



## Guide to the Gene Collins oral history interview

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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>	Collins, Gene, 1943-
<b>Contributor:</b>	Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project
<b>Contributor:</b>	African Americans in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project
<b>Title:</b>	Gene Collins oral history interview
<b>ID:</b>	OH-00144
<b>Date:</b>	2000 August 31
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Digital Files (0.175 GB) MP3, PDF/A
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Oral history interview with Gene Collins conducted by Claytee White on August 31, 2000 for the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. In this interview Gene Collins speaks about how his family lived in West Las Vegas, Nevada, which at the time was a thriving community where African Americans owned their own businesses. Gene talked about how the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. led to a riot and how it inspired him to run for state assemblyman where he was instrumental in getting the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday bill to pass. He spoke about his time as the president of the Las Vegas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) where he addressed the lack of African Americans in the gaming industry in addition to filing the largest equal employment opportunity commission suit filed in the state of Nevada against the Mirage Hotel and Casino.

### Preferred Citation

Gene Collins, 2000 August 31. OH-00144. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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Oral history interview with Gene Collins conducted by Claytee White on August 31, 2000 for the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. In this interview Gene Collins speaks about how his family lived in West Las Vegas, Nevada, which at the time was a thriving African American community due to segregation on the strip. He spoke about how African Americans owned their own businesses including medical clinics, beautician shops, night clubs, and restaurants. Gene talked about how the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. led to a riot and how it inspired him to run for state assemblyman where he was instrumental in getting the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday bill to pass. He spoke about his time as the president of the Las Vegas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he addressed the lack of African Americans in the gaming industry in addition to filing the largest equal employment opportunity commission suit filed in the state of Nevada against the Mirage Hotel and Casino. The interview wraps up with Collins saying how he feels that the future of Las Vegas is not about black and white issues, but more about economic issues.

Digital audio and transcript available.

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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.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted and transcribed by the Oral History Research Center (OHRC) which is part of the UNLV University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Division.

## Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2017. Minaam Baseer wrote the collection description. The audio cassette(s) for this interview have been reformatted by an external vendor into a digital format. MP3 files of the audio are available for research use

## Bound Transcript Availability

A bound transcript is available for use in UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives: CT247 .C64 2007

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## Names and Subjects

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- Oral histories (document genres)
- Segregation -- Nevada
- African Americans -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Civil rights
- Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Las Vegas Branch