

Guide to the Donna Andress Papers

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1pj2k>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Collector:	Andress, Donna, 1925-
Title:	Donna Andress Papers
ID:	MS-01089
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1890 to 2024
Physical Description:	3.02 Cubic Feet (7 boxes, 1 shared box)
Physical Description:	2.98 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Donna Andress Papers (1890-2024) contain the personal papers of Donna Andress, a longtime resident and activist in Southern Nevada. Materials include correspondence and newspaper clippings from the Nevada Welfare Committee, on which Andress served as chairperson during the 1970s, in addition to pamphlets and newsletters from various Nevada historical organizations and committees. The papers reflect her involvement with community organizations throughout Southern Nevada.

Preferred Citation

Donna Andress Papers, 1890-2024. MS-01089. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1pj2k>

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Biographical Note

A longtime resident of Southern Nevada, Donna Andress grew up in Searchlight, Nevada during the 1920s and 1930s, where she babysat future politician Harry Reid. She was active in Las Vegas politics, and served in community organizations such as the Welfare Rights Committee in the 1970s and the Service League, which preceded the Junior League of Las Vegas. Andress' husband, Clyde Gail Andress, was also a resident of Las Vegas during the 1930s. He served in the United States Naval Air Corps during World War II and as jury foreman of Hank Greenspun's trial regarding an editorial published about United States Senator Joseph McCarthy. Clyde Andress was also involved

in car sales and construction in Las Vegas. Donna Andress is the daughter of Clarabelle Decker, who was a teacher, librarian, and author in Las Vegas, Nevada. Decker served as the first Clark County Supervisor of Libraries, and was instrumental in the establishment of several libraries throughout Clark County.

Sources:

Gail and Donna Andress oral history interview, 2008 November 26. OH-00092. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Clyde Gail Andress Obituary (1925-2021)." Davis Funeral Homes & Memorial Park Eastern Ave. September 29, 2021.

Schnur, Sabrina. "Las Vegas History on Display at Couple's 75th Wedding Anniversary." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, July 9, 2019.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Donna Andress Papers (1890-2024) contain the personal papers of Donna Andress, a longtime resident and activist in Southern Nevada. Correspondence and newspaper clippings pertaining to the Nevada Welfare Committee, on which Andress served as chairperson during the 1970s, are included. The collection also features pamphlets and newsletters from the Nevada State Museum, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, and the Nevada Historical Society. Personal items include eyeglasses from Andress' grandparents, and a traditional Chinese design basket believed to have been gifted to Andress' parents sometime in the 1930s or 1940s. Photographs document a 1971 Continuing Education trip to the Colorado River, in addition to Andress as a child with Searchlight politician Dick Arnold. Also included are newsclippings and photographs related to Donna's mother, Gail Andress.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by category.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. The donor, Donna Andress, transferred all right, title and interest they had in the Donna Andress Papers (MS-01089) to UNLV. However, some material may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Acknowledgement of the UNLV University Libraries is requested. For more information, please see the UNLV Special Collections policies on [reproductions and use](#) or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2021, 2023, and 2024 by Donna Andress; accession numbers 2021-151, 2023-034, and 2025-053.

Processing Note

In 2022, Kassidy Whetstone organized and rehoused the materials, and created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2023, Sarah Jones processed the 2023 addition and updated the finding aid.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Gail and Donna Andress oral history interview, 2008 November 26. OH-00092. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Junior League of Las Vegas' Records on the Morelli House Preservation Project, 1997-2017. MS-00836. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Story of Classic Las Vegas Oral History Interviews, approximately 2005-2006. MS-01075. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Alice Thiriot Waite Interview, 2011 October 19. OH-02749. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Separated Materials

Some of the publications that were acquired as part of this collection have been separated and described individually in the University Libraries' catalog.

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Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Searchlight (Nev.)
- Clark County (Nev.) -- Politics and government
- Community organization -- Nevada
- Public welfare -- Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Organizational records	
Home of the Good Shepherd program, tour guide, 1972 to 1976	box 01
Nevada Welfare Board files: correspondence, directories, meeting minutes, 1970 to 1979 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Operation Life Community Press newsletter, 1974	box 01
Nevada American Revolution Bicentennial Commission newsletter, 1975	box 01
Clark County Museum Guild newsletter, 2021	box 01
Public and social welfare publications, 1966 to 1972	box 05
Junior League of Las Vegas files, approximately 2000 to 2019 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 07
Personal papers	

Nevada event invitations, programs, and flyers, 1973 to 1988	box 01
Personal correspondence: cards and e-mail reprints, 1968 to 2006	box 01
Nevada newspapers: <i>Las Vegas Sun</i> , <i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> , <i>The Nevadan</i> , 1956 to 1990	box 01
Arizona newspapers, 1920 to 2008	box 01
California newspaper: <i>Desert Valley News-Herald</i> , 1958 October 30	box 01
Oklahoma newspaper: <i>Christian Crusade Weekly</i> , 1975 July 13	box 01
Address as a child; Battle Mountain train crash: photographic prints, 1932 to 1939	box 01
Continuing Education Colorado River trip: photographic prints, 1971	box 01
El Rancho menu and place mat, approximately 1941 to 1960	oversized flat file box 03 SH-082
Las Vegas dollar coin and Pioneer Hotel chip, approximately 1984 to 2021	box 01
Eyeglasses, approximately 1890 to 1919	box 01
Canasta game instructions and monkey score board, approximately 1950 to 1979	box 01
Chinese sewing basket, approximately 1920 to 1939	box 02
"Eldorado Canyon and Nelson, Nevada: Historical Documents, Reminiscences, Commentary" compiled by Donna Andress, first draft, 1997 April 19 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 04
Military-related research, 1990 to 2009	box 05
Mining-related research and printed transcripts from 1881 to 1890, sent from Jere Baker to Donna Andress, 2015 to 2017 Physical Description: 5 Files	box 06
Nevada historical preservation research, 1990 to 2009	box 05
Information on the Morelli House, 2007	box 05
Geological and volcanology research, 1980 to 1999	box 05
Poems and other writings by Florence Shaw, 1990 to 2009	box 05
Las Vegas ephemera and memorabilia, 1945 to 1999	box 05
Newspaper clippings and photograph about Gail Andress, approximately 1950 to 1980	box 07
Donna Andress with fellow Kappa Alpha Theta sorority members: photograph, 2024 August	box 07