

Guide to the Bill Schafer Papers

This finding aid was created by Mary Anilao and Lauren Paljusaj. This copy was published on September 09, 2019.

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Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Biographical Note | 3 |
| Scope and Contents Note | 4 |
| Arrangement | 4 |
| Administrative Information | 4 |
| Related Materials | 5 |
| Names and Subjects | 5 |

Summary Information

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| Repository: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives. |
| Creator: | Schafer, Bill |
| Title: | Bill Schafer Papers |
| ID: | MS-00874 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1985-1987, 1997-2002 |
| Physical Description: | 0.38 Cubic Feet (2 boxes) |
| Physical Description: | 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 <i>Las Vegas Bugle</i> . 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

Bill Schafer Papers, 1985-1987, 1997-2002. MS-00874. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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. 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:

McBride, Dennis. "The Bugle Celebrates 25 Years." Published 2008 May 26. <https://www.edgemedianetwork.com/entertainment/culture//74738>.

"Mission Statement." *Desert Empire*. 2017. <http://desertempire.org/IRSCDE/who-we-are/>.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials remain as they were received.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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, Chrziel Childers, and Lauren Paljusaj during accessioning. No other work has been performed on the materials.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Dennis McBride Collection on LGBTQ Las Vegas, Nevada, 1990-2017. MS-00802. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire Records, 1997-2003. MS-00556. Special Collections and Archives, UNLV Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tommy. Interview, 1998 April 28. OH-02056. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Las Vegas Bugle Photograph Collection on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History, 1993-2002. PH-00336. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Las Vegas Bugle Collection on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History, 1984-2002. MS-00476. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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