



## Guide to the C. D. Baker Photograph Collection

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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>	Baker, C. D. (Charles Duncan), 1901-1972
<b>Contributor:</b>	Germain, Raymond, 1907-1976
<b>Title:</b>	C. D. Baker Photograph Collection
<b>ID:</b>	PH-00099
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1916-1966
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.30 Linear Feet (4 hanging folders)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The C. D. Baker Photograph Collection depicts former Las Vegas, Nevada mayor Charles Duncan "C. D." Baker from 1916 to 1966. The photographs primarily depict Baker at political events, including campaign stops, fundraising events, meetings with officials and politicians, and at important locations in Las Vegas and Nevada. Baker was photographed with politicians such as U.S. Senator Chic Hecht, President Harry S. Truman, Governor Vail Pittman, and Lt. Governor Cliff Jones.

### Preferred Citation

C. D. Baker Photograph Collection, 1916-1966. PH-00099. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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City Engineer and politician Charles Duncan "C. D." Baker (1901-1972) was instrumental to the expansion and development of Las Vegas, Nevada before 1940. Born on February 26, 1901 in Terra Haute, Indiana, he received a bachelor's of science in civil engineering from Rose Polytechnic Institution in Indiana and then worked for the Indiana Highway Department. He moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to teach math and coach basketball in 1922. In 1923, Baker moved to Juneau, Alaska, where he served as a deck officer in the United States Coast Geodetic Survey for four years. After returning to Las Vegas in 1926, he completed several engineering projects. Baker was a partner in the Boulder Dam Townsite Company until 1932 and a full-time mineral surveyor for the

State of Nevada and Clark County, Nevada until 1933 and 1936, respectively. He was then named Superintendent of the Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Beginning in 1936, Baker held the position of City Engineer for Las Vegas, Nevada. He ran for mayor in 1940 and lost, but won a position in the State Legislature later that year. Baker was called for active military duty in 1941 and served as a colonel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineering stationed in Hawaii. He married Florence Langford when he returned to Las Vegas in 1945 and the couple had two children. Baker ran for the Nevada State Senate in 1946 and served one term in office. He was elected mayor of Las Vegas in 1951 and served two consecutive terms, retiring from politics in 1959. After his political career ended, Baker ran a real estate business until he retired in June 1966.

In addition to politics, he was on the committee to build the Las Vegas Convention Center, a member of the Nevada State Eagles and the Las Vegas Elks, and the Vice President of the Nevada Savings and Loan. He died February 17, 1972.

Source:

"Former Mayor of Las Vegas, Charles D. Baker, dies" *Las Vegas Review-Journal* February 18, 1972. Accessed April 5, 2019. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/documentv2:1508AFD0E83DBED6@EAN16D329126B4AC4A1@2441366-16D23F69757C9B96@0-16D23F69757>

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The C. D. Baker Photograph Collection depicts former Las Vegas, Nevada mayor Charles Duncan "C. D." Baker from 1916 to 1966. The photographs primarily depict Baker at political events, including campaign stops, fundraising events, meetings with officials and politicians, and at important locations in Las Vegas and Nevada. Baker was photographed with politicians such as U.S. Senator Chic Hecht, President Harry S. Truman, Governor Vail Pittman, and Lt. Governor Cliff Jones.

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research. Some collection material has been digitized and is [available online](#).

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1974 by Raymond Germain; accession number 1974-131.

### Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden wrote the collection description in compliance with current professional standards.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

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

C.D. Baker Engineering Field Notebooks, 1909-1966. MS-00272. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Charles Duncan Baker Papers, 1951-1972. MS-00141. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Politicians

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Postcard: Terrance Goodwin of the Clark County High School boys' basketball team, 1923 (0001) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
Postcard: Gerald Crowe of the Clark County High School boys' basketball team, 1923 (0002) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
Yearbook page from Rose Polytechnical Institute in Terre Haute, Indiana; C. D. Baker is first person in the fourth row, 1922 (0003) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
Postcard: C. D. Baker, basketball coach and teacher for Clark County High School, 1923 (0004) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
Portrait of C. D. Baker, undated (0005) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
C. D. Baker at a mining claim, undated (0006) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
C. D. Baker, H. E. Butler, William J. Shirley, Norman Smith, and a worker, approximately 1930-1933 (0007) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
C. D. Baker, undated (0008) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
C. D. Baker during his time as mayor, approximately 1951-1959 (0009) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
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Portrait of C. D. Baker, undated (0012) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
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C. D. Baker working with architectural plans, undated (0014) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
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	folder 01
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Business executives meeting Air Force officers, including C. D. Baker, Sheriff "Butch" Leypoldt, Mayor of North Las Vegas Earl Hartke, and Chief Commander Norrison Beatty, approximately 1960 (0019) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
C. D. Baker in his office at C. D. Baker Realty in Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1950 (0020) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	folder 01
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folder  
04

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Postcard: C Street, Virginia City, Nevada, looking south from Sutton Avenue,  
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folder  
04

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Possibly mining buildings, undated (0086) ([view online](#))

folder  
04

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Possibly Lake Mead, undated (0087) ([view online](#))

folder  
04

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Black Canyon, undated (0088) ([view online](#))

folder  
04

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Nevada State Bank, undated (0089) ([view online](#))

folder  
04

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Air Force Thunderbirds flying in formation, undated (0090) ([view online](#))

folder  
04