



Guide to the D. D. Cotton 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/f1j70g>

© 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	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	5

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Cotton, D. D., 1935-2009
Contributor:	Las Vegas Women Oral History Project
Contributor:	Las Vegas Women in Gaming and Entertainment Oral History Project
Contributor:	African Americans in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project
Contributor:	Women's Research Institute of Nevada
Title:	D. D. Cotton oral history interview
ID:	OH-00278
Date:	1997 February 14
Date:	1997 March 21
Physical Description:	15 Digital Files (0.258 MB) MP3, PDF/A, JPG
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interview with D. D. (Ethel Dolores) Cotton conducted by Claytee White on February 14, 1997 and March 21, 1997 for the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) Las Vegas Women Oral History Project. In this interview, Cotton discusses the beginnings of her dance career in New York City, New York. Later in the interview, Cotton discusses working in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Cotton Club and her interactions with other African American entertainers. Cotton also discusses race relations and her experiences as an African American dancer in Las Vegas. Cotton later goes on to discuss her career change in the service industry.

Preferred Citation

D. D. Cotton oral history interview, 1997 February 14, 1997 March 21. OH-00278. [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 D. D. (Ethel Dolores) Cotton conducted by Claytee White on February 14, 1997 and March 21, 1997 for the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) Las Vegas Women Oral History Project. In this interview, Cotton discusses the beginnings of her dance career in New York City, New York. Cotton goes on to discuss her formal dance training and her high school years in New York. Later in the interview, Cotton discusses working in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Cotton Club and her interactions with other African American entertainers. Cotton also discusses race relations and her experiences as an African American dancer in Las Vegas. Cotton later goes on to discuss her career change in the service industry. She describes becoming one of the first black cocktail waitresses at Caesars Palace in 1966 and later working at the Tropicana as a floor manager in the pit. Digital audio and transcript available. Digital photographs available.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

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

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish. Some transcripts do not exist in final form, therefore any editing marks in a transcript (deletions, additions, corrections) are to be quoted as marked.

Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted by the Women's Research Institute of Nevada, part of the UNLV College of Liberal Arts Department of History. Materials from this oral history project were transferred to UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives on an ongoing basis ending in 2017; acquisition number 2017-017.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by Karla Irwin in 2017 and 2019. Access copies were created for digitized and/or born-digital audio and transcript files. Hana Gutierrez wrote the

collection description. The audio cassette(s) for this interview have been reformatted by the Women's Research Institute of Nevada into a digital format.

Bound Transcript Availability

A bound transcript is available for use in UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives. See call number: F850.N4 C68 1998

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Women's Research Institute of Nevada Oral History Records, 1995-2015. UA-00084. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Dancers
- African Americans -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Race discrimination
- Cocktail servers
- Card dealers
- Caesars Palace Las Vegas Hotel and Casino