



Guide to the Flora Dungan Photographs

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Dungan, Flora Turchinsky, 1917-1973
Title:	Flora Dungan Photographs
ID:	PH-00293
Date [inclusive]:	1950-1973
Physical Description:	0.1 Linear Feet (1 hanging folder)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Flora Dungan Photographs contain photographs of Nevada politician and activist Flora Dungan from 1950 to 1973. Materials include portraits of Dungan, photographs of Dungan at public events, and a photograph of Dungan with the Nevada Board of Regents. Materials also include three photographs of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Senator Howard Cannon, and Nevada Senator Alan Bible.

Preferred Citation

Flora Dungan Photographs, 1950-1973. PH-00293. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Flora (Turchinsky) Dungan (1917-1973) was a Nevada Assemblywoman and University Regent who successfully sued the state of Nevada twice in order to gain additional representation for Clark County in the legislature and the Board of Regents (the governing board of the state's university system). As a result of *Dungan v. Sawyer* in 1964, seats were reapportioned in the Nevada legislature, and Clark County gained four seats in the Assembly and seven in the Senate. After Dungan sued Nevada again in 1967, Clark County gained the majority of seats on the Board of Regents.

Flora Dungan was born Flora Turchinsky in Minnesota in 1917 to Russian parents. She graduated from Polytechnic High School in Los Angeles, California 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, Dungan went into industry and accounting work during World War II. She moved to Las Vegas, Nevada 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 subsequent marriages. In 1957 she married Robert M. Stang, and in 1959 they were divorced.

In Las Vegas Dungan participated in a variety of community organizations, including the Business and Professional Women's Club, Zonta (a women's service club), the 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 Dungan 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.

Dungan was again elected to the Assembly in 1967, representing Clark County District No. 4. That same year, she filed a lawsuit which resulted in the enlargement of the University Board of Regents, giving Clark County a majority of five seats. She served in the Assembly 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 ostensibly 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.

Dungan ran for State Senate in 1968, but was defeated in her bid. In 1969, with her husband Ray Ben David, she helped found Focus, a juvenile assistance facility in Nevada, which achieved national renown.

In 1972 Dungan was elected to the University Board of Regents, and was shortly after diagnosed with cancer. She continued to serve as regent during her illness, but she died in Los Angeles, California on October 25, 1973.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Flora Dungan Photographs contain photographs of Nevada politician and activist Flora Dungan from 1950 to 1973. Materials include portraits of Dungan, photographs of Dungan at public events, and a photograph of Dungan with the Nevada Board of Regents. Materials also include three photographs of U.S. President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Senator Howard Cannon, and Nevada Senator Alan Bible.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials may have been donated in 1977 by Hal Erickson; accession number 1977-271.

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

Related Materials

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

University of Nevada, Las Vegas Photograph Collection. PH-00062. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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

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Names and Subjects

- Political activism -- Nevada
- Women -- Education -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- photographs
- University of Nevada System. Board of Regents
- Nevada System of Higher Education

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Flora Dungan, 1950-1959 (0001) (view online)	folder 01
Flora Dungan and her dog Tiger at a dog show, 1955 November 06 (0002) (view online)	folder 01
Flora Dungan twirling a hula hoop, 1958 September 27 (0003) (view online)	folder 01
Flora Dungan, undated (0004) (view online)	folder 01
Flora Dungan, undated (0005) (view online)	folder 01
Flora Dungan, undated (0006) (view online)	folder 01
Flora Dungan and others, undated (0007) (view online)	

folder
01

Portrait of Flora Dungan, undated (0008) (view online)	folder 01
Portrait of Flora Dungan, undated (0009) (view online)	folder 01
Flora Dungan (Oncken) and others, 1961 October 05 (0010) (view online)	folder 01
Flora Dungan at the Lions Club, 1965 (0011) (view online)	folder 01
Board of Regents of the University of Nevada System, 1973 (0012) (view online)	folder 01
Family standing on the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building, undated (0013) (view online)	folder 01
President John F. Kennedy and U.S. Senator Howard Cannon, approximately 1960-1963 (0014) (view online)	folder 01
President John F. Kennedy, approximately 1960-1963 (0015) (view online)	folder 01
President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Senator Howard Cannon, and Nevada Senator Alan Bible, approximately 1960-1963 (0016) (view online)	folder 01