



Guide to the Barbara Davis oral history interviews

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/f1nx4t>

© 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:	Davis, Barbara Riiff, 1925-
Contributor:	Las Vegas Women Oral History Project
Contributor:	Women's Research Institute of Nevada
Title:	Barbara Davis oral history interviews
ID:	OH-03610
Date:	1996 December 18
Date:	1997 March 25
Physical Description:	4 Digital Files (0.121 GB) MP3
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interviews with Barbara Davis conducted by Joanne Goodwin on December 18, 1996 and March 25, 1997 for the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) Las Vegas Women Oral History Project. Davis opens her interviews by discussing her audition for the <i>Folies Bergere</i> as a dancer with limited experience. Davis describes working with the <i>Folies Bergere</i> as a touring showgirl in the 1940s. She discusses touring the United States in the <i>Folies Bergere</i> , touring South America for three years, and going to college at night while performing during the day. Davis then talks about the city of Reno, Nevada and working as a showgirl there. Davis addresses common rumors about showgirls, such as being involved in prostitution or being addicted to gambling. She then discusses her interest in education in her later years including earning various post graduate degrees. Davis ends her interview with a discussion on classic entertainment of the 1940s, including vaudeville and entertainment hotspots of the time.

Preferred Citation

Barbara Davis oral history interviews, 1996 December 18 and 1997 March 25. OH-03610. [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 interviews with Barbara Davis conducted by Joanne Goodwin on December 18, 1996 and March 25, 1997 for the Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) Las Vegas Women Oral History Project. Davis opens her interviews by discussing her audition for the *Folies Bergere* as a dancer with limited experience. Davis describes working with the *Folies Bergere* as a showgirl in the 1940s. She discusses touring the United States in the *Folies Bergere*, touring South America for three years, and going to college at night while performing in the day. Davis then talks about the city of Reno, Nevada and working as a showgirl there. Davis addresses common rumors about showgirls, such as being involved in prostitution or being addicted to gambling. She then discusses her interest in education in her later years including earning various post graduate degrees. Davis ends her interview with a discussion on entertainment of the 1940s, including vaudeville and entertainment hotspots of the time. Digital audio available; no transcript available.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

No release form is on file for this interview. The interview is accessible onsite only, and researchers must seek permission from the interviewee or heirs for quotation, reproduction, or publication. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for further information.

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 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.

[^ 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)
- Showgirls -- Nevada -- Reno
- Showgirls
- Reno (Nev.)
- Folies-Bergère