

**A GUIDE TO THE
GEORGE J. VUCANOVICH PAPERS
(MS/NC 780)**

**By
John G. Hoffa**

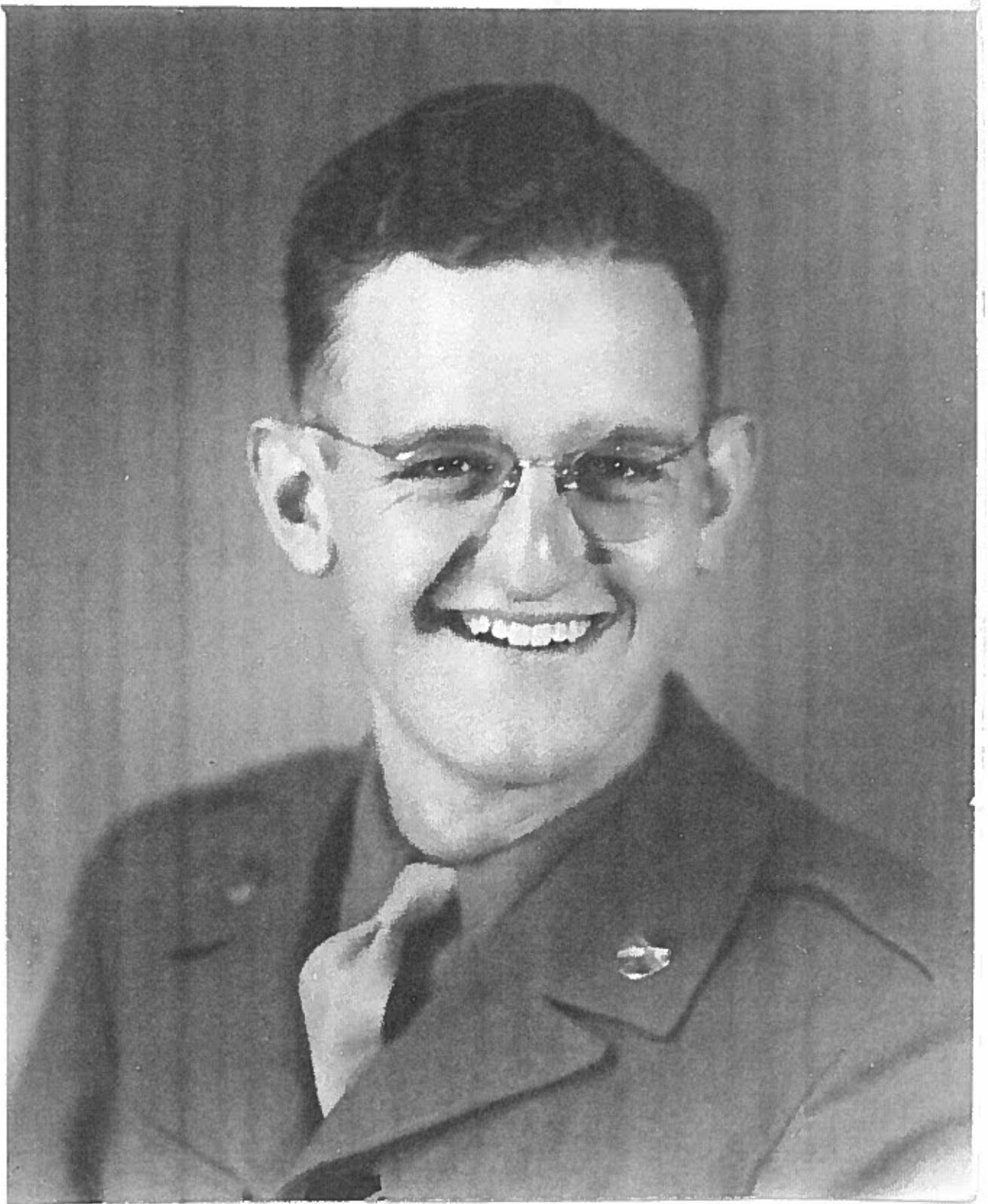
**Nevada Historical Society
Reno, Nevada**

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GEORGE J. VUCANOVICH

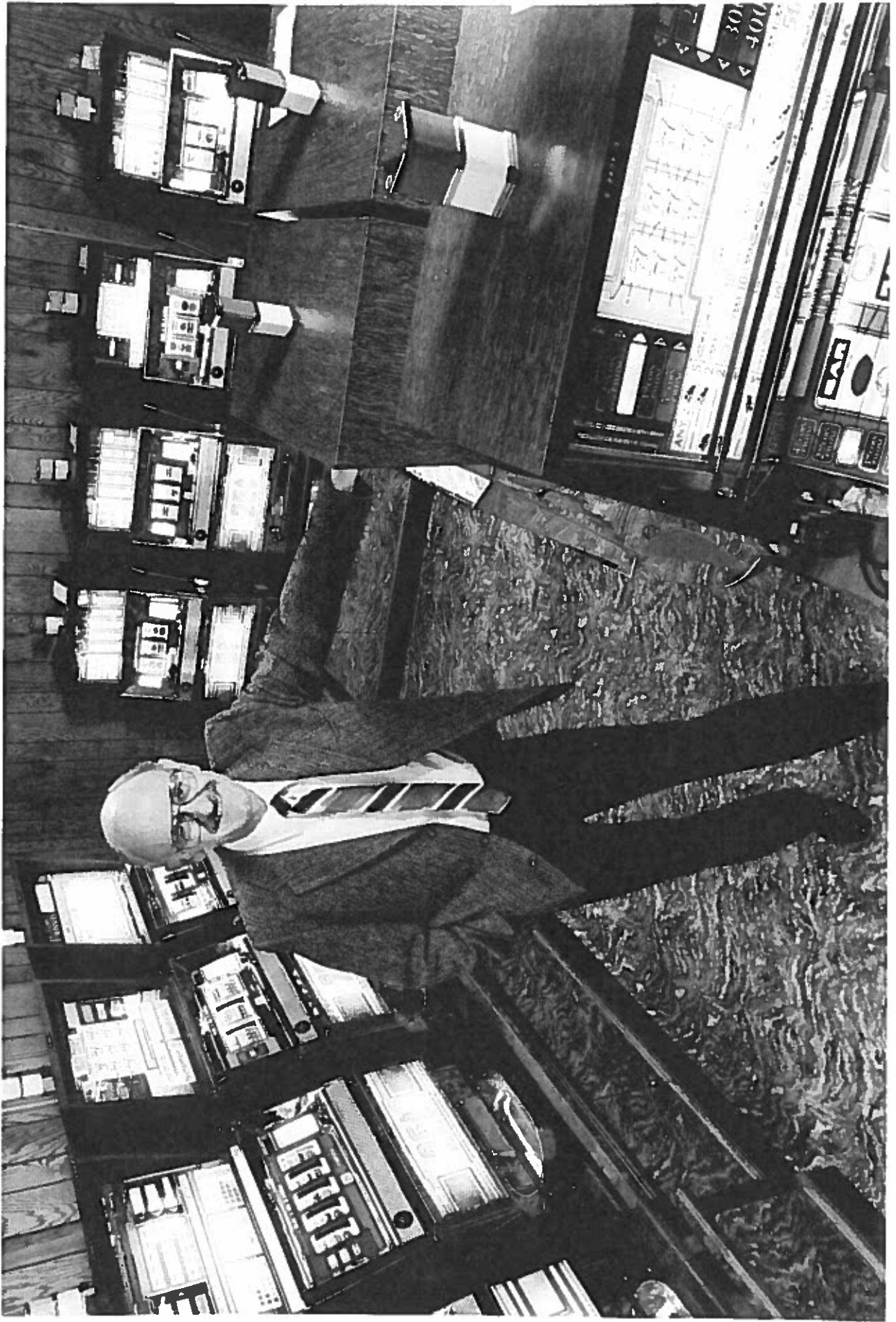
George John Vucanovich was born in Tonopah, Nevada on April 29, 1927, the child of John and Anna (Susich) Vucanovich. His early years were spent in Round Mountain, a small central Nevada mining community located on the edge of one of the Toiyabe National Forest's largest tracts. He graduated high school in Tonopah, Nevada in 1944. That fall, he entered the University of Nevada at Reno in the Business Administration program. From 1945 to 1947 Vucanovich served in the U.S. Army and with the Army occupation forces in Korea following World War II.

Upon returning to Nevada, he reentered the University and graduated in 1950 with a degree in Business Administration. A return to military service was his next step. A member of the Nevada Air National Guard from 1948 to 1952, he was called to active duty during the Korean War. He later flew his private Cessna 182 as an active search pilot with the Civil Air Patrol and with the Northern Nevada Sheriff's Aero Squadron. He was a high school basketball player and played for the University of Nevada for two seasons. After graduation, he played semi-professional basketball for several years in the Reno area. Vucanovich was a Trustee of the Reno Air Racing Association for many years, and was involved in numerous community service organizations.



Between 1954 and 1957, he worked with Semenza and Kottinger CPA's in Reno. From 1957 to 1970, Vucanovich served as Comptroller for John Asquaga's Nugget in Sparks, and then became Comptroller for Bally Distributing Company of Nevada for six years. He was Bally's Executive Vice President in Charge of Operations from 1976 until his retirement in 1984. In 1965, he married Barbara (Dillon) Vucanovich, a widow with five children. Barbara later was elected to seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 1983 to 1997. George devoted much of his free time helping Barbara in her political career.

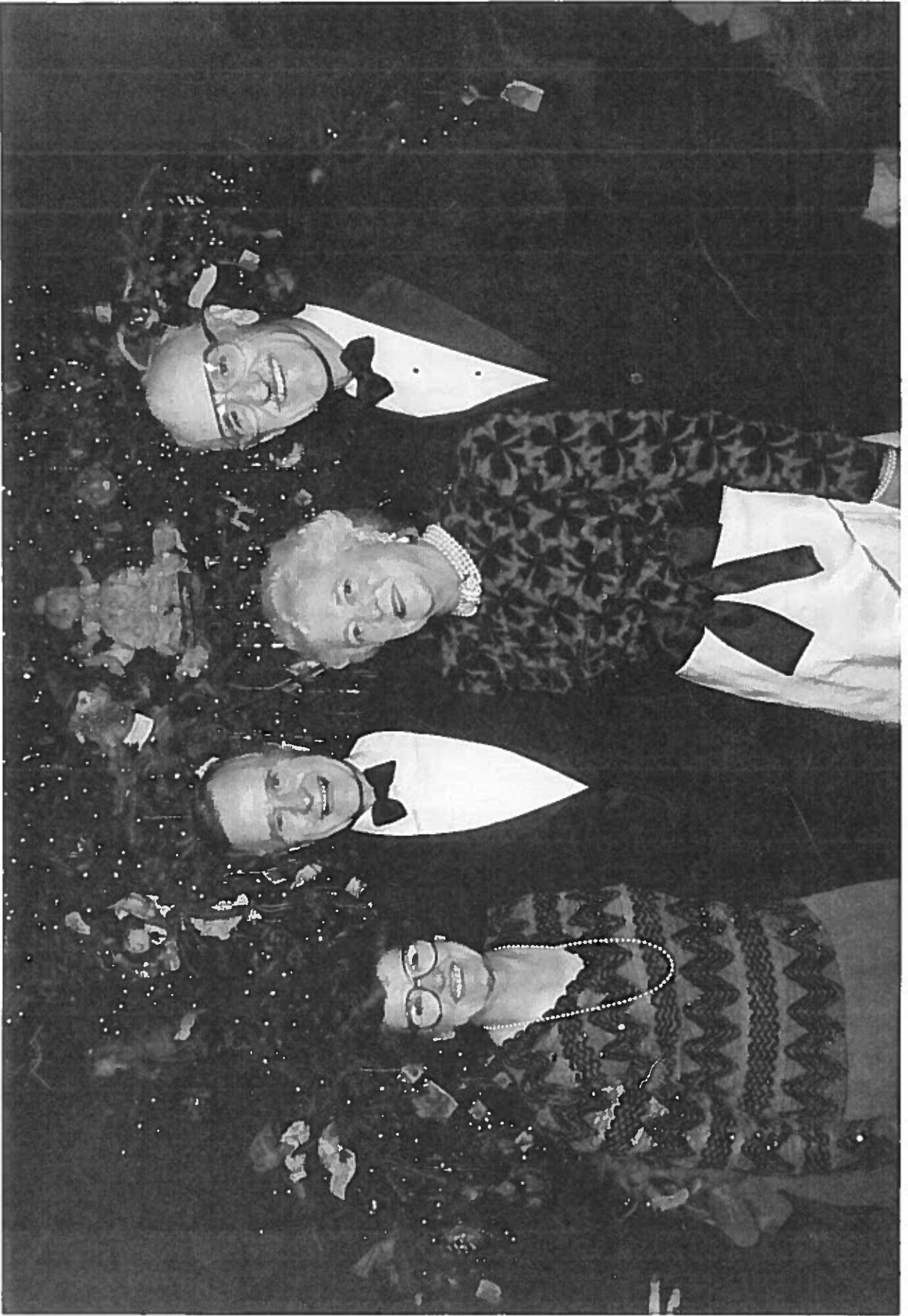
George Vucanovich died in Reno on December 19, 1998 of leukemia. He was memorialized by a Nevada Senate Concurrent Resolution which was adopted on April 15, 1999.



SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

The George J. Vucanovich papers consist of a small amount of correspondence, school records, military records, appointment books and a variety of miscellaneous personal materials. One folder is devoted to papers relating to his wife, Barbara. The items within each folder are in rough chronological order. There is a large collection of photographs (many of political events), as well as numerous videotapes, home movie films and slides.

Rounding out the collection is a variety of printed materials, including posters, aviation publications, air race programs, college football programs, 1960 Olympic Winter Games publications and newspaper clippings.



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GEORGE J. VUCANOVICH PAPERS

Box	Folder	Description
I. PERSONAL PAPERS		
1	1	Correspondence 1946-1998
	2	Financial Records
	3	School Records
	4	Military Records, Folder 1
	5	Military Records, Folder 2
	6	Membership Cards
	7	Fraternal
	8	Honors, Awards & Certificates
5		Plaque with Photo, Golf Tournament Finalist 1992 Invitational
1	9	Alumni Association
	10	Olympic Winter Games, 1960
	11	Barbara Vucanovich
	12	Pocket Appointment Books 1985-1994
	13	Miscellaneous
	14	Miscellaneous – aviation-related
	15	Miscellaneous – gaming industry-related
	16	Biographical data, 1980s - 1990s
2		Desk Calendars/Planners, 1994-1997 The Capital Calendar/Planner, 1985-1993

II. PHOTOGRAPHS

3	1	Early Photographs, Folder 1
	2	Early Photographs, Folder 2
5		Large portrait of Vucanovich circa 1944
3	3	Military Photos, Folder 1
	4	Military Photos, Folder 2
	5	College Photographs
	6	Family & Friends, Folder 1
	7	Family & Friends, Folder 2
5		Old Photo of Servian Lodge members in Tonopah (George's father is in picture.)
3	8	Gaming Photographs

9	Political Photographs (includes pictures of Ronald Reagan in Nevada).
10	Aviation Photographs, Folder 1
11	Aviation Photographs, Folder 2
12	Miscellaneous Photographs
5 Oversize	Color Photo of Horses in the Wild, 14 x 11" Color Photo of USAF Thunderbird Squadron of 5 jets with eleven signatures of officers below. Inscribed "To George Vucanovich with sincere best wishes The USAF Thunderbirds" Approx. 19 x 16"

III. VIDEOTAPES, AUDIO RECORDINGS, MOVIE FILM & SLIDES

- 2 Videotapes, VHS, home recorded. Subjects are vintage airplanes; Nevada Experience; TV shows; "A Tribute to Barbara Vucanovich;" Pres. Nixon's Funeral; TV Specials; Air Crashes, etc. (10 VCR Cassettes). Also, Commercially developed videos on Sky Fire '91 & '93; "Vietnam Video Wall of Honor;" And "A Gathering of Gamblers (4 Cassettes). **Audio recording:** 78 rpm record on Zephyr label. George Vucanovich speaking on property ownership, etc. (approx 1 minute).
- Movie Film (8mm), 24 3-inch reels of movie films as follows: June 6 boat ride 1959; Dale in Grantsville & Wendover, 1953; 1960 Olympics @ Squaw – 3 reels; Seals & Porpoises; Wedding; Copy of Wedding (no dates or names); Deer Hunting 1957; Blue Angels 1954; East-West Air Show 1956; Xmas bikes, Terry & Ducks 1957; Gold Cup 1958; Craig Fall & Spring 61-62; Ducks 1957; Craig & Davyn no date; Cindy May 1957; unlabeled 1953; Xmas, Inside Boots & Baby 1957; Fireshow 1958; Cynthia's Wedding, no date; Barb to—no date; Holly & Ma—Winter Games; Unreadable title, no date. Two 5-inch reels of movie film include Rose Pavado & El Mirage; Mexico Barton Springs(?) and Victorville.

Slides: Four large slide storage boxes: Each box contains cube cartridges that hold about 30 slides each.

Slide Box 1: Barbara's – Tokyo to Glavska; Barbara's Glavska to Tokyo; Air Races, 1974, some 1975; Air Races '74; 1974 Hydra Paros Rome-Sistine Florence; Train Florence Rome Durounic Baylee Trebinje to Dubrounic; 1974 Bangkok and Delhi; 1974 Pusan Korea; 1974 Tokyo Osaka? Kyoto; 1974 Hong Kong Kuala Lumpur Penang; Sue Birthday w/our kids Plus Lady Bug; Mexico ('77?); Unionville '76 and Lahontan; Xmas '77; Grandkids, some birthdays, Lahontan; 1974 Spain Heathrow DC home.

Slide Box 2: Deer Hunting '78, maybe '79; Mexico '78; Mexico '76; Mexico '76; Scenery-Marlette Lahontan; Mexico '78 & Servian Xmas; London 1/78 & Concorde; Bob's retirement & Rd Mtn flight; Mexico '77; Sue cheering, Vegas and house being built; SF & gliding & Wellington; 1974 Taj Mahal Beirut Athens Athena & Hydra; Air Races and Lab. '77; San Juan Canyon; Deer hunting w/ liars club; Tahoe Reagan.

Slide Box 3: Commercial Hong Kong Hydra; Hong Kong Commercial; Hong King Thailand Commercial; Tonopah Round Mtn. & Nevada; Sue MS & VW; Travel Boston Lahontan; Fun Study; Piñata & Xmas '78; Monique & Huskietts; Rep Conv. '76 Air Force Acd; Susich; Mauna Kea 1974; TREV-back yard birthdays (two) & Xmas '75; 1960 Winter Olympics; Templebar 1976.

Slide Box 4: This is a carousel with 57 slides. There are no labels or tags, 2 or 3 slides show military equipment and a military group of men.

IV. PRINTED MATERIALS

Oversize		Air Race Poster 1993
	5	Air Race Poster 1995
		Large Air National Guard 1992 Planning Guide (wall calendar).
6	1	Misc. Aviation Publications, Folder 1
	2	Misc. Aviation Publications, Folder 2
	3	Air Race Programs 1988-89
	4	Air Race Programs 1981-87
	5	Air Race Programs 1975-80
	6	Air Race Programs 1965-74
	7	Football Programs Univ. of Nevada 1944
	8	Olympic Winter Games Programs & Publications, 1960
	9	College Publications
	10	Gaming Publications
	11	Misc. Publications
	12	News Clippings, General
	13	News Clippings, Sports
	O/S	Poster Print showing three faces of Senator Paul Laxalt with an American flag and Capitol dome backdrop. Inscribed "For George and Barbie—Thanks for so much! Paul Laxalt." Approximately 24 X 18".
5		Photocopy of annotated typescript, "Nevada: A Bicentennial History." By Robert Laxalt, 1976 (in loose-leaf binder)