



Guide to the Richard C. MacDonald oral history interview

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	MacDonald, Richard C., 1945-
Contributor:	Building Las Vegas Oral History Project
Title:	Richard C. MacDonald oral history interview
ID:	OH-02836
Date:	2016 September 20
Physical Description:	3 Digital Files (0.133 GB) MP3, JPG, PDF/A
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interview with Richard C. MacDonald conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on September 20, 2016 for the Building Las Vegas Oral History Project. In this interview, MacDonald describes his personal history and moving to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1963. He talks about his experience earning his real estate broker's license and his father's plan to develop and sell Las Vegas property. MacDonald recalls working with Frank Sala and Chuck Ruthe to obtain his first two sections of Henderson, Nevada land, which became Sun City MacDonald Ranch and the western part of MacDonald Highlands. Later, he talks about developing Sunridge at MacDonald Ranch and The Canyons at MacDonald Ranch. MacDonald recalls his twenty-year experience as a developer with the City of Henderson, its planning commission, city manager, city attorney, and city council. Lastly, he talks of golf course architects and planners and the MacDonald Highlands golf course, his family, the Great Recession, and his current status working with the City of Henderson.

Preferred Citation

Richard C. MacDonald oral history interview, 2016 September 20. OH-02836. [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

Oral history interview with Richard C. MacDonald conducted by Stefani Evans and Claytee D. White on September 20, 2016 for the Building Las Vegas Oral History Project. In this interview, MacDonald describes his personal history and moving to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1963. He talks about his experience earning his real estate broker's license and his father's plan to develop and sell Las Vegas property. Upon returning to Las Vegas, MacDonald worked with Frank Sala and Chuck Ruthe to obtain his first two sections of Henderson land, which became Sun City MacDonald Ranch and the western part of MacDonald Highlands. He talks of developing Sunridge at MacDonald Ranch on Eastern Avenue and The Canyons at MacDonald Ranch. He also speaks to local prejudice against Hawaiians and to the way the City of Henderson favored Hank Greenspun and American Nevada Corporation. He recalls his twenty-year experience as a developer with the City of Henderson, its planning commission, city manager, city attorney, and city council. He reveals associations with Del Webb and the Del Webb CEO, Anthem, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Sultan of Brunei, and polo fields as well as Red Alerts, the Foothills project, and MacDonald Highlands. Along the way he talks of golf course architects and planners and the MacDonald Highlands golf course, his family, the Great Recession, and his current status working with the City of Henderson and the Archaeological Institute of America. Digital audio, transcript, and photograph available.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

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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 2016 and 2019. Miguel Dominguez wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio and/or transcript files.

Bound Transcript Availability

A bound transcript is available for use in UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives. See call number: F849.L35 M3313 2016

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Henderson (Nev.)
- Real estate development -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Planned communities -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- MacDonald Ranch Real Estate
- United States. Bureau of Land Management