



Guide to the Del Webb Corporation Photograph Collection

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 29, 2022. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Del E. Webb Corporation
Contributor:	Webb, Del E., 1899-1974
Title:	Del Webb Corporation Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00313
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1957 to 1988
Physical Description:	0.08 Cubic Feet (1 oversized flat file, 1 hanging file, 1 shared box, 1 shared binder)
Physical Description:	1.80 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Del Webb Corporation Photograph Collection (approximately 1957 to 1988) consists of black-and-white photographic prints, black-and-white oversize reprints, negatives, and color slides focusing on the Mint Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. Images depict the construction of a twenty-six story high-rise addition to the property, its grand opening and anniversary celebrations, the Mint 400 Off-Road race festivities, interior shots of the casino floor, restaurants and lounges, and a salon. Also included are exterior images of properties on Fremont Street considered to be competitors of the Mint, advertisements and billboards, and photographs of Del E. Webb and associates.

Preferred Citation

Del Webb Corporation Photograph Collection, approximately 1957-1988. PH-00313. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

Founded in Phoenix, Arizona in 1928 as the Del E. Webb Construction Company by Delbert Eugene "Del" Webb, the Del Webb Corporation served as the lead construction firm on numerous projects across the United States. Beginning with the construction of gas stations, churches, and small storefronts, the Del Webb Corporation grew rapidly during World War II. The firm built some of the largest military installations in the West, including airfields, training bases, barracks, and internment camps such as the Poston War Relocation Center in Poston, Arizona. Following the conclusion of World War II, the firm continued to expand, taking on projects including Anaheim Stadium in Anaheim, California; Madison Square Garden in New York, New York; and the original Flamingo Hotel and Casino and the Mint Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Del Webb Corporation became the first publicly traded corporation to operate a casino, which was the Mint Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas. The firm would also own and operate other Las Vegas properties including the Thunderbird Hotel and Casino, the Sahara Hotel and Casino, and Lucky Casino. In 1960, the Del Webb Corporation introduced the Sun City retirement community, which proved to be hugely popular and lucrative. In 2001, the Del Webb Corporation was purchased by Pulte Group, Inc. creating the largest homebuilding company in the United States, but the Del Webb name remained tied to its age-restricted communities.

Del E. Webb was born to Ernest and Henrietta (Forthcamp) Webb in Fresno, California on May 17, 1899. His father, a contractor who operated a sand and gravel business, went bankrupt when Webb was 14. Because of this, Webb quit school and began working as a carpenter in 1917 to help his family out of financial trouble. He also began supplementing his income by playing semi-professional baseball in 1918. In 1926, he was injured sliding into home base and suffered a severe attack of typhoid fever, which caused him to retire from playing the sport. On the advice of friends, Webb moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he worked as a carpenter until starting his own construction company in 1928. From 1945 to 1965 Webb was a part-owner of the New York Yankees Baseball Club, a time period in which the team won ten World Series titles. Webb was married twice: first to Hazel Church in 1919 (divorced in 1953) and then to Toni Ince in 1961. Del E. Webb died of lung cancer in Rochester, Minnesota on July 4, 1974 at the age of 75.

Sourcea:

"Del Webb History." Accessed February 12, 2020. http://media.corporate-ir.net/media_files/irol/14/147717/DelWebb/DelWebbHistory.pdf

"Del Webb Corporation - Company Profile, Information, Business Description, History, Background Information on Del Webb Corporation," Reference for Business. Accessed February 12, 2020. <https://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/32/Del-Webb-Corporation.html#ixzz6DloqAefq>

Del E. Webb Corporation Photographs, MSS-279. Arizona State University Library: Greater Arizona Collection. Accessed February 12, 2020. <http://www.azarchivesonline.org/xtf/view?docId=ead/asu/dewc.xml;query=;brand=default>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Del Webb Corporation Photograph Collection consists of black-and-white photographic prints, black-and-white oversize reprints, negatives, and color slides focusing on the Mint Hotel and Casino in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada from approximately 1957 to 1988. Images depict the construction of a twenty-six story high rise addition to the property, grand opening and anniversary celebrations, the Mint 400 Off-Road race festivities, interior shots of the casino floor, restaurants and lounges, and a salon, exterior images of properties on Fremont Street considered to be competitors of the Mint, advertisements and billboards, and photographs of Del E. Webb and associates.

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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

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated to UNLV Special Collections and Archives in 1988; accession number 98-015.

Processing Note

In 2020, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Nicole Batten wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Gambling -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Hotels -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History
- color slides
- Advertising -- Hotels
- Casinos -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Design and construction
- The Mint (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Photographic prints, approximately 1957 to 1988 Physical Description: 1 Hanging Folders (21 black-and-white photographic prints)	folder 01
Photographic slides, approximately 1957 to 1988 Physical Description: 69 Photographic Slides	binder PB-007
Oversize photographic reprints, approximately 1990 to 1998 Physical Description: 5 Photographic Prints	flat file 02
Photographic negatives, approximately 1957 to 1988 Physical Description: 15 Photographic Negatives	box SH-029