

Photographs – John Nulty Collection

John Nulty was employed by the Nevada Secretary of State's office, but his avocation was photography and he had a photo developing laboratory in the basement of the State Capitol building. Much of his time was spent capturing on film the officials, employees, buildings, and activities of state government. He also photographed many private businesses, houses, and other buildings in Carson City and the surrounding area, including aerials views of the capital city; and private citizens during special occasions such as anniversaries, weddings, and grand openings of businesses.



Figure 1: John Nulty in his Veterans of Foreign Wars Uniform, n.d.

The John Nulty collection of photographs consists of 3,191 prints and negatives dating from approximately 1947-1975 with the bulk dates ranging from 1958-1967. The collection is almost entirely negatives, although Nulty prints exist in other photo collections in the State Archives, principally those of Governor Charles Russell and Governor Grant Sawyer. Other collections of photographs dating from 1958-1967 may largely be non-credited Nulty images.

The collection was donated to the Nevada State Archives by Mr. Nulty and arrived in yellow paper photographic sleeves about 4x5" in size. The majority of negatives (almost entirely black and white) are on 4x5" individual film stock but there are some on 2x2 1/2" film in strips of 2 images. Nulty did not seem to have a particular order for the collection and the identification on the original sleeves was sketchy at best, consisting of a few words and perhaps a date. To make the collection usable the negatives were examined and supplemental identification added where possible. The negatives were then arranged alphabetically by subject. The subjects are:

Airports and Aircraft	People, Identified
Boards and Commissions (members)	People, Unidentified
Buildings, Capitol	Pittman, Vail, Governor
Buildings, Governor's Mansion	Prison, Nevada State
Buildings, State	Reno
Carson City	Russell, Charles, Family
Civil Rights	Russell, Charles, Governor
Events	Russell, Charles, with Identified People
Genoa	Russell, Charles, with Unidentified People
Lake Tahoe	Sawyer, Grant, Family
Landscapes	Sawyer, Grant, Governor
Laxalt, Paul, Governor	Sawyer, Grant, Governor, Inauguration
Legislators and Elected Officials	Sawyer, Grant, with Identified People
Library, State	Sawyer, Grant, with Unidentified People
List, Robert, Governor	State Employees
Miscellaneous	Virginia City, Nevada State
O'Callaghan, Mike, Governor	Washoe Valley

The Nulty prints are also arranged by topic. When a matching negative was located it was placed with the print. There are a few color prints but most are black and white. The sizes vary from 2x2" to 8x10". Subjects include:

Airports and Aircraft	People, Unidentified
Buildings, State Capitol	Places, Identified
Carson City	Places, Unidentified
Employment Security Employees	Russell, Charles, Governor
Frye, Tom, Champion Trap Shooter Exhibition	Stampede Dam Dedication
Go-Cart Races around the Legislative Building	Virginia City
Lake Tahoe	
Nulty, John (photos of the photographer)	
People, Identified	