



Guide to the John F. Cahlan oral history interview

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 25, 2026. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1s91q>

© 2026 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special
Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Scope and Contents Note	3
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	4

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Cahlan, John Francis, 1902-1987
Contributor:	Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas
Title:	John Francis Cahlan oral history interview
ID:	OH-00152
Date:	1980 February 27
Physical Description:	3 Digital Files (0.0821 GB) MP3, PDF/A
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interview with John Cahlan conducted by Radmila Radovich on February 27, 1980 for the Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas. In his interview, John Cahlan discusses the beginnings of Las Vegas, Nevada, including the role of the Union Pacific Railroad and its need for water. Cahlan also discusses the changes in Las Vegas over time, including the evolution of the Western Air Express station to Nellis Air Force Base, as well as his concerns for the future of Las Vegas.

Preferred Citation

John F. Cahlan oral history interview, 1980 February 27. OH-00152. [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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

Oral history interview with John Cahlan conducted by Radmila Radovich on February 27, 1980 for the Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas. In his interview, John Cahlan discusses the beginnings of Las Vegas, Nevada, including the role of the Union Pacific Railroad and its need for water. Cahlan also discusses the changes in Las Vegas over time, including the evolution of the Western Air Express station to Nellis Air Force Base, as well as his concerns for the future of Las Vegas. Digital audio and transcript available.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access

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

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

University of Nevada, Las Vegas History Professor Ralph Roske donated materials for this oral history project to UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in the 1980s.

Processing Information

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2016. Karla Irwin wrote the collection description. This interview was transcribed and edited by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives as part of an ongoing effort to transcribe legacy interviews. This interview transcript received minimal editing and all measures have been taken to preserve the style and language of the narrator. The interviewee/narrator was not involved in the editing process. A digital version (PDF) of the transcript is available for research use. 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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Cities and towns -- Growth
- Journalists
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Nellis Air Force Base (Nev.)

- **Union Pacific Railroad Company**