



Guide to the Frank D. Rathbun Archaeology Papers

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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
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Rathbun, Frank D., 1908-1968
Title:	Frank D. Rathbun Archaeology Papers
ID:	MS-00209
Date [inclusive]:	1918 to 1983
Date [bulk]:	1931 to 1941
Physical Description:	1.29 Cubic Feet (3 boxes, 1 oversized box, and 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	4.89 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	17 Digital Files (0.136 GB) JPG
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Frank D. Rathbun Archaeology Papers (1918-1983) consist of photographs, field note books and sketchbooks reflecting Rathbun's interest in petroglyphs throughout Nevada, Arizona, and California. The materials also include high school yearbooks, school term papers, scrapbooks, postcards, and memos pertaining to Native American history, water projects, and engineering topics. Additionally included is an unpublished report of an archaeological survey of the petroglyph sites identified by Rathbun, conducted in 1968 by Michael Moen.

Preferred Citation

Frank D. Rathbun Archaeology Papers, 1918-1983. MS-00209. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Frank D. Rathbun (1908-1968) was born in 1908 to Frank De Graff and Mary Goldacker Rathbun. His father was a mining engineer and encouraged his son's interest in geology and archaeology. The younger Rathbun worked for the Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District as an engineer

and surveyor. He worked on water development and dam projects throughout the Southwestern United States, primarily in California, Nevada, and Arizona. Most notably Rathbun was employed on the Colorado River Aqueduct in the 1930s. Rathbun documented archaeological sites throughout his surveying work, identifying areas with Native American petroglyphs, artifacts, and structures, as well as areas of unusual geological interest. Frank D. Rathbun died in 1968 and was buried in Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Frank D. Rathbun Archaeology Papers (1918-1983) contain materials detailing Rathbun's archaeological and hydrological studies in California, Arizona, and Nevada. The collection contains index books, 1918 United War Work Campaign newspapers, postcards, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, field note books, books of Native American trails and localities, an unpublished survey of the Southern Nevada petroglyphs by Michael Moen for the Museum of Natural History Archaeological Research Center at Nevada Southern University, Las Vegas, Nevada (now the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada), high school yearbooks and school term papers. The collection also includes water research materials, newspaper articles and maps concerning the Colorado River Aqueduct, and an instruction for surveyors with hand drawn illustrations. Select material has been digitized for preservation purposes and is noted at the file level of this inventory.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research, with the exception of materials that are restricted to protect cultural resource areas. Restrictions are noted at the file level of this inventory. Arrangements

must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were transferred to the University Archives in 1971 from the Barrick Museum of Natural History, Archaeological Research Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada; accession numbers T-144 and 1971-004.

Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog project, Lee Hanover arranged the materials, wrote the finding aid, and entered the information into ArchivesSpace. In 2019, Melise Leech rehoused the materials and revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Some items in this collection are digital surrogates. In 2020, due to insurmountable preservation issues, Sarah Jones digitized select materials from the collection for preservation purposes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Frank Rathbun Photograph Collection, undated. PH-00163. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Water resources development -- Nevada
- photographs
- Indians of North America

- Southern Nevada -- 20th Century
- California -- History
- Arizona
- Petroglyphs
- Archaeology
- Field note book

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Manuscript: <i>Mirage</i> by John Hadley, undated Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Manuscript: <i>Fiat Morality</i> , undated	box 01
Manuscript: <i>Mist of the Sun, The</i> , preface and chapters 1-3, 1921	box 01
Moen, Michael, report on petroglyph sites identified by Frank D. Rathbun, BLM #5-743, 1968	box 01
Photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles about anthropology, archaeology, history, special interest, and travel, 1920s-1930s Physical Description: 5 Files	box 01
Pamphlets: <i>Water for Thirteen Cities in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Nevada Highways and Parks</i> , Nevada Department of Highways, 1935, 1939	box 01
Colorado River Aqueduct News, 1934 January 15-1938 April 25	box 01
Manuscript: <i>Instructions to Surveyors for Staking Communication Pole Lines (Hayfield-Colorado River Section)</i> , approximately 1932-1933	box 01
Newsletters: United War Work Campaign of the Arizona Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), 1918	box 01
Postcards depicting petroglyphs, approximately 1930-1940	oversized box 02
Photographic scrapbook: Paiute Springs, California, approximately 1937	oversized box 02
Photographic scrapbook: "Graven in Stone: petroglyphs of the Colorado River" by Frank D. Rathbun, approximately 1925 to 1940 Physical Description: 17 Digital Files (0.136 GB) JPG Access Note: Digital files are open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.	digital file 00 oversized box 02
Yearbooks: <i>Blue and White</i> , Los Angeles High School, Los Angeles, California, 1929	oversized box 02

Field note books and diaries, 1931-1941	box 03
Physical Description: 14 Items	
Field note books, diaries, archaeological inventory and survey records, 1925-1983	box 04
Physical Description: 10 Items (8 books and 2 files)	
Restricted: Materials are restricted by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 383.011-383.540 to protect cultural resource areas. Files are closed indefinitely.	
"A Proclamation by the President of the United States", by Woodrow Wilson, 1917 April 06	flat file 05
