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**MS 1325
Knights of Pythias Records
1881 - 1988****DESCRIPTION**

This collection consists of a series of ledgers, pamphlets, official documents, correspondence, by-laws, articles of incorporation, and financial receipts & check stubs detailing the activities of the Knights of Pythias from 1881-1988. The volumes contain meeting minutes, officer listings, financial ledger books, and membership rosters. These volumes illustrate the day-to-day activities of the order, provide documentation of membership, and show the kinds of charitable works the order was involved in. Also included is a bible and a book entitled "Pythian History," which provides a background on the founding of the Knights of Pythias and information on the founding of the Tucson Lodge as well as other chapters in the order. The pamphlets contain by-laws, brief histories of the order, and journals of proceedings. Included are the title and deed, insurance, and mortgage information for Castle Hall the meeting location of the order. Also included are a series of membership cards from the early part of the century. The correspondence details communications between members and also between the recipients of the order's charity activities. Additional documentation on financial expenditures is provided by correspondence and a series of financial receipts, payment reminder notes, and check stubs. Early members include John Spring, John Hardy, Theo Welisch, Charles Shibell, Pierce Ford, Charles Drake, and George Roskruge.

31 Boxes, 28 linear ft.

ORGANIZATIONAL NOTE

The Order of the Knights of Pythias was formed in Washington, D.C. in 1864. The founder, Justis H. Rathborne, felt that there was too much animosity between the North and the South after the Civil War and wanted to create an influence to create brotherhood outside of politics. The brotherhood was founded on the principles of friendship, charity, and benevolence among its members, regardless of background, and emphasized cooperation, goodwill, and service to the community.

The Tucson Lodge (#9 in Arizona) was founded in 1888. Tucson had originally been Lodge #3, founded in 1881, but gave up its charter in 1885 due to depletion of the treasury. The charitable activities of this lodge are mostly centered around medicine, with donations being given to the Cystic Fibrosis Youth Camp, the University of Arizona Microbiology Department and Cancer Hospital, the Arthritic Self Help Program, the Lupus Foundation, and contributions to other hospitals.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Sheldon Tuckman in 1989.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Allison Tinkler in November 2007.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box 1

Folder 1:	Bylaws, Songbook, Brief History of the Order	1897-1988
f. 2	Journal of Proceedings and Newspaper Clippings	1959-1973
f. 3	Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation	1920-1968
f.4	Lease Information	1922-1933
f. 5	Title and Deed	1941-1950
f. 6	Mortgage	1921-1966
f. 7	Insurance and Surety	1920-1934
f. 8	Financial Correspondence and Stubs	1898-1940
f. 9	Membership Cards	1888-1936
f. 10	Receipts, Correspondence, Thank You Notes	1935-1948
f. 11	Correspondence	1907-1948
f. 12	Checks and Payment Reminder Notes	1890, 1896, 1898, 1952

Box 2

Ledger #1:	Meeting Minutes	1881-1885
f. 13	Contains Loose items from Ledger #1	

Box 3

Ledger #2:	Meeting Minutes,	1885-1887
f. 14	Contains Loose Items from Ledger #2	

Box 4

Ledger #3:	Meeting Minutes	1888-1893
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Box 5

Ledger #4:	Meeting Minutes	1893-1902
f. 15	Contains Loose Items from Ledger #4	

Box 6

Ledger #5	Meeting Minutes	1902-1905
f. 16	Contains Loose Items from Ledger #5	

Box 7

Ledger #6	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1905-1908
f. 17	Contains Loose Items from Ledger #6	

Box 8

Ledger #7	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1908-1911
Ledger #8	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1911-1915

Box 9

Ledger #9	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1915-1918
Ledger #10	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1919-1923

Box 10

Ledger #11	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1923-1928
Ledger #12	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1929-1932
f. 18	Contains Loose Items from Ledger #11	

Box 11

Ledger #13	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1932-1937
Ledger #14	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1944-1947

Box 12

Ledger #15	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1947-1950
Ledger #16	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1950-1952

Box 13

Ledger #17	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1952-1957
Ledger #18	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1957-1963

Box 14

Ledger #19	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1963-1968
Ledger #20	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1968-1972
f. 19	Contains Loose Items from Ledger #19	

Box 15

Ledger #21	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1973-1977
Ledger #22	List of Officers and Meeting Minutes	1978-1983

