutierrez gathered the accessions into a single collection, processed new materials, enhanced the description, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2019, Joyce Moore further revised the collection and entered the changes in ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection: Jacob E. Von Tobel Photograph Collection, 1900-1980. PH-00204. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Von Tobel, Ed Jr. Interview, 1972 October 04. OH-00036. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Von Tobel, George. Interview, 1972 October 14. OH-00037. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Von Tobel, Jacob. Interview, 1985. OH-00038. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Downey, Dwight (D. A.). Interview, 2016 February 05. OH-02571. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Business enterprises – Nevada – Las Vegas
- Businesspeople – Nevada – Las Vegas
- Photographs

Collection Inventory

Von Tobel business records, 1916-1995

Physical Description: 5.97 Cubic Feet (5 boxes, 2 oversized boxes, 1 flat file)

Physical Description: 8.2 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Von Tobel business records series dates from 1916 to 1995 and consists of daily operation ledgers and insurance information from the lumber company. Additionally, the series contains financial and human resource records, store newsletters, and internal memos from Edwards Von Tobel's Hardware Store No. 301 collected by store employee Marie Imus. The series also contains photographs of the first Edward Von Tobel Hardware Store, and photographs and ephemera related to the lumber and hardware store businesses. The series also contains information about Von Tobel's hardware store shutdown and take over by Builder's Emporium, as well as information about other competing hardware stores, such as Ole's and Ernst.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by topic.

Title/Description	Containers
Lumber company general ledger, gray, 1916-1936	box 01
Lumber company logbook, green velvet, 1936-1973	box 01
Current accounts for lumber company, 1937-1946	box 01
Lumber company general ledger, red velvet, 1942-1971	box 02
Lumber company insurance summary, 1962 July 31	box 02
Marie Imus's alarm pass and insurance cards, 1980-1986	box 03
Edward Von Tobel's Hardware Store employee handbook, 1984	box 03
Marie Imus's vendor file, 1993	box 03
Marie Imus's business card file, 1993	box 03
Teamsters Local 631 Security Fund Booklet and Enrollment Card, 1991	box 03
Von Tobel's nursery desk phone list, 1985-1993	box 03
Emma Lee Howell's business card, 1985	box 03
Ernst "Grand Opening" promotional key ring, 1994	box 03
Von Tobel's business and credit cards, undated	box 03
American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers correspondence, 1959-1969	box 03
<i>Hardware Age</i> , magazine, 1972 October	box 03
Von Tobel's Hardware Store newsletter, 1967	box 03
<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> newspaper clipping, 1951 May 20	box 03
Von Tobel's Hardware Store promotional material, undated	box 03
Personnel information sheet for Von Tobel's Hardware Store undated	box 03

Pay 'N Save vs. Von Tobel Group, insurance comparison, undated	box 03
Whirlpool Educational Center sales aid, undated	box 03
Weekly job assignments for Von Tobel's Hardware Store, 1979	box 03
Pay 'N Save memorandum, 1977-1985	box 03
Pay 'N Save benefits booklet, 1978-1980	box 03
<i>Intercom</i> newsletter, 1979 April	box 03
Pay 'N Save stress relief program, 1980	box 03
"Thanks a Billion" certificate, 1982 October	box 03
Von Tobel's Hardware Store job descriptions, 1982-1985 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 03
Von Tobel's housewares budget, 1983	box 03
"Celebrating Change" Von Tobel's memorandum, 1984 May 07	box 03
<i>The Monthly</i> , Pay 'N Save's newsletter, 1984 November	box 03
Pay 'N Save Tax Relief Investment Protection Plan (TRIP), 1983-1984	box 03
Von Tobel's "Maniac Money" incentive program newsletter, 1985	box 03
Wickes Companies annual report, 1987	box 03
Evelyn Ewing's employee awards, 1986-1992	box 03
Builder's Emporium benefits packet, 1989	box 04
"Little Links" newsletter published by Ole's Store 671, 1992 December	box 04
Merit badge training results, 1992 November 18	box 04
Ole's last advertisement, 1993 August 29	box 04
Retirement savings memorandum and prospectus, Ole's Store 671, 1987	box 04
Delta Dental Plan of California, application, undated	box 04
<i>Thanks a Billion</i> Pay 'N Save newsletter, 1982 October	box 04
Von Tobel's Hardware Store employee cookbook cover, 1984	box 04
Edith Fenton's retirement card, draft, undated	box 04
Von Tobel's Hardware Store Best Fixer award draft, 1985 December 13	box 04
Menu drafts for Von Tobel's Hardware Store Pearl Harbor Day breakfast, 1985 December 07	box 04
Tuition reimbursement program for Von Tobel's and Ernst's memorandum, 1985	box 04
Aetna Life Insurance Company brochure, 1982	box 04
Von Tobel's management review program packet, 1985 February 15	box 04
Von Tobel's various accolades, 1985	box 04

Von Tobel's merit badge training memorandum, 1993 August 18	box 04
Ole's associate profile, 1991, 1993 Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research on January 1, 2068.	box SH-042
Displaced workers training program post Ole's shutdown, 1993-1994 Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research use on January 1, 2069.	box SH-042
Human resources job search booklet, 1993 August 31	box 04
Von Tobel's inventory notation, 1985 August 24	box 04
Armstrong Ceilings Installation merit training, pamphlets, 1993	box 04
Builder's Emporium employee benefits packet, 1986 January 23	box 04
Job description, 1987	box 04
Proposed job description after Builder's Emporium take over, 1986 January 23	box 04
Memoranda concerning Von Tobel's Hardware Store sale to Builder's Emporium, 1986 January 23	box 04
Builder's Emporium program description, 1989	box 04
Employee benefit meeting notes, 1986 January	box 04
Nursery and Garden products knowledge meeting, 1990 February 13	box 04
Builder's Emporium magazine subscription form, 1989 January 23	box 04
Product knowledge training agenda, 1993 March 04	box 04
Builder's Emporium employee handbooks, 1988-1993	box 04
Ernst's blank certificate of achievement, 1985	box 04
Von Tobel's employee funeral memorial cards, 1985	box 04
Builder's Emporium vacation pay procedures, 1989-1993	box 04
Von Tobel's store closure procedures, 1993 August 27	box 04
Memoranda concerning Von Tobel's store closure procedures, 1993 August 25	box 04
Labor laws, 1993	box 04
Wickes Companies, Inc. retirement saving plus plan, 1987 December 23	box 04
Photographs of Ole's Store 671 employees, including the following individuals: Louis Riggs, Chris Hunt, Bonnie Davis, Bernice Johnson, Miguel Torres, Marie Imus, Dana Schafer, Bill Lowe, Richard Diedrick, Colleen Schneider, Judy Kazel, and Rex Paulson, 1987-1988 Physical Description: 15 Items	box 04
Builder's Emporium employee benefits, 1987 October 30	box 04
Correspondence regarding Von Tobel's tax relief investments protection plan, 1984-1989	box 04

Litigation documents regarding Marie Imus's pension, 1987-1994 Restricted: Materials are restricted to protect personally identifiable information and will be open for research on January 1, 2069.	box SH-042
Ernst zone defense program, 1985	box 04
Von Tobel's personal appearance standards, 1985	box 04
Von Tobel's payroll policy and procedures, 1985 May 14	box 04
Pay 'N Save credit union documents, 1985-1988	box 04
<i>Chain Links</i> , newsletter, 1986 June, 1991 December	box 04
Newspaper clipping about new Ernst hardware store, 1995	box 04
Ole's Employee of the Month award, 1992 February	box 04
Appraisal reports, 1956-1986	box 05
Von Tobel's store calendars, 1932-1962	flat file 10
Von Tobel's store decor, moon mask, and metal stamps, undated	box 08
Photographs of Von Tobel's Hardware Store No. 301 Christmas display, including Gerry Birchfield, 1985 Physical Description: 4 Items	box 03
Photographs of Von Tobel's grand opening; exterior shots of the store's parking lot; interior shots of the various departments, employees, and customers, 1960s Physical Description: 30 Items	box 03
Photographs of street views and aerial views of the lumber company; various advertisements; architectural sketch of Von Tobel's Hardware Store, 1932-1967 Physical Description: 15 Items	oversized box 09

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Von Tobel family papers, 1905-1997

Physical Description: 1.12 Cubic Feet (1 box, 1 oversized box)

Physical Description: 1.77 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Von Tobel family papers series dates from 1905 to 1997 and consist of the personal papers of one of the early families in Las Vegas, Nevada. The series consists of photographs of the Von Tobel family, a diary, and newspaper clippings featuring stories on Edward Von Tobel.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by topic.

Title/Description	Containers
Von Tobel diary, 1954-1959	box 06
Alta Drive extension correspondence and photographs, 1959-1961	box 06
<i>Die Deutsche Hausfrau</i> [The German Housewife] magazine, 1918 July	box 06

<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> newspaper clipping, 1964 January 24	box 06
<i>Southwest View</i> magazine, 1997 June 04	box 06
<i>Las Vegas Sun</i> newspaper clipping, 1967 September 10	box 06
Newspaper clippings about Von Tobel family, 1945-1981	box 06
<i>Las Vegas Sun</i> newspaper clipping, 1980 July 13	box 06
Photographs of Edward Von Tobel Sr. and his adult sons; newspaper articles discussing the accomplishments of Edward Von Tobel; obituary for Edward Von Tobel, Sr., 1905-1969	oversized box 09
Physical Description: 12 Items	

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Early Las Vegas, Nevada historical material, 1905-1980

Physical Description: 2.88 Cubic Feet (3 boxes, 1 oversized box, 1 roll)

Physical Description: 5.05 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The early Las Vegas, Nevada historical materials series dates from 1905 to 1980 and is comprised of visual materials that reflect the development of early Las Vegas, aerial photographs of Las Vegas in 1976, photographs of early built structures, newspaper clippings, and books.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged by topic.

Title/Description	Containers
<i>Epic</i> magazine, 1952 October 01	box 06
Las Vegas Thoroughbred Racing Association brochure, 1960s	box 06
Clark County Sanitation District One, map, 1955 August 01	box 06
The Exposition, book, 1915	box 06
Verse and Expressions, book, 1950	box 06
Las Vegas Town Site Land Auction Anniversary brochure, 1978 May 15	box 06
<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> newspaper clipping, 1980 May 11	box 06
<i>Las Vegas Sun Scene Feature</i> magazine, 1971 May 16	box 06
United States Census of Las Vegas, Nevada, 1910	box 06
Photographs of the early permanent structures in Las Vegas, tent camps, wagons, and donkeys; early construction of the railroad, 1905-1968	oversized box 09
Physical Description: 25 Items	
<i>Las Vegas Sun</i> decorative plate, undated	box 08
Photographs of early Las Vegas and Von Tobel Middle School, 1945-1960s	box 07
Physical Description: 25 Items	
Photograph of dam construction site and celebration of Boulder Dam construction, 1919-1923	

Physical Description: 4 Items	oversized box 09
Photographs of early Las Vegas tent camps, wagons, first state bank, and other early permanent structures of Las Vegas; 1900s newspaper; Railroadmen's Ball ticket, 1905-1935	box 07
Physical Description: 11 Items	
Aerial photographs of Las Vegas roadways and landmarks, 1940-1941	box 07
Physical Description: 12 Items	
Photograph of Las Vegas Rotary and the Kiwanis Club, 1940s	box 07
Physical Description: 1 Items	

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