Guide to the Bill Schafer Papers

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Summary Information

Creator: Schafer, Bill
Title: Bill Schafer Papers
ID: MS-00874
Date [inclusive]: 1985-1987, 1997-2002
Physical Description: 0.38 Cubic Feet (2 boxes) 1.19 Linear Feet
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The Bill Schafer Papers include materials dating from 1985 to 1987 and 1997 to 2002. These materials include poetry published by "Tommy," Poet Laureate of the Las Vegas Bugle. It also contains papers related to Schafer's ordainment by the Universal Life Church. The collection includes photographs and papers from the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire (IRSCDE), as well as its predecessor, the Royal Barony of the Desert Empire. The collection includes photographs of gay bars and people in Las Vegas as well as photographs of a film project that Schafer was involved with in San Francisco, California.

Preferred Citation


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Biographical Note

Bill Schafer is an active member of the Las Vegas, Nevada lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community. He worked at the Las Vegas Bugle and served as managing editor throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Subsequently, he was also involved with the Las Vegas Night Beat, another LGBTQ publication in Las Vegas, Nevada. He has a female impersonator identity known as Wilhelmina Parsons. He was ordained as a minister by the Universal Life Church under his given name and as Wilhelmina Parsons. Bill Schafer was active in the IRSCDE, which prior to 1998 was known as the Royal Barony of the Desert Empire.
Empire. The IRSCDE is a non-profit organization that raises money for charitable organizations. Schafer also worked as a purchasing manager for the Silver Slipper Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sources:

Scope and Contents Note

The Bill Schafer papers includes materials dating from 1985 to 1987 and 1997 to 2002. These materials include poetry published by "Tommy," Poet Laureate of the Las Vegas Bugle. It also contains papers related to Schafer's ordainment into the Universal Life Church. The collection includes photographs and papers from the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire (IRSCDE), as well as its predecessor, the Royal Barony of the Desert Empire. The collection includes photographs of gay bars and people in Las Vegas as well as a film project that Schafer was involved with in San Francisco, California.

Arrangement

Materials remain as they were received.

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 2017 by the Nevada State Museum; accession number 2017-1600

Processing Note

This collection was arranged by Dennis McBride. In 2019, the collection was rehoused and a summary of the materials was created by Mary Anilao, Chriziel Childers, and Lauren Paljusaj during accessioning. No other work has been performed on the materials.

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:


Names and Subjects

- Gay community
- Photographs
- Special events
- Poetry -- Nevada -- History
- Royal Barony of the Desert Empire
• Las Vegas Bugle
• Thompson, Noll Gray, 1919-2010