



Guide to the Franklin M. Murphy Photograph Collection

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Murphy, Franklin M., 1898-1957
Title:	Franklin M. Murphy Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00232
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1929 to 1933
Physical Description:	0.64 Cubic Feet (6 hanging folders and 1 shared box)
Physical Description:	0.80 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Franklin M. Murphy Photograph Collection, dates from approximately 1929-1933 and consists of black-and-white photographic prints with 27 corresponding negatives. The majority of the images show locations in and around the current site of Hoover Dam and Lake Mead in southern Nevada and Arizona with a focus on the geology of the area; a smaller number show individuals and locations in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Preferred Citation

Franklin M. Murphy Photograph Collection, approximately 1929-1933. PH-00232. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Consulting geologist and surveyor Franklin Mac Murphy was born on December 27, 1898 in Wheaton, Minnesota. He studied at Columbia University, the University of Arizona, and the University of California, Los Angeles, completing his graduate studies in 1930 at the California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena, California.

After his graduation, Murphy worked for the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). From 1930 to 1933 he provided surveys and geological mapping of the Eldorado Range in southern Nevada for the Hoover Dam site and vicinity. From 1933 to 1937, he worked as a geologist on

irrigation and flood control projects, including the Colorado River Indian Irrigation Project. After 1940, Murphy acted as an independent geologist on many other dam sites and mining projects until his sudden death in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 10, 1957.

Sources:

Genealogical research on "Franklin Mac Murphy." Accessed December 12, 2019 on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org

Alumni death notice, "Franklin Mac Murphy." California Institute of Technology Alumni Association Engineering and Science newsletter, 1957. Accessed November 26, 2019, <http://calteches.library.caltech.edu/1849/1/personals.pdf>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Franklin M. Murphy Photograph Collection dates from approximately 1929-1933 and consists of black-and-white photographic prints with some corresponding negatives. The majority of the images show locations in and around the current site of Hoover Dam and Lake Mead in southern Nevada and Arizona with a focus on the geology of the area; a smaller number show individuals and locations in Las Vegas and Boulder City, Nevada. Of particular interest are photographs that highlight early preparation for the dam and areas of the Colorado River canyons that were submerged by Lake Mead.

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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

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

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1979 by the Las Vegas (Nevada) Public Library; accession number T-130.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff in 1979. In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Melise Leech wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Franklin M. Murphy Geological Papers, 1919-1956. MS-00202. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Physical geology
- Colorado River (Colo.-Mexico)
- Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.) -- Design and construction

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
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Photographic prints	
Laborers harvest carrots in the Imperial Valley, California: photographic print and negative, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0001) (view online)	folder 01 box SH-028
Unidentified man by the Colorado River near Black Canyon, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0002) (view online)	folder 01 box SH-028
The Colorado River at Cape Horn, Nevada, showing Six Companies, Inc. worker housing: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0003) (view online)	folder 01
Aerial view of the Colorado River at Black Canyon, southern Nevada, courtesy of Spencer Air Photos: photographic print, 1929 January 13 (0232_0004) (view online)	folder 01
View of the Colorado River at Black Canyon, southern Nevada, taken from the top of the Hoover Dam during its construction: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0005) (view online)	folder 01
Powerplant used during Hoover Dam construction, southern Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0006) (view online)	folder 01
Aerial view of the Hoover Dam site on the Colorado River at Black Canyon, southern Nevada, courtesy of Fairchild Aerial Surveys, California: photographic print, 1930 June 27 (0232_0007) (view online)	folder 01
Aerial view of the Hoover Dam site in Black Canyon, southern Nevada, courtesy of Fairchild Aerial Surveys, California: photographic print, 1930 June 27 (0232_0008) (view online)	folder 01
Tourists at lookout point on the Black Canyon, southern Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0009) (view online)	folder 01
Unidentified individual holding a rock and a pickaxe by the Colorado River, possibly southern Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0010) (view online)	folder 01
Unidentified individuals walk near the lower portion of Black Canyon, southern Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0011) (view online)	folder 01
View looking south along the Colorado River, about five miles below the dam site, southern Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0012) (view online)	folder 01
The Colorado River at sunrise, twelve miles below the dam site, southern Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0013) (view online)	folder 01
The Colorado River, seven miles below the dam site, southern Nevada: photographic print, approximately 1930 to 1933 (0232_0014) (view online)	folder 01

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box
SH-028

Mining operations near Nelson, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0161) ([view online](#))

folder
06

box
SH-028

Sheds near Nelson, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0162) ([view online](#))

folder
06

box
SH-028

Boulder Highway, west of Railroad Pass, looking north into the Las Vegas Valley, southern Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0163)

folder
06

box
SH-028

Black Canyon Highway, looking south toward McKeeverville and Boulder City, Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0164) ([view online](#))

folder
06

box
SH-028

Entrance to Boulder Canyon Project Federal Reservation, southern Nevada, looking west: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0165) ([view online](#))

folder
06

box
SH-028

Eldorado Valley area, southern Nevada, looking southwest: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0166) ([view online](#))

folder
06

box
SH-028

Hemenway Wash, southern Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0167) ([view online](#))

folder
06

box
SH-028

Road to Searchlight, Nevada, looking north to Railroad Pass: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0168) ([view online](#))

folder
06

box
SH-028

Road to Searchlight, Nevada, looking north to Railroad Pass: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0169) ([view online](#))

folder
06

box
SH-028

View of Colorado River from lookout point, southern Nevada: photographic print and negative, approximately 1932 (0232_0170) ([view online](#))

folder
06

box
SH-028

"Big Bertha," bus used to transport construction workers to the dam site,
Boulder City, Nevada: photographic negative, approximately 1930 to 1933
(0232_0171)

box
SH-028

Ragtown, Nevada: photographic negative, approximately 1930 to 1933
(0232_0172)

box
SH-028

"Jumbo" drilling rig carrying construction workers at the dam site,
southern Nevada: photographic negative, approximately 1930 to 1933
(0232_0173)

box
SH-028