

Guide to the Crockett Family Photographs

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Crockett, George E., 1912-1990
Creator:	Crockett, Peg, 1924-2022
Title:	Crockett Family Photographs
ID:	PH-00431
Date [inclusive]:	1911 to 2022
Physical Description:	6.12 Cubic Feet (6 boxes, 2 oversized boxes, 2 rolls, 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	9.91 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	20 Digital Files (0.322 GB) MP4, JPG
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Crockett Family Photographs (1911-2022) consist of photographic prints, newspaper articles, and scrapbooks documenting Alamo Airport (later Harry Reid International Airport) and the Crockett family. Photographs of the interior, exterior, and airfield at Alamo Airport, including aerial views, document the early stages of what is now one of the busiest international airports in the United States. A significant portion of the collection consists of photographs of the Crockett family at their home in Las Vegas, at various events, and on family vacations. The collection contains photographs and documents from Hidden Well Ranch, a private resort located south of the airport, and the Crockett family's Lazy Flying C Ranch on Bermuda Road. Also included in the collection are audiovisual materials depicting events and locations around Las Vegas, including Fremont Street, Hoover Dam, the Miss Rodeo America pageant, and the Sahara Cup boat races on Lake Mead.

Preferred Citation

Crockett Family Photographs, 1911-2022. PH-00431. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1qb1f>

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Biographical Note

George E. Crockett was born on March 31, 1912 in Unionville, Missouri. He graduated from Unionville High School in 1928 and entered Jefferson City Flight Aviation School in Jefferson City, Missouri, where he earned his pilot's license. Crockett flew mail planes in the early 1930s, worked in a grocery store in Nebraska, and traveled to small towns to be the Master of Ceremonies for amateur talent shows to supplement his income. The Wincharger Corporation of Sioux City, Iowa, hired Crockett in 1936 as a sales representative for their wind-powered electrical generators. The company provided an aircraft and he flew to and from different state fairs selling generators. In 1940, Crockett began working for the Stinson Aircraft Corporation, selling planes to corporations and commercial airlines. One of his sales routes took him between Los Angeles, California and Salt Lake City, Utah and he landed in Las Vegas, Nevada on one of his trips. Crockett was so impressed with the area and community that he relocated to Las Vegas shortly after. In 1942, he opened Crockett Field, later known as Alamo Airport.

Crockett quickly became involved in the development of aviation in Nevada. In 1945, he founded and was the first president of the Nevada State Airmen Association (NSAA). Within two months of its founding, NSAA had more than two hundred members. In 1964, Crockett became the president of the National Aviation Trades Association. In 1967, he sold his business to Howard Hughes' Summa Corporation and retired.

Crockett married Evangelyn Lingren in 1936, and they had three children, George (Mac), Ernest David, and Darla. Crockett later married Margaret "Peg" Nickerson in 1948, and the couple had two children, Caty and Henry Chris. George Crockett died on May 20, 1990 in Las Vegas, Nevada. On June 21, 1995, a street that intersects Las Vegas Boulevard south of Russell Road near McCarran Airport was dedicated in his honor.

Source:

"McCarran Founder Honored." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Las Vegas, Nevada, June 21, 1995: 19.

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Biographical Note

Margaret "Peg" Nickerson Crockett was born to Henry Cobb and Hazel Harvey Nickerson on September 12, 1924 in Pasadena, California. She grew up in Pasadena before moving to Las Vegas, Nevada with her family in 1937. After arriving in Las Vegas, the Nickersons built Hidden Well Ranch, a private ranch-style resort that was frequented by Hollywood writers, actors, and other California elite. Hidden Well Ranch was located just south of present-day Harry Reid International Airport. Peg Nickerson attended Las Vegas High School and became a licensed pilot in 1942, serving in the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron during World War II.

Peg met George Crockett in 1941 and the two were married in 1948. The Crocketts had two children together, Catherine "Caty" and Henry Chris. Peg and George Crockett ran Alamo Airport until 1967, when they sold the business to Howard Hughes' Summa Corporation. Peg Crockett was active in several community organizations throughout her life, including the Las Vegas Rotary Club, Mesquite Club, Assistance League, and National Society of Colonial Dames of America. Peg Crockett died on March 30, 2022 at the age of 97 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sources:

Crockett Family Photographs, 1911-2022. PH-00431. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1qb1f>

Torres-Cortez, Ricardo. "Crockett, Las Vegas aviation pioneer, dies at 97." *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, April 17, 2022.

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Historical Background

George E. Crockett opened Crockett Field (later known as Alamo Airport or Alamo Airfield) in 1942, which increased commercial traffic to and from Las Vegas, Nevada and was the original location for what is now McCarran International Airport.

George E. Crockett purchased planes and equipment from an Iowa company that had gone out of business and leased land south of Las Vegas, Nevada for an airfield. After clearing a dirt strip and building a "gas shack" and water tank, Crockett opened Alamo Airport in 1942. The original airfield used in Las Vegas, Nevada was the Las Vegas Army Airfield, located on what is now Nellis Airforce Base. However, in 1941, the United States Army took control over the Army Airfield due to wartime need and Crockett Field became the commercial airfield for the city.

In 1948, Crockett agreed to relinquish his rights to a 99-year government lease back to Clark County, and the airfield was rededicated as McCarran Field on December 19, 1948. In return, the county allowed him to continue operating his air service and fixed-base operations as Alamo Airways. After the county completed their new terminal on South Las Vegas Boulevard and built permanent runways, Alamo Airways expanded, eventually offering complete civil and charter services, aircraft sales, a government-approved maintenance shop, lodging, rental cars, restaurant, and lounge.

In the 1950s, Alamo Airways provided support to military aircraft involved in the above-ground nuclear testing program at the Nevada Test Site, located northwest of Las Vegas. In 1959, Alamo supported the World Congress of Flight held in Las Vegas, and was also involved with the 1958-1959 World Endurance Flight. In 1967, Howard Hughes' Summa Corporation bought the facility and renamed the airport McCarran International after Senator Pat McCarran. In 2021, the airport was renamed in honor of Senator Harry Reid.

Sources:

"George E. Crockett," McCarran International Airport. <https://www.mccarran.com/NVAHOF/BiosTouchScreen/Crockett>.

"October 14, 2011 Day of Enshrinement: George E. Crockett." Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame. http://www.nvahof.org/hof/george_crockett/

"McCarran Airport History," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1998 June 11: 63.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Crockett Family Photographs (1911-2022) consist of photographic prints, newspaper articles, and scrapbooks documenting Alamo Airport (later Harry Reid International Airport) and the Crockett family. Photographs of the interior, exterior, and airfield at Alamo Airport document the early stages of what is now one of the busiest international airports in the United States. Aerial photographs of the airport and the surrounding Las Vegas Valley illustrate the changing landscape of the area.

A significant portion of the collection consists of photographs of the Crockett family at their home in Las Vegas, at various events, and on family vacations. The Crocketts traveled extensively and the collection contains photographs that document family trips to their vacation homes in Wyoming and West Yellowstone, Montana, as well as trips to several national and international locations. The collection contains photographs and documents from Hidden Well Ranch, a private resort located south of the airport where Peg Crockett spent her teenage years, and the Crockett family's Lazy Flying C Ranch on Bermuda Road, also south of the airport. Also included in the collection are audiovisual materials which depict events including the Miss Rodeo America pageant and the Sahara Cup boat races on Lake Mead, and locations including Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada and Hoover Dam.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by subject.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. The donor, Caty Crockett, transferred all right, title and interest they had in the Crockett Family Photographs (PH-00431) to UNLV. However, some material may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other interests not owned by UNLV. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Acknowledgement of the UNLV University Libraries is requested. For more information, please see the UNLV Special Collections policies on [reproductions and use](#) or contact us at special.collections@unlv.edu.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by the Las Vegas Archive via Marilyn Gubler in 2020; accession number 2020-073. In 2025, Caty Crockett donated additional material; accession number 2025-006.

Appraisal Note

Acquired by Visual Materials Curator Aaron Mayes, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings in the visual history of Las Vegas. In 2025, Tammi Kim formally deaccessioned digital files that were part of the 2020-073 acquisition. This included 11.000 GB of digital files representing low-resolution scans of physical prints in the collection. Aaron Mayes reviewed the files and determined that the images are not to archival standards and approved their deaccession from the collection. Four optical discs containing duplicate digital materials were also discarded.

Processing Note

Tammi Kim accessioned the materials in 2020. Digital files were transferred from an external hard drive to secure networked storage. In 2020, Sarah Jones arranged, rehoused, and described the collection and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2025, Landon Paljusaj processed the 2025 addition and updated the finding aid in ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Peg Crockett oral history interview, 2012 May 12. OH-00309. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f10m8b>

Catherine "Caty" Crockett oral history interview, 2024 December 03. OH-03936. Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1x506>

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Aerial photographs
- Families
- Airports
- Air travel
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Alamo Airways
- McCarran International Airport (Nev.)
- Crockett, Caty, 1949-

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Aviation and airfield photographs	
Alamo Airport with planes, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic prints, approximately 1942 to 1959	box 01
Alamo Airport, Las Vegas, Nevada, interior and exterior views: photographic prints, approximately 1945 to 1965 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01

	oversized box 07
Panoramic photographs of Alamo Airport: photographic prints, approximately 1945 to 1955	flat file 08
George Crockett at Alamo Airport: photographic prints, approximately 1945 to 1965	box 01
Alamo Airways office celebratory photograph albums and scenes: photographic prints, approximately 1945 to 1955	box 03
Aerial views of Alamo Airport and surrounding area, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic prints, approximately 1950 to 1959 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01 oversized box 07
Alamo Airways notepad and loan receipt, approximately 1945 to 1960	box 01
Alamo Airways and McCarran Executive Terminal: photographic negatives and transparencies, approximately 1945 to 1969	box 01
Typescript history of Alamo Airways with county commissioner correspondence, 1959	box 01
Aviation magazines, 1945 to 1955	box 01
Assorted aircraft and aviation scenes: photographic prints, approximately 1945 to 1979	box 03
Newspaper articles about George Crockett, Alamo Airport, McCarran Field, and Las Vegas aviation, 1955 to 1972	box 01
McCarran Field and McCarran International Airport brochures and photographic prints, approximately 1960 to 1974	box 01
George Crockett with various associates: photographic prints, approximately 1945 to 1985	box 01
West Yellowstone Airport, interior and aerial views: photographic prints, approximately 1955 to 1965	box 01
Views of West Yellowstone Airport, airplanes on the ground and in flight: photographic slides and transparencies, approximately 1955 to 1965	box 01
McCarran Center groundbreaking ceremony: photographic prints, approximately 1992 to 1993	box 01
Newspaper articles, press releases, and photographic prints of George Crockett Road and McCarran Aviation Heritage Museum (Howard Cannon Aviation Museum), 1990 to 2021	box 01
George Crockett's Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame induction ceremony event program, photographic prints, and articles, 2011 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01 oversized box 07
Crockett family photographs and papers	
George Crockett's early life: photographic prints, approximately 1912 to 1930	box 03

George Crockett headshots: photographic prints, approximately 1940 to 1980	box 02
George Crockett and Margaret "Peg" Nickerson wedding photographs and newspaper announcement, 1948	box 02
George and Peg Crockett with aircraft at various airfields: photographic prints, approximately 1945 to 1949 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 03
George and Peg Crockett portraits: photographic prints, approximately 1948 to 1990	box 02
Caty Crockett birth announcement "news release" and letter from Hughes Aircraft Company, 1949	box 02
Newspaper clippings and correspondence to George Crockett from Navy League officials, 1965 to 1967	box 02
Newspaper clippings about the Crockett family, 1951 to 1997	box 02
Nickerson family photographs, postcards, and Henry Cobb Nickerson's army rank certificate, approximately 1911 to 1949 (PH_00431_004a-PH_00431_021a) Physical Description: 1 Files Physical Description: 18 Digital Files (0.199 GB) JPG	box 02 digital file 00
Nickerson family photograph album, approximately 1917 to 1957	oversized box 06
Hidden Well Ranch guestbook (photocopies), 1939 to 1951	oversized box 07
Hidden Well Ranch: photographic prints, approximately 1940 to 1969 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 05
Peg Crockett biographical information, aviation officer identification cards, newspaper articles, and photographic prints, approximately 1945 to 2005	box 02
Peg Crockett's scrapbook pages with photographic prints, 1947 to 1948	box 02
Newspaper articles and photographic prints of events hosted by Peg Crockett and others, 1965 to 1967	box 02
"The Las Vegas I Remember" Peg Crockett oral history interview transcript by the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, approximately 1990 to 1999	box 02
Proclamations honoring Peg Crockett on behalf of Clark County, Nevada, 1997	oversized box 07
Hidden Well Road newspaper articles, 2014	box 05
Peg Crockett obituaries and memorial articles, 2022	box 02
Crockett family: photographic prints, approximately 1940 to 1969 Physical Description: 7 Files	box 02

	box 03
Crockett family photograph album with correspondence, 1948 to 1956	oversized box 06
Caty and Chris Crockett school portraits: photographic prints, approximately 1953 to 1969	box 03
Family wedding photographs: photographic prints, approximately 1960 to 1979	box 02
Crockett family home in Big Horn, Wyoming: photographic prints, approximately 1970	box 02
Crockett family vacations: photographic prints, approximately 1960 to 1989	box 02
Lazy Flying C Ranch purchase documents, correspondence, maps, and receipts, 1957 to 1990	box 02
Aerial views of "original Crockett ranch": photographic prints, approximately 1958	oversized box 07
Lazy Flying C Ranch: photographic prints, approximately 1955 to 1990	box 02
Architectural drawings for the Crockett residence from the office of Zick & Sharp, 1958 December 31	roll 10
Lazy Flying C Ranch construction, surroundings, and exteriors: photographic prints, approximately 1950 to 1960 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 03
Lazy Flying C Ranch, exterior and surrounding views: photographic prints, approximately 1950 to 1989	box 03
Lazy Flying C Ranch scrapbook, approximately 1950 to 1969	oversized box 06
Animals and wildlife at the Lazy Flying C Ranch: photographic prints, approximately 1960 to 1989	box 03
Lazy Flying C Ranch: photographic prints, approximately 1980 to 1999 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 03
Photocopied documents of lawsuit brought forth by administrators of the Howard Hughes estate, approximately 1980	box 02
George Crockett Road sign installation at site of old Alamo Airfield: photographic prints, approximately 1990 to 1999	box 03
Crockett family and friends: photographic prints, approximately 1970 to 2010 Physical Description: 7 Files	box 03
Crockett family and friends at West Yellowstone: photographic prints, approximately 1950 to 1979 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 03
Bears at the Crockett's West Yellowstone cabin: photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1960 to 1969	box 03

Crockett family holiday cards from West Yellowstone: photographic prints, approximately 1960 to 1969	box 03
Photograph album of the Crockett family at West Yellowstone cabin, approximately 1960 to 1969	oversized box 06
Crockett and Laxalt families in West Yellowstone: photographic print, approximately 1966	oversized box 07
"Yellowstone in winter": photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1990 to 1999	box 03
Peg Crockett at Hoover Dam during spillway overflow: photographic prints, 1983	box 03
Travel to Wyoming: photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1970 to 1989	box 03
"Steerhead BBQ, Wyoming": photographic prints and negatives, 1996	box 04
"Big Horn house - before": photographic prints, approximately 1970	box 04
"Big Horn": photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1970 to 1979	box 04
Crockett family vacation home: photographic prints, approximately 1990 to 1999	box 04
Crockett family home: photographic prints, approximately 2000 to 2009	box 04
"Cody Ball '98": photographic prints and negatives, 1998	box 04
Crockett family vacations: photographic prints and slides, approximately 1950 to 1971	box 04 box 05
Physical Description: 3 Files	
International travel and vacations: photographic prints and negatives, approximately 1968 to 1988	box 04
Physical Description: 11 Files	
United States travel and vacations: photographic prints and negatives, 1966 to 2004	box 04 box 05
Physical Description: 5 Files	
Various events and locations: photographic prints, approximately 1980 to 2009	box 04
Physical Description: 6 Files	
"Easter 1988": photographic prints, 1988	box 05
MGM Grand fire, Las Vegas, Nevada: photographic prints, 1980 November 21	box 05
Assorted scenes of Alamo Airways, Crockett family, and unidentified people: photographic prints and slides, approximately 1920 to 1999	box 05
Aerial views of the Las Vegas Valley, approximately 1953 to 1954	

	oversized box 07
Aerial photographs of future Harry Reid Airport Connector location and surroundings (Sunset Road, Spencer Street, Warm Springs Road, Las Vegas Boulevard), 1986 to 1994	roll 09
Aerial view and land division map of Las Vegas, Nevada (Sunset Road, Decatur Boulevard, Windmill Lane, Rainbow Boulevard), 1994	roll 09
Aerial view and land division map of Las Vegas, Nevada (Sunset Road, Durango Drive, Windmill Lane, Hualapai Way), 1994	roll 09
Aerial view and land division map of Las Vegas, Nevada (Tropicana Avenue, Durango Drive, Sunset Road, Hualapai Way), 1994	roll 09
Audiovisual materials	
"Lake Mead and Boulder Dam" original work print by United Productions: 16mm film reels, approximately 1940 to 1969	box 11
"Hotel Fronts, Pools, and Fremont St. - Playground USA": 16mm film reels, approximately 1950 to 1969 (PH_00431_002a) Physical Description: 1 Reels Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.030 GB) MP4	box 11 digital file 00
First scene Thunderbird Hotel with possibly additional hotel fronts, black and white: 16mm film reel, approximately 1950 to 1960 (PH_00431_003a) Physical Description: 1 Reels Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.093 GB) MP4	box 11 digital file 00
"424 KC09 Desert Sea News, Las Vegas #403" first scene is view of Las Vegas Boulevard towards downtown from the Sahara, black and white: 16mm film reel, approximately 1950 to 1979	box 11
"Tropicana Promotion Film" from the Las Vegas News Bureau: 16mm film reels, approximately 1950 to 1969	box 11
"Desert Sea News Bureau" first scene is Fremont Street at night, black and white: 16mm film reel, approximately 1950 to 1969	box 05
"Las Vegas News Bureau #485" first scene is stage variety show at unknown location, color: 16mm film reel, approximately 1950 to 1979	box 05
"Sahara Cup Race original and dupe": 16mm film reels, approximately 1956 to 1959	box 11
"Miss Rodeo America, Flamingo Hotel negative and print": 16mm film reels, 1958 November	box 11
"Howard Hughes - Aviation Achievements - Senate Hearings": videocassette, undated	box 05