

**Nevada Historical Society**  
**YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF RENO (YMCA)**

**MS/NC 1100**

The Reno Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was formed in 1910 and the first building was dedicated on November 12, 1911 at 32 East First Street in downtown Reno. A. W. Plummer was the first president of the YMCA. Some of the original officers of the organization included Gordon H. True, Robert Price, H. J. Darling, C. R. Carter, R. L. Moeller, C. G. Titus and Joseph E. Stubbs, longtime president of the University of Nevada. George Wingfield and George Nixon were among those on the Advisory Board. Prominent early members of the Association included Charles W. Mapes, George W. Mapes, B. D. Billinghamurst, Richard Kirman, Jr. and Fred Delongchamps.

The organization remained at the original location until 1953 when the boiler exploded, causing severe damage to the building. In 1956, the facility moved into a newly constructed building at 1300 Foster Drive near Reno High School. Beginning in 1964, the YMCA began accepting memberships from women as well as men. In 1981, the Reno YMCA and the Sparks YMCA merged into one corporate entity in order to better provide YMCA services in both locations. The principle office was at Foster Drive in Reno, and the name of the organization was changed to **YMCA of The Sierra**.

After 100 years, the YMCA of The Sierra closed amid declining membership and increased competition from private fitness centers. The building was demolished in January 2013.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION**

This collection comprises a large array of incomplete records and many photographs of YMCA activities at the Reno, Nevada facility over a period of 100 years of operation. The only complete set of records are bound volumes of Board of Directors Minutes from May 1910 through December 1986. There are three folders containing portraits of YMCA officials from 1907-1974, most of who were presidents of the organization. There is a smattering of early correspondence and printed materials from the 1930s and 1940s, along with numerous binders containing information regarding budget data, personnel lists, correspondence and printed materials kept by various officials from 1949 through 1964.

There is an abundance of photographs, mostly undated, which are divided into broad categories of activities. Most of the photographs appear to be from the 1970s to 1990s. There is one folder containing historic photographs. The slides are not categorized and few are labeled. There are several photo albums and scrapbooks, some containing articles and pictures dating back to the 1930s. Box 9 contains information concerning the Sparks, Nevada YMCA, its articles of incorporation, historical materials and other data prior to its merger with the Reno YMCA. Box 9 also contains six folders of records pertaining to the Carson City YMCA during the mid-1960s through 1971. It is not immediately clear why these data were in the possession of the Reno organization.

## YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, RENO (YMCA)

Box	Book	Description
1		Bound Volumes of Board of Directors Minutes
	1	May 1910-Dec 1950
	2	Jan 1951-Dec 1957
	3	Jan 1958-Dec 1962
	4	Jan 1963-Dec 1969
	5	Jan 1970-Dec 1974
	6	Jan 1975-Dec 1981
	7	Jan 1982-Dec 1986
2	<b>Folder</b>	
	1	Public Relations 1930s Folder 1
	2	Public Relations 1930s Folder 2
	3	Public Relations 1940s
	4	Printed Materials 1930s-1940s Folder 1
	5	Printed Materials 1930s-1940s Folder 2
	6	Fund Raising/Grants 1968-78
	7	Publications 1995-2001
		Binders of information used by YMCA officials attending local and national meetings:
		Binder: Los Angeles YMCA 1940
		Binder: Campaign 1940 (C. F. Marshall)
		Binder: Los Angeles YMCA 1941
		Binder: Public Relations 1943-1945
		Binder: Financial 1946-47
3		Binders of information used by YMCA officials which typically include correspondence, budget reports, lists of personnel, agendas and reports, printed materials, financial data and other reference materials:
	<b>Binder</b>	
	1	1949-51
	2	1948-53
	3	1952-53
	4	1954
	5	Building Fund Account 1954
	6	1957-58
	7	1959-60
	8	1964

4 **Folder**

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1 Miscellaneous Photographs, Folder 1
  - 2 Miscellaneous Photographs, Folder 2
  - 3 Miscellaneous Photographs, Folder 3
  - 4 Baseball Photographs, Folder 1
  - 5 Baseball Photographs, Folder 2
  - 6 Early 1950s Photographs
  - 7 Historic Photographs
  - 8 Construction Projects, Folder 1
  - 9 Construction Projects, Folder 2
  - 10 Construction Projects, Folder 3
  - 11 YMCA Officials 1907-1949
  - 12 YMCA Officials 1950-1959
  - 13 YMCA Officials 1961-1974
  - 14 Meetings/Conferences Photographs
  - 15 Staff (?) Christmas Party 1996
- 5
- 1 Swimming Photos, Folder 1
  - 2 Swimming Photos, Folder 2
  - 3 Swimming Photos, Folder 3
  - 4 Indoor Activities, Folder 1
  - 5 Indoor Activities, Folder 2
  - 6 Indoor Activities, Folder 3
  - 7 Indoor Activities, Folder 4
  - 8 Indoor Activities, Folder 5
  - 9 Outdoor Activities, Folder 1
  - 10 Outdoor Activities, Folder 2
  - 11 Outdoor Activities, Folder 3
  - 12 Staff Photographs, Folder 1
  - 13 Staff Photographs, Folder 2
- 6
- 1 Partners in Health Fair Photos (1998)
  - 2 Shutdown Photos 1998
  - 3 News Clippings 1930s-1950s
  - 4 YMCA News Clippings 1996, Folder 1
  - 5 YMCA News Clippings 1996, Folder 2
  - 6 YMCA News Clippings 1997, Folder 1
  - 7 YMCA News Clippings 1997, Folder 2
  - 8 Misc. News Clippings, Folder 1
  - 9 Misc. News Clippings, Folder 2
  - 10 Misc. News Clippings, Folder 3
  - 11 Capital Campaigns
  - 12 Appraisal: Wiegland Youth Center 2003
  - 13 Financial Documents
  - 14 Legal Correspondence 2006
  - 15 Piazzo Youth Center
  - 16 Piazzo Donation, Legal Issues 2001-2007
  - 17 City Council Re: YMCA Property
  - 18 Legal Correspondence, Folder 1
  - 19 Legal Correspondence, Folder 2
  - 20 Foster Drive Facility Re: Dean Smith

	21	YMCA Archive Documents
	22	<u>Proud Heritage</u> (1988) Book
7	1	Roof & Heating Repair/Replacement
	2	Miscellaneous Items
	3	Miscellaneous Color Slides
	4	Negatives, Box 1
	5	Negatives, Box 2
8	1	Color Slides, Box 1
	2	Color Slides, Box 2
	3	Color Slides, Box 3
	4	Photo Album, c. 1988
9	1	Carson City YMCA Financial
	2	Carson City YMCA Minutes & Info (binder)
	3	Carson City YMCA Board of Directors Minutes 1966-1969
	4	Carson City YMCA Financial Statement 1971
	5	Carson City YMCA Extension
	6	Carson City YMCA Bank Checks
	7	YMCA Historical Materials (Sparks)
	8	Sparks YMCA Articles of Incorporation
	9	YMCA Guest Book 1958
	10	Binder: Pictorial Review of Reno YMCA Physical Dept (photos, no dates)
	11	Scrapbooks, 1949-50; 1954
10	1	Large 11 x 14" photo of YMCA during Reno flood
	2	Scrapbook, 1946-1950
	3	Scrapbook, YMCA news clippings 1930s – 1950
11	1	Scrapbook, YMCA news clippings & photos 1940s-1950s
	2	Scrapbook title "The History of Reno's New YMCA, May 1956.

