

## **Guide to the Willard H. George Furrier, Ltd. Scrapbooks**

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections  
and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents Note .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Names and Subjects .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	George, Willard Hampton, 1889-1956
<b>Title:</b>	Willard H. George Furrier, Ltd. Scrapbooks
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00538
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1920s-1955
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.65 Cubic Feet (3 oversized boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.77 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Willard H. George Furrier, Ltd. Scrapbooks are comprised primarily of three leatherbound scrapbooks containing black-and-white and sepia toned photographs taken from the 1920s through 1955. The scrapbooks feature actresses from Hollywood, California wearing furs designed and created by furrier Willard H. George. Actresses of note include Lucille Ball, Rita Hayworth, and Greta Garbo.

### Preferred Citation

Willard H. George Furrier, Ltd. Scrapbooks, 1920s-1955. MS-00538. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical Note

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Willard H. George (1889-1956) was a Los Angeles, California based furrier who designed, created, and supplied furs to movie studios during the Golden Age of Hollywood (1920s-1960s). George was the son of Sadie Kiel George, and great-grandson of early Las Vegas, Nevada settler Conrad Kiel, owner of the Kiel Ranch in North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Born July 20, 1889 in Lincoln, Nebraska, but raised in Los Angeles, George attended Manual Arts High School. He also spent time at Kiel Ranch in North Las Vegas as a boy, during which he met Jim and Tweed Wilson of Wilson Ranch, later known as Spring Mountain Ranch. It was during his time in Las Vegas that George learned about being a furrier from the Wilsons. Later, when the Wilsons were about to lose their ranch, George purchased the property and allowed them to stay there.

In 1910, he was working as a furrier at a retail store in Los Angeles, California. By 1918, he owned and operated his own fur business, Willard H. George Ltd. at 701 West 7th Street in Central Los Angeles.

By 1942, George had moved his business to 3330 Wilshire Boulevard, a building noted for its Art Deco architecture. He became a known expert on chinchilla fur and was also a breeder of the Southland Chinchilla. George died October 24, 1956.

Source:

Willard George. Geni. Accessed October 11, 2018. <https://www.geni.com/people/Willard-George/6000000052982487014>.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Willard H. George Furrier, Ltd. Scrapbooks are comprised primarily of three leatherbound scrapbooks containing black-and-white and sepia toned photographs taken from the 1920s through 1955. The scrapbooks feature actresses from Hollywood, California wearing furs designed and created by furrier Willard H. George. Actresses of note include Lucille Ball, Rita Hayworth, and Greta Garbo. Most of the photographs are captioned with the names of the actresses. Also of note is that these photographs were taken during the Golden Age of Hollywood (1920s-1960s).

Willard George was the son of Sadie Kiel George, and great grandson of early Las Vegas, Nevada settler Conrad Kiel, owner of Kiel Ranch in North Las Vegas.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

## Publication Rights

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## Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2007 by Hampton George; accession number 2007-26.

## Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Douglas Emery created the finding aid and entered data into ArchiveSpace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Names and Subjects

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- Entertainment
- Portrait photography
- Motion pictures -- California -- Los Angeles -- Marketing
- Fur garments
- Clothing and dress

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Willard H. George scrapbooks with photos of furs being worn by actresses, 1920s-1955 Physical Description: 3 Items	oversized box 01  oversized box 02  oversized box 03
Willard H. George Furrier, Ltd. advertisements, 1920-1955	oversized box 01