



Guide to the John C. Olsen Photograph Collection

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f19d5x>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Griffis, Gina
Title:	John C. Olsen Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00320
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1950 to 1969
Physical Description:	0.82 Cubic Feet (3 hanging folders, 1 shared box of negatives)
Physical Description:	1.80 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The John C. Olsen Photograph Collection (approximately 1950 to 1969) consists of black-and-white photographic prints, negatives, and one scrapbook. Images depict scenes from the annual Helldorado Celebration in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Shriners' Parade in downtown Las Vegas, various hotels along the Las Vegas Strip, the Last Frontier Village at the Last Frontier Hotel, Las Vegas, natural landscapes at Mount Charleston and Rhyolite, Nevada, Hoover Dam and Lake Mead, Twin Lakes, and petroglyphs in Valley of Fire Nevada State Park.

Preferred Citation

John C. Olsen Photograph Collection, approximately 1950-1969. PH-00320. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f19d5x>

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Biographical Note

John Charles Olsen (1923-1982) was a Las Vegas, Nevada resident for thirty-two years. During this time he worked as an assistant manager of a souvenir store in downtown Las Vegas. Olsen died in Las Vegas on April 16, 1982.

Source:

Obituaries. "John Olsen," *Las Vegas Review Journal*, April 18, 1982. Accessed June 29, 2020.

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Scope and Contents Note

The John C. Olsen Photograph Collection (approximately 1950 to 1969) consists of black-and-white photographic prints, negatives, and one scrapbook. Images depict scenes from the annual Helldorado Celebration in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Shriners' Parade in downtown Las Vegas, various hotels along the Las Vegas Strip, the Last Frontier Village at the Last Frontier Hotel, Las Vegas, natural landscapes at Mount Charleston and Rhyolite, Nevada, Hoover Dam and Lake Mead, Twin Lakes, and petroglyphs in Valley of Fire Nevada State Park.

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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 by Gina Griffis in 1982; accession number 82-86.

Processing Note

In 2020, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Nicole Batten wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2025, Sarah Jones added an additional scrapbook not previously included in the inventory.

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Helldorado Parade (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Rhyolite (Nev.)
- Mount Charleston (Nev.)
- Las Vegas Strip (Nev.)
- Entertainment -- Nevada -- Las Vegas

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Helldorado Celebration	
Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0001) (view online)	folder 01
	box SH-032
Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade cowboys on horseback: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0002) (view online)	folder 01
	box SH-032
Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, 1951 May 10 (0320_0003) (view online)	folder 01
	box SH-032
Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade Stagecoach drawn by horses is seen in front of Las Vegas Club: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0004) (view online)	folder 01

box
SH-032

Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade Showgirls riding in trolley car drawn by horses: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0005) ([view online](#))

folder
01

box
SH-032

Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0006) ([view online](#))

folder
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SH-032

Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0007) ([view online](#))

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SH-032

Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade Open carriage drawn by horses on Fremont Street in front of the Las Vegas Club: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0008) ([view online](#))

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SH-032

Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, 1951 May 10 (0320_0009) ([view online](#))

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SH-032

Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, 1951 May 10 (0320_0010) ([view online](#))

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Helldorado Celebration View of Main Street, Cashman Cadillac, and Overland Hotel: photographic print and negative, 1951 May 12 (0320_0011) ([view online](#))

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SH-032

Old cars parked in front of Sal Sagev Hotel during the Helldorado Parade: photographic print and negative, 1951 May 12 (0320_0012) ([view online](#))

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SH-032

Helldorado Parade: photographic print and negative, 1951 May 13 (0320_0013) ([view online](#))

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SH-032

Bathing beauties on float in Helldorado Parade: photographic print and negative, 1951 May 13 (0320_0014) ([view online](#))

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Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0015) ([view online](#))

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Moapa Band of Paiute Indians marching in the Helldorado Parade: photographic print and negative, 1952 May 15 (0320_0016) ([view online](#))

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Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0017) ([view online](#))

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Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0018) ([view online](#))

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Helldorado Celebration Old Timers' Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0019) ([view online](#))

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Float entitled "Bonanza Queen" in the Beauty parade during Helldorado. Float was sponsored by North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0020) ([view online](#))

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An elephant marches in the Helldorado Parade: photographic print and negative, 1952 May 18 (0320_0021) ([view online](#))

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Parade Marshall, Helldorado Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0022) ([view online](#))

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Beauty Parade Helldorado celebration, "Treasure Island" float: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0023) ([view online](#))

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Float sponsored by El Rancho Vegas Opera House in the Beauty Parade, Helldorado celebration: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0024) ([view online](#))

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	box SH-032
Horseshoe Club float entry in the Helldorado Beauty Parade entitled "Jack and the Beanstalk": photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0025) (view online)	folder 01 box SH-032
Pioneer Club float entry in the Helldorado Beauty Parade entitled "A Tale of Two Cities": photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0026) (view online)	folder 02 box SH-032
Ronzone Department Store's float entry in the Helldorado Beauty Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0027) (view online)	folder 02 box SH-032
Helldorado Beauty Parade: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0028) (view online)	folder 02 box SH-032
Hotels	
Flamingo Hotel and pool: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0029) (view online)	folder 02 box SH-032
Flamingo Hotel and pool: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0030) (view online)	folder 02 box SH-032
Desert Inn Hotel and Casino: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0031) (view online)	folder 02 box SH-032
Rear view of Flamingo Hotel: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0032)	folder 02 box SH-032
Flamingo Hotel: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0033) (view online)	folder 02 box SH-032
Thunderbird Hotel: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0034) (view online)	folder 02

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SH-032

Last Frontier Village

Sign at entrance to Last Frontier Village at the Last Frontier Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0035) ([view online](#))

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General Store at the Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0036) ([view online](#))

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Museum and Saloon at the Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0037) ([view online](#))

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The Rifle Range store at the Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0038) ([view online](#))

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Mother Logan's Roominghouse in the Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0039) ([view online](#))

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Mother Logan's Roominghouse in the Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0040) ([view online](#))

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SH-032

Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0041) ([view online](#))

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SH-032

Engine and railroad car at Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0042) ([view online](#))

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SH-032

Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0043) ([view online](#))

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Wagon at Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0044) ([view online](#))

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Prospector at the Last Frontier Village: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0045) ([view online](#))

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Shriners' Parade

Shriners' Parade in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, 1952 May 07 (0320_0046) ([view online](#))

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Drill team in the Shriners' Parade in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, 1952 May 07 (0320_0047) ([view online](#))

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Nobles in the Shriners' Parade in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, 1952 May 07 (0320_0048) ([view online](#))

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Salt Lake City Shriners' Band in Las Vegas Shriners' Parade: photographic print and negative, 1952 May 07 (0320_0049) ([view online](#))

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Honor Guard in the Shriners' Parade in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada : photographic print and negative, 1952 May 07 (0320_0050) ([view online](#))

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Drummers in full regalia during the Shriners' Parade in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, 1952 May 07 (0320_0051) ([view online](#))

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Shriners' Parade in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, 1952 May 07 (0320_0052) ([view online](#))

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Twin Lakes

Swimming pool at Twin Lakes, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0053) ([view online](#))

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Cabin at Twin Lakes, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0054) ([view online](#))

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Mount Charleston and Red Rock

Mount Charleston: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0055) ([view online](#))

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Snow at Mount Charleston Lodge: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0056) ([view online](#))

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Road to Mount Charleston Lodge: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0057) ([view online](#))

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Ski run at Mount Charleston: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0058) ([view online](#))

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Mount Charleston covered in snow: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0059) ([view online](#))

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Red Rock Recreational Area: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0060) ([view online](#))

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Desert around Red Rock Recreational Area: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0061) ([view online](#))

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Red Rock Recreational Area: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0062) ([view online](#))

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Red Rock Recreational Area: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0063) ([view online](#))

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Hoover Dam, Lake Mead

Hoover Dam: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0064) (view online)	folder 03 box SH-032
Power stations at the Hoover Dam: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0065) (view online)	folder 03 box SH-032
Arizona side of the Hoover Dam: photographic print and negative, approximately 1952 (0320_0066) (view online)	folder 03 box SH-032
Lake Mead: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0067) (view online)	folder 03 box SH-032
Petroglyphs	
Petroglyphs at the Valley of Fire: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0068) (view online)	folder 03 box SH-032
Petroglyphs at the Valley of Fire: photographic print and negative, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0069) (view online)	folder 03 box SH-032
Rhyolite, Nevada	
Rhyolite, Nevada ghost town and mines in the mountains: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0070) (view online)	folder 03 box SH-032
Remains of a hotel in Rhyolite, Nevada ghost town: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0071) (view online)	folder 03 box SH-032
Remnants of train depot in Rhyolite, Nevada ghost town: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0072) (view online)	folder 03 box SH-032
Remains of the bank in the ghost town of Rhyolite, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0073) (view online)	folder 03

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SH-032

Ghost town of Rhyolite, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0074) ([view online](#))

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Famous Bottle House in Rhyolite, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1951 (0320_0075) ([view online](#))

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Entertainment

Group of entertainers called "Polly Possum, Joe Wolverton and the Dogpatch County Band" performing at the Golden Nugget Saloon in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0076) ([view online](#))

folder
03

Performers in the Golden Nugget Saloon in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1950 to 1969 (0320_0077) ([view online](#))

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Scrapbook featuring Las Vegas and Southern Nevada locations; Helldorado parades, and Olsen's family and friends, approximately 1950 to 1959

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box 04