

## **Guide to the Barbara Tabach Collection on the New Frontier Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas**

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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>	Tabach, Barbara
<b>Title:</b>	Barbara Tabach Collection on the New Frontier Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00800
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1961, 2007
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	2007
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.4 Linear Feet (1 box)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	759 Digital Files
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection contains material collected by Barbara Tabach to document the final days of the New Frontier Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada (2007). Included are brief oral history audio recordings and transcripts for approximately 50 individuals who worked at or were customers of the New Frontier, as well as over 650 digital photographs of the people and the building. Also included is a digital video of the November 2007 implosion and a <i>Las Vegas Sun</i> newspaper clipping from September 1961 on the New Frontier.

### Preferred Citation

Barbara Tabach Collection on the New Frontier Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, 1961, 2007. MS-00800. Special Collections, UNLV Libraries, University of Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Historical Note

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The Last Frontier Hotel opened in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 30, 1942. In its early days the hotel featured a western theme and The Last Frontier Village, a replica of a pioneer town featuring stagecoaches and the Little Church of the West, also stood on the property. The hotel was sold in 1951 and again in 1955. The new owners revamped the design, replacing the pioneer old west décor with modern, atomic age designs and the name of the hotel changed to The New Frontier. The hotel attracted Hollywood types as well as scientists who worked at the Nevada Test Site. Elvis Presley made his Las Vegas debut at the hotel in April 1956. After another series of ownership changes the hotel was demolished, and in June of 1967 the new

building was opened. Shortly thereafter Howard Hughes purchased the hotel and shortened the name to the Frontier Hotel. The hotel was purchased by the Eldari family in 1988 and became the site of a contentious six year Culinary Workers Union strike from 1991 to 1998. The strike ended when the property was sold to Phil Ruffin in October of 1998. The hotel saw its name change back to the New Frontier in 1999. Ruffin sold the New Frontier to ELAD Property Group in May 2007 for 1.24 Billion and the New Frontier closed its doors for the final time on July 16, 2007. The building was imploded on November 13, 2007.

Source: Chung, Su Kim. 2012. *Las Vegas, then and now*. San Diego, Calif: Thunder Bay Press.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The collection contains material collected by Barbara Tabach to document the final days of the New Frontier Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada (2007). The collection includes oral histories conducted by Tabach, who interviewed approximately 50 individuals that frequented or worked at The New Frontier, including customers and employees of Gilley's restaurant. The collection also contains over 650 digital photographs of the people and building, resulting in a digital video of the November 2007 implosion, and a digital video compilation of the New Frontier and its employees. Most of the photographs and both videos were compiled and edited by Tabach; some images were captured by photographer Evie Dean. A *Las Vegas Sun* newspaper clipping from September 3, 1961 on the New Frontier celebrating the "Golden Era" of Southern Nevada is also part of the collection.

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## Arrangement

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Access copies of digital files are grouped according to material type: images/videos, audio recordings, and transcripts.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access

Collection is open for research. Advance notice and arrangements are required for access to digital files; please contact Special Collections for more information.

## Publication Note

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## Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Barbara Tabach in 2015; accession number 2015-106.

## Processing Note

Materials were processed by Karla Irwin in 2016. Oral history audio files were converted from WAV to MP3 for access. Transcript files were converted from DOC to PDF/A and video files (AVI, VOB, MOV) were converted to MP4. No access copies were created for supplementary video files such as IFO and BUP as they contain no significant content. Duplicate files are not included.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Oral histories (document genres)
- Photographs
- New Frontier Hotel and Casino

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Last Frontier Hotel in the "Golden Era, 1941-1961, The Strip, Southern Nevada" Las Vegas Sun newspaper clipping, 1961 September 03	box 01
New Frontier images and videos, 2007 June-July Physical Description: 672 Digital Files (2 DVDs, USB flash drive, 1.41 GB) JPG, MP4	box 01
Oral history interview audio recordings, 2007 June-July Physical Description: 61 Digital Files (5 DVDs, 567 MB) MP3	box 01
Oral history interview transcripts, 2007 Physical Description: 26 Digital Files (USB flash drive, 1.85 GB) PDF/A	box 01