



## Guide to the Flora Dungan Papers

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Dungan, Flora Turchinsky, 1917-1973
<b>Title:</b>	Flora Dungan Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00193
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1929 to 1974
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1953 to 1973
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.5 Linear Feet (7 boxes, 1 oversized box)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Flora Dungan Papers (1929-1974) contain high school and university records, certificates, newspaper clippings, press releases, notes, correspondence, and booklets about her life and political activism in Nevada. Also included are Legislative materials, an audio cassette tape, a copy of the Nevada Constitution, and an oil painting of Flora Dungan.

### Preferred Citation

Flora Dungan Papers, 1929-1974. MS-00193. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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State Assemblywoman and community activist Flora Dungan was born Flora Turchinsky in Minnesota in 1917. Her parents were both born in Russia. She graduated from Polytechnic High School in Los Angeles in 1933, from Los Angeles Junior College in 1936, and from the University of California at Berkeley in 1938 (with Honors in Psychology). She completed a one year curriculum in Social Service at Berkeley in 1939. After working in legal research and child welfare, Flora went into industry and accounting work during World War II. She moved to Las Vegas in 1948 and began practicing as a public accountant. She divorced L. Donald Dungan that same year, although she retained his last name professionally throughout several marriages. In 1957 she married Robert M. Stang, divorcing him in 1959.

In Las Vegas she participated in a variety of community organizations, including Business and Professional Women's Club, Zonta (a women's service club), American Association of University Women, and the Nevada Society of Public Accountants. She was also active in Democratic party politics, and served on the county and state Democratic Central Committees. In 1962 she was elected to the State Assembly from Clark County and served in the 52nd Session in 1963 and the Tenth Special Session in 1964. In August, 1964, she and Dr. Clare Woodbury filed a lawsuit which led to a special session of the legislature in October, 1965. The special session resulted in a reapportionment of the Nevada Legislature, giving Clark County seven additional Senate and four additional Assembly seats. During this time she was married to newspaperman Ed Oncken, whom she divorced in 1965. She was again elected to the Assembly in 1967, representing Clark County District No. 4. Also in 1967, she filed a lawsuit that resulted in the enlargement of the University Board of Regents, giving Clark County a majority of five seats. She served as Assemblyman in the 1968 session and in the Thirteenth Special Session in 1968.

Flora Dungan was the first woman to serve on the Legislative Judiciary Committee, where she was a leader in fighting for prison reform and rehabilitation. As chairman of the Assembly Institutions Committee, she led the way in investigating complaints of inmate abuse at Nevada State Prison. However, she was barred from visiting the prison because she was a woman. She also worked to expand juvenile assistance programs in the courts and to lessen the penalties for possession of marijuana. In 1968 she ran for State Senate, but was defeated in her bid. In 1969, with her husband Ray ben David, she helped found Focus, a juvenile assistance facility which achieved national recognition. In 1972 she was elected to the University Board of Regents. Shortly after her election, she was diagnosed with cancer, and underwent radiation treatment while continuing to serve as regent. However, on October 25, 1973, she died in Los Angeles, California.

Sources:

"Flora Dungan." Online Nevada Encyclopedia. Accessed November 24, 2015. <http://www.onlinenevada.org/articles/flora-dungan>.

"Flora Dungan Biography." Women's Research Institute of Nevada. Accessed November 24, 2015. <http://wrinunlv.org/research/our-history-profiles-of-nevada-women/flora-dungan/>.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Flora Dungan Papers (1929-1974) contain high school and university records, certificates, newspaper clippings, press releases, notes, correspondence, and booklets. Also included are Legislative materials, an audio tape, a Nevada Constitution, and an oil painting of Flora Dungan.

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## Arrangement

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The papers are arranged into six series reflecting the stages and careers of her life:

Series 1. Personal and Business Papers;

Series 2. Community Activities;

Series 3. Legislative Service;

Series 4. State of Nevada Regents Material;

Series 5. Mixed media;

Series 6. Over-sized Material.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

This collection is open for research with the exception of Box 7, which is restricted due to Personally Identifiable Information (PII) until January 1, 2049.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in October 1977 by Hal Erickson; accession numbers 77-271, T-117.

### Processing Note

Carol Corbett, September 1995. In 2017 Joyce Moore revised and enhanced the description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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## Related Materials

### Separated Materials

Some of the photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in Flora Dungan Photographs, 1929-1974. PH-00293. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

- Women accountants
- Politicians -- Nevada -- Biography
- Women college administrators
- Apportionment (Election law) -- Nevada
- Children -- Services for -- Nevada -- Clark County
- Women -- Societies and clubs -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- University of Nevada System. Board of Regents

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1. Personal and Business Papers, 1929-1974

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents: The Personal and Business materials include papers from Flora Dungan's high school and university years, her business papers while practicing as a public accountant, papers pertaining to her personal finances, investments, and personal life, including her divorces, illness, and death. The high school materials include several reports bound with red ribbon that were written and illustrated by Dungan, along with her high school yearbook and several report cards. Her university degrees and honors are included in this portion of the collection.

Included in the Investment file are items pertaining to her automobile, personal property taxes, and the care of her aging father.

Arrangement: Material is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Title/Description	Containers	
Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees, 1933-1939	box 1	folder 1
Check register, expenses, 1968	box 1	folder 2
Client accounts, work schedules, 1969-1973	box 1	folder 3
Death/illness, correspondence, receipts, bills, miscellaneous items, 1973	box 1	folder 4

Death expressions of sympathy and newspaper clippings, 1973-1974	box 1	folder 5
Divorce Decrees, Dungan (1948), Stang (1959), Oncken (1965); Marriage Certificate - Stang (1957)	box 1	folder 6
Estate Papers, Decree of Distribution, Death Certificate, 1973-1974	box 1	folder 7
Financial statements, 1954-1968	box 1	folder 8
High school report cards, correspondence, miscellaneous, 1931-1933	box 1	folder 9
High school reports, France, Germany, Switzerland, [undated]	box 1	folder 10
High school reports, History, Music, undated, 1929	box 1	folder 11
High school reports, Russia, United States of America (USA), undated	box 1	folder 12
High School Yearbook, "Polytechnic Student", 1933	box 2	folder 1
Investments, 1960-1966	box 2	folder 2
Miscellaneous personal papers, unated	box 2	folder 3
Payroll reports, federal taxes, Nevada Employment Security Department, Nevada Industrial Commission, 1962-1973	box 2	folder 4
Payroll reports, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA), Nevada Industrial Commission, Nevada Employment Security Department, 1962-1973	box 2	folder 5
Payroll Reports, Federal Taxes, Nevada Employment, 1969-1973	box 2	folder 6
Stocks, 1962-1966	box 2	folder 7
University papers written by Dungan, 1969	box 2	folder 8
Restricted: Personal papers	box 07	

Restricted:

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## Series 2. Community Activities, 1957-1974

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents: The Community Activities papers include documentation about organizations in which Flora Dungan and her husband, Ray ben David, were active.

Arrangement: Material is arranged alphabetically by the name of the organization or interest and covers the period 1957-1974

Title/Description	Containers	
Communiversy and Students Participating in Community Endeavors (SPICE) Programs at Nevada Southern University (Ray ben David), 1968-1970	box 3	folder 1

FOCUS Youth Services: Brochures, grant request (Ray ben David), 1970-1974	box 3	folder 2
Las Vegas Toastmistress Club, Certificate of Membership, 1957	box 3	folder 3
Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1964-1968	box 3	folder 4
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), copy of Life Member Plaque, 1972	box 3	folder 5
Nevada Association on Crime and Delinquency, conference materials, 1970	box 3	folder 6
Reception honoring Helen Anderson, 1965	box 3	folder 7
Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital, newspaper clipping, resolution, 1956, undated	box 3	folder 8
Thank you letters to Ray ben David from Garside Junior High School students, 1968	box 3	folder 9
Zonta International, "Gallopig Gavel" script, 1958	box 3	folder 10
Zonta International, booklets, 1960	box 3	folder 11

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### Series 3. Legislative Materials, 1953-1973

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents: The Legislative material documents Flora Dungan's election campaigns and some of the issues she addressed as Assemblyman from Clark County during the 1963 Session, the 1964 Special Session, the 1967 Session, and the 1968 Special Session. The major issues covered in the papers include legislative reapportionment and Nevada State Prison reform, in which Dungan played a key role. With Dr. Clare Woodbury, she filed a lawsuit that led to a special session of the legislature in 1965. Although Dungan was not in office at this time, her files contain much material related to apportionment, including copies of court filings and her handwritten worksheets for various apportionment ratios, based on Legislative Counsel Bureau reports. The prison reform material includes the controversy that erupted in the Assembly when she announced her intention to visit the state prison and the subsequent attempt to remove her from her committee assignment. There was extensive press coverage of this controversy, reflected in the many newspaper clippings that document her efforts at prison reform.

Arrangement: The folders are arranged alphabetically by issue or type of materials.

Title/Description	Containers	
Board of Regents Reapportionment, court filing, 1966	box 4	folder 1
Cartoons, original sketches, 1962-1968	box 4	folder 2
Certificate of Election to Assembly, 1966	box 4	folder 3
Democratic State Convention, newspaper clippings, 1968 March	box 4	folder 4
Education correspondence and press releases, 1963-1964	box 4	folder 5
Legislative career, newspaper clippings, 1962-1969	box 4	folder 6



Legislative Reapportionment, chart	box 4	folder 7
Legislative Reapportionment, court filings, 1964-1965	box 4	folder 8
Legislative Reapportionment: "Legislative Apportionment in Nevada," Legislative Counsel Bureau, 1955	box 4	folder 9
Legislative Reapportionment, Legislative Counsel Bureau Reports, Sample Apportionments, County Populations, Final Apportionment, 1965	box 4	folder 10
Legislative Reapportionment, press releases, miscellaneous statistics, Governor's Message to Special Session, 1965	box 4	folder 11
Legislative Reapportionment - "Reapportionment: Its Effect Upon the Legislative Process," James L. Rhoads, 1966	box 4	folder 12
Legislative Reapportionment, reports, cases, notes regarding other states, 1963-1965	box 4	folder 13
Legislative Reapportionment, State Constitution, portion with notes of Dungan, undated	box 4	folder 14
Legislative Reapportionment, Supreme Court Cases, 1964	box 4	folder 15
Legislative Reapportionment, "The Nevada Apportionment Decision," League of Women Voters, 1965 October	box 4	folder 16
Legislative Session, Commentary, possibly written by Ed Oncken, 1953	box 5	folder 1
Metropolitan Government, Clark County, Nevada and materials from Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee, 1964	box 5	folder 2
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1963-1967	box 5	folder 3
Narcotics Laws, Lessening of Penalties, 1967-1968	box 5	folder 4
Nevada State Fire Service Training Program Resolution and correspondence, 1973	box 5	folder 5
Nevada State Prison, 1968 Special Legislative Session, Assembly Institutions Committee, appointment as Chair and Prison Visit, media commentary, notes, February, 1968	box 5	folder 6
Nevada State Prison, Special Legislative Session Assembly Committee on Judiciary, minutes, notes, 1968	box 5	folder 7
Nevada State Prison, California Supreme Court Case "People v. Dorado," with testimony of Captain Hocker highlighted, 1965	box 5	folder 8
Nevada State Prison, correspondence, 1968	box 5	folder 9
Nevada State Prison, "Survey Nevada Penitentiary", 1964 November 8-13	box 5	folder 10
"Paul Laxalt Testimonial from "Five Minutes With Flora", [1964]	box 5	folder 11
Photographs, inscribed, undated		

	box 5	folder 12
Presidential Inauguration, invitations, 1961-1965	box 5	folder 13
Psychiatric Legislation, news release, undated	box 5	folder 14
Racial Discrimination, statement urging Special Legislative Session, April 7, 1968	box 5	folder 15
State Assembly, campaign materials, speeches, statements, 1962-1964	box 5	folder 16
State Senate, campaign materials, correspondence, statements, 1968	box 5	folder 17
Statement to the Las Vegas Review Journal regarding Mayor William Byrne, October 20, 1963	box 5	folder 18
"Territorial Enterprise" and "Virginia City News", 1962 December 14	box 5	folder 19

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## Series 4. University of Nevada Regents Material, 1970-1973

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents Note: The Regent material covers the period from Flora Dungan's campaign in 1972 until her death in 1973. The papers in this part of the collection consists of agendas, minutes, notes, and files pertaining to University issues in which she took a particular interest.

Arrangement: Material remains in original order.

Title/Description	Containers	
Adamian v. University of Nevada, Reno, 1973	box 6	folder 1
Agenda and notes, 1973	box 6	folder 2
Budget issues, 1972-1973	box 6	folder 3
Certificate of Election to Board of Regents, 1972	box 6	folder 4
Chair in Judaic Studies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), 1973	box 6	folder 5
Investment Advisory Committee, 1973	box 6	folder 6
Law School, establishment, 1973	box 6	folder 7
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1973	box 6	folder 8
Miscellaneous reports, press releases, and newspaper clippings, 1970-1973	box 6	folder 9
Regent, election congratulations, 1972	box 6	folder 10
Regent Political Campaign, receipts, bills, media, financial records, 1972		

box 6      folder  
11[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series 5. Mixed Materials, 1970-1973**

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents Note: Mixed material of Flora Dungan contains a calendar, memorial service book, certificates, and a notebook. Also included is an audio tape and a copy of the Nevada Constitution.

Arrangement: Material remains in original order.

Title/Description	Containers	
Address and telephone directory, undated	box 8	folder 1
Desk calendar, 1970	box 8	folder 2
Audio tape labeled "Sawyer Sales Tax Switch" and "Bunker Bomb"	box 8	folder 3
Flora Dungan nameplate from KOLO-TV, Reno, NV	box 8	folder 4
"The Nevada Constitution," by Eleanore Bushnell, inscribed to Dungan by the author	box 8	folder 5
Flora Dungan Memorial Service Book, 1973 November 1	box 8	folder 6
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Certificate of Life, membership plaque, 1972 June	box 8	folder 7
Black notebook embossed with Flora Dungan, undated	box 8	folder 8

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Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Contents Note: Over-sized material includes certificates, cartoons, and an oil painting of Flora Dungan.

Arrangement: Material remains in original order.

Title/Description	Containers	
Nevada State Prison Cartoon, Reno Gazette, 1968; Certificate of Election and Governor's Commission of Dungan to Board of Regents (two originals), 1972	oversized box SH-079	flat file 09
State Board of Accountancy Authorization for Dungan to practice as a Public Accountant, 1960	oversized box SH-079	flat file 09
Nevada Society of Public Accountants Certificate of Membership of Dungan, 1957		

oversized flat file  
box 09  
SH-079

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Bachelor of Arts Degree to Flora Turchinsky from University of California,  
Berkeley, 1938

oversized flat file  
box 09  
SH-079

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