



## Guide to the Cork Proctor Papers

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f18310>

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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>	Proctor, Cork, 1932-2024
<b>Collector:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center
<b>Title:</b>	Cork Proctor Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00445
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1942 to 2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.78 Cubic Feet (8 boxes, 1 oversized box, 1 shared box)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.99 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Cork Proctor Papers document the career of comedian Cork Proctor from 1942 to 2012. The papers include photographs, programs, advertisements, and newspaper articles that illustrate both the longevity and influence of one of Nevada's most famous comedians. From 1972 to 2012, in both Reno and Las Vegas, Proctor consistently worked as a stand-up comedian, writer, and roaster.

### Preferred Citation

Cork Proctor Papers, 1942-2012. MS-00445. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f18310>

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## Biographical Note

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Cork Proctor moved to Las Vegas in 1940 and began performing throughout Nevada as a musician. In 1972, he began doing stand-up comedy in Reno. His career as a comedian got him work across Nevada and the United States for 40 years, and he established himself as one of Nevada's foremost stand-ups. Before retiring in 2012, he published a memoir titled *My Mind is an Open Mouth*. Proctor passed away at the age of 91 on June 6, 2024.

Sources:

Katsilometes, John. "'One of a kind': Las Vegas comic, a headliner for 50 years, dies," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. Accessed April 11, 2025. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/entertainment/entertainment-columns/kats/one-of-a-kind-las-vegas-comic-a-headliner-for-50-years-dies-3064773/>  
Proctor, Cork. *My Mind Is An Open Mouth: A Life Behind the Mic*. Las Vegas, NV: Stephens Press, 2014.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Cork Proctor Papers document the career of comedian Cork Proctor from 1942 to 2012. The papers include Proctor's photographs of his father, his family, and his career; correspondence; audio recordings of performances; newspaper clippings and reviews; award certificates; programs, advertisements and other promotional materials; legal documents; and scripts. Also included are audio tapes of interviews with Cork Proctor.

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## Arrangement

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Materials are arranged alphabetically by topic.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research. Where use copies do not exist, production of use copies is required before access will be granted; this may delay research requests. Advanced notice is required.

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## Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2002 by Cork Proctor; accession number 2002-012. Materials were collected by the director of the Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center and transferred to Special Collections.

## Processing Note

Material was processed by Joyce Moore in 2008. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2019, Landon Paljusaj updated the inventory in ArchivesSpace. In 2025, Tammi Kim rehoused materials from oversized box 08 and updated the inventory in ArchivesSpace.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Entertainers
- Comedians -- Las Vegas

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers	
Al Proctor, Cork Proctor's father		
Articles, 1953-1980	box 01	folder 01
Correspondence, 1942-1980	box 01	folder 02
Correspondence, 1942-1978	box 01	folder 03
Elks Programs, 1954-1980	box 01	folder 04
Hualapai Club, 1957-1967	box 01	folder 05
Identification cards, 1943-1984	box 01	folder 06
Legal documents, 1942-1982		

	box 01	folder 07
Newsletters, 1924-1964	box 01	folder 08
Awards, 1971-1997	box 01	folder 09
Biographical information, 1980-1990	box 01	folder 10
Correspondence from daughters, undated	box 01	folder 11
Greeting cards, undated	box 01	folder 12
Interviews, 1978-1992	box 01	folder 13
Las Vegas High School 50th Reunion, 2005	box 01	folder 14
Correspondence from Cork Proctor, approximately 1942-2003	box 02	folder 01-05
Correspondence to Cork Proctor, approximately 1955-2003	box 03	folder 01-04
Newspaper clippings, approximately 1958-2003	box 04	folder 01-05
Newspaper reviews, 1955-1988	box 04	folder 06
Business cards, undated	box 05	folder 01
Contracts, 1973-1993	box 05	folder 02-03
Deja Blues, 1996	box 05	folder 04
Flyers, 1975-2012	box 05	folder 05
Invitations and tickets, 1979-1991	box 05	folder 06
Invoices, 1978-2008	box 05	folder 07
Playbills, 1975-1985	box 05	folder 08
Programs, 1975-2011	box 05	folder 09
Promotion for Harold's Club, 1975		

	box 05	folder 10
Newspaper interview of Cork Proctor and original pencil drawing by J. Lovejoy, approximately 1995	box 05	
Promotional materials, 1972-1985	box 06	folder 01-02
Promotional materials for other entertainers, approximately 1970-1985	box 06	folder 03
Scripts, 1953-1980	box 06	folder 04
University of Nevada, Las Vegas: 76 Trombones, 1990-2007	box 06	folder 05
Photographs: Al Proctor, approximately 1920s-1960s	box 07	folder 01
Photographs: family, 1950-2005	box 07	folder 02-07
Public photographs		
Bernie Allen Roast and Birthday, 2003	box 07	folder 08
Circus Circus Chili Cook-offs, 1979-1981	box 07	folder 09
Headshots, 1970-1998	box 07	folder 10
"Natalie Needs a Nighty", 1977	box 07	folder 11
Wedding, 1991	box 07	folder 12
80th Birthday Bash, 2012	box 07	folder 13
UNLV College of Fine Arts and College of Southern Nevada performance posters, 1998 to 2003	oversized box 08	
Caricature portrait of Cork Proctor, 1980	oversized box 08	
Cloth baby scrapbook, approximately 1932	oversized box 08	
"What have I got to lose?" by Cork Proctor comedy album, 1976	box SH-083	
"This is Eddie Fisher" album, 1972	box SH-083	
Las Vegas entertainment related memorabilia, show programs, and menus, approximately 1956 to 1997	box 06	

Physical Description: 3 Files

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"Cork Proctor Comedy MC Roasts" and KVBC PSA: video tapes, approximately 1990 to 2006 box 06

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Interview tapes, 2005-2008 box 09