



The Guide to the KLVX Steamboats on the Colorado Records

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives. |
| Creator: | KLVX (Television station: Las Vegas, Nev.) |
| Contributor: | Tester, Hank |
| Contributor: | Yates, R. A. (Richard Alan), 1929- |
| Title: | KLVX Steamboats on the Colorado Records |
| ID: | MS-00201 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1852 to 1976 |
| Date [bulk]: | 1974 to 1976 |
| Physical Description: | 1.17 Linear Feet (2 boxes) |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | The KLVX <i>Steamboats on the Colorado</i> Records consist of documents related to the production of Las Vegas' channel 10's (KLVX) <i>Steamboats on the Colorado</i> documentary between 1974 and 1976. The collection is comprised of correspondence, promotional materials, scripts, a treatment, a grant application, maps of the Colorado River from 1852 and other materials used as research for the documentary. |

Preferred Citation

KLVX Steamboats on the Colorado Records, 1852-1976. MS-00201. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Note

Prior to the construction of numerous dams along the Colorado River by the Bureau of Reclamation in the first half of the twentieth century, the Colorado River was navigable in certain seasons by large, wide steamboats. Private and military steamers moved up and down the river from 1851 to 1906, transporting goods and persons through a desert region otherwise hostile to many travelers until the completion of a southern transcontinental railroad (the Southern Pacific Sunset Route from Los Angeles, California to Houston, Texas) in 1883.

With the passage of time and the completion of dams such as Boulder (Hoover), Glen Canyon, and Parker, many have forgotten about the history of the steamboats on the Colorado River. In preparation for the nation's birthday in 1976, Las Vegas' KLVX (Channel 10) proposed a half-hour documentary about steamboat service in the Southwest to the Arizona American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and the Nevada American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, which jointly funded the project. KLVX assigned Hank Tester to be the project's producer and contracted with Richard (Dick) Yates of Arizona Western University to write the treatment and script. The budget of the project was projected to be just under \$19,000.

Yates and Tester pulled historical facts and photos from repositories throughout the Southwest as well as from the Library of Congress. After shooting concluded in late spring of 1976, the documentary appeared on stations throughout Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, and southern California.

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Scope and Contents Note

The KLVX *Steamboats on the Colorado* Records consist of documents related to the production of Las Vegas' channel 10's (KLVX) *Steamboats on the Colorado* documentary between 1974 and 1976. The collection is comprised of correspondence, promotional materials, scripts, a treatment, a grant application, maps of the Colorado River from 1852 and other materials used as research for the documentary.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by subject and then chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were a gift of KLVX via Nevada State Division of Archives in 1990; acquisition number T-129.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Megan Sharp Weatherly in 2010. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Kayla McDuffie revised enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Kayla McDuffie entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Separation Note

A number of photographs were separated from the collection and can be found in the photo collection PH-00156 *KLVX Steamboats on the Colorado* at UNLV Special Collections.

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Names and Subjects

- Steamboats
- American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
- Nevada American Revolution Bicentennial Commission

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Containers |
|--|------------|
| Correspondence, 1974 April-1976 August | |

| | | |
|--|--------|--------------|
| | box 01 | folder 01 |
| Grant Application, 1974 October-December | box 01 | folder 02 |
| Historical Research, 1942 January-1975 October | box 01 | folder 03 |
| Photo Documentation, 1976 November 05 | box 01 | folder 04 |
| Photo Research, 1972 Winter-1976 January | box 01 | folder 05 |
| Promotion, 1975 August-1976 October | box 01 | folder 06 |
| Script: Original and Early Drafts, undated | box 01 | folder 07 |
| Script: Final Drafts, undated | box 01 | folder 08 |
| Treatments, 1975 April-July | box 01 | folder 09 |
| Miscellaneous Photocopies: Riverboat Roster, Map of River Ports, Map of River Delta, 1852-1907 | box 01 | folder 10 |
| Notebook, 1976 November 05 | box 02 | |
| Reel-to-Reel Tapes, undated Physical Description: 02 Reels | box 02 | |