



Guide to the Arlene Mathews Smith Photograph Collection

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on June 30, 2024. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Smith, Arlene Mathews, 1910-2004
Title:	Arlene Mathews Smith Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00129
Date [inclusive]:	1910 to 1945
Physical Description:	0.20 Cubic Feet (1 hanging file, 1 box, 1 shared box)
Physical Description:	0.31 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Arlene Mathews Smith Photograph Collection (1910-1945) is comprised of photographs of people and places in and around Panaca, Nevada. The collection contains a photograph album featuring Smith, her family and friends, and various residents and events around the area. Included as part of the collection are photographs from the Last Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Preferred Citation

Arlene Mathews Smith Photograph Collection, 1910-1945. PH-00129. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Arlene Mathews Smith was born September 12, 1910 in Panaca, Nevada to David Charles Mathews and Carrie Lee. Arlene graduated from Lincoln County High School in Panaca, where she enjoyed learning about home economics. She was active in the local 4-H club and specialized in sewing. Because jobs in Panaca were scarce, Arlene started working at a drug store in Pioche, Nevada in 1929 after graduating from high school. She began working at the Oasis Café in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1930 and her sister Evelyn joined her there in 1931. She worked at the cafe for several years before taking a job as a seamstress in 1936 at Fanny Foss' clothing shop on Fremont Street in Las Vegas. She married Leo Smith and the couple eventually retired in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mathews passed away on June 22, 2004.

Sources:

Patrick, Elizabeth Nelson. "As the Twig is Bent." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, August 30, 1981.

"Short Stories of Las Vegas Folks." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, July 23, 1930.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Arlene Mathews Smith Photograph Collection (1910-1945) is comprised of photographs of people and places in and around Panaca, Nevada. The collection contains a photograph album of snapshots of Arlene Mathews Smith and her family and friends, as well as other residents of Panaca, Nevada. Many of the images feature schoolchildren and teachers, and recreational activities such as the Lincoln County High School basketball team and the 4-H Junior Farm Bureau. There are also photographs of Smith's travels in central and southern Nevada. Included as part of the collection are photographs from the Last Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1980 by Arlene Mathews Smith; accession number 1980-54.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections and Archives staff. In 2017, Hana Gutierrez revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. In 2019, Landon Paljusaj further revised the finding aid.

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Panaca (Nev.)
- Lincoln County (Nev.)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- 4-H Youth Development Program (U.S.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Lincoln County High School basketball team: photographic print, 1926 (0129_0001) (view online)	folder 01
Last Frontier Hotel and Casino, pool area, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, 1945 (0129_0002) (view online)	folder 01
Gay 90s Bar in the Last Frontier Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1945 (0129_0003) (view online)	folder 01
Ramona Room in the Last Frontier Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1945 (0129_0004) (view online)	folder 01
Junior Farm Bureau Camp, 4-H Club, Reno, Nevada: photographic print, 1927 (0129_0005) (view online)	folder 01
Floyd Mathews in a miniature car: photographic print, 1917 (0129_0006) (view online)	folder 01
Arlene Mathews Smith at Coyote Springs, Nevada: photographic print, 1924 (0129_0007) (view online)	folder 01
Arlene Mathews Smith (center) with unidentified people at the celebration for the Boulder Dam dedication, Boulder City, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1935 (0129_0008) (view online)	folder 01

Carlie Calloway and her grandson, Floyd Snow Mathews: photographic print, 1923 (0129_0009) (view online)	folder 01
Interior of the Oasis Café, Las Vegas. Nevada. Arlene and Evelyn Mathews are behind the counter. Also pictured are the cashier, Thelma Hooper, and the porter, Andrew Jackson Jennings: photographic print, 1931 (0129_0010) (view online)	folder 01
Girls Baseball Team, Panaca, Nevada. Arlene Mathews Smith's mother, Carrie Lee, and Carrie's cousin, Vilate Lee, are pictured: photographic print, approximately 1910 to 1930 (0129_0011) (view online)	folder 01
Album containing photographs of Arlene Mathews Smith and her family, as well as residents of Panaca, Nevada: photograph album, approximately 1910 to 1930	oversized box 01
Negatives Physical Description: 10 Photographic Negatives	box SH-022