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**MS 0901**

**McKinney, Benjamin Papers  
1812 - 1967 (bulk 1908-1967)**

## **DESCRIPTION**

Correspondence, circulars, manuscripts, reminiscences, speeches, reports, legal documents, financial documents, diaries, printed material and scrapbooks relating primarily to McKinney's work as U.S. Marshall for Arizona from 1934 to 1954. There is also material relating to national and state Democratic politics and the family's cattle business.

27 boxes, 15.5 linear ft.

## **ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

## **COPYRIGHT**

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

## **PROCESSING**

The collection was processed with an NHPRC grant.

## **ARRANGEMENT**

Collection organized into eleven series: General Correspondence, 1908-1967 (Box 1-6); Political Correspondence, 1917-1964 (Box 6-8); U.S. Marshal's Office Correspondence, 1934-1955 (Box 9-11); Sheriff's Office Correspondence, 1951-1957 (Box 11); Writings: Manuscripts, Speeches, etc., 1812-1958 (Box 12); Reports, 1930-1956 (Box 12); Legal Documents, 1891-1962 (Box 13); Financial Documents, 1902-1967 (Box 14-16); Diaries, Address Books, Minutes, 1903-1965 (Box 16-20); Printed Materials, 1919-1963 (Box 20-21); Photographs, Oversized Items & Scrapbooks, 1919-1965 (Box 22-25).

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The McKinney Collection consists of twenty-five boxes of manuscript materials arranged into eleven series. The collection relates primarily to Benjamin McKinney's work as U.S. Marshal for Arizona between the years 1934 and 1954 and the functioning of that office. An equal proportion of the collection relates to Democratic politics both in Arizona and on the national levels. Much of this material deals with political patronage. The collection also includes correspondence relating to the cattle raising between 1920 and 1935.

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by name or subject. An attempt was made to retain the original filing order, causing an unavoidable overlap between some of the subject matter in the various series.

Series 1, General Correspondence (1908-1967) consists of both business and personal correspondence relating to all aspects of McKinney's life. The bulk of the correspondence from 1908-1935 relates to cattle sales and McKinney's activities as an appraiser of ranches with John H. Page in Northern Arizona. Other papers relate to the support of his father, Rufus, who lived with McKinney's older brother, Balis, until his death in 1935. Other family correspondence include his brother Charles, a rancher in Courtland, AZ, his sister Annie of Long Beach, CA, and brother Rufus in Casa Grande, AZ. Numerous nieces and nephews also corresponded with him.

Other major correspondents include various members of the Mark Reed family, friends of the McKinnys and prominent in business and politics in Seattle, Washington; Albert I. Lodwick, who worked for McKinney in the late 1920s and later became president of Lodwick Aircraft Industries; Byron Mock, an American McKinney helped to begin a law career in Washington; Theodore Hayes, an ex-Tucsonan, friend and businessman who was appointed Commissioner of the World's Fair in New York in 1937, and later owned the Auto-Ordinance Corporation, makers of the Thompson machinegun; Edwin W. Murphy, a New York corporation lawyer; and Frank M. King, an ex-Arizonan who McKinney met in 1916 while in the real estate and cattle business, who wrote a column for *The Western Livestock Journal* called "Mavericks," in which he frequently mentioned McKinney. Other topics relate to the economy of Tucson during the war years and correspondence from friends in the military service. There are also numerous letters of sympathy on the death of Mrs. McKinney in 1961.

Series 2, Political Correspondence (1917-1964) document the activities of the Democratic National Committee, 1920-1948; Democratic State Central Committee, 1920-1940, and the Pima County Democratic Central Committee, 1928-1964. The major correspondents in this series are Carl Hayden and Henry F. Ashurst. The main topics include McKinney's assessments of the economic and political situation in the state, political patronage, the senators' campaigns, endorsements of McKinney for the U.S. Marshal position and reappointments, and issues affecting the U.S. Marshal's office. Office issues include changing the headquarters of the office from Phoenix to Tucson, salaries, and the civil service status of deputies. Other topics include efforts to have cattle declared a basic commodity under the Agricultural Adjustment Act, and to establish a port of entry at Sells, AZ with a customs substation. Other correspondents in this series include Isabella Greenway, Ernest W. McFarland, John R. Murdock, Homer Cummings, George P. Hunt, and Jones Farley. There is a small amount of correspondence between Franklin D. Roosevelt and McKinney in relation to McKinney's various positions within the Democratic Party and also a letter in 1932 commenting on a visit to the Greenway Ranch during which they met each other.

Series 3: U.S. Marshal's Office Correspondence (1935-1955) records the official activities of the U.S. Marshal's office. It includes correspondence with the U.S. Attorney General's Office regarding official policies and regulations; investigation and approval of names submitted by the marshal for appointment as deputies, approval of sick leaves and vacations, and disciplinary actions. Approximately one-sixth of the correspondence concerns the activities of deputies in the U.S. Marshal's offices located in Tucson, Phoenix, Prescott, and Globe. They involve the handling and transporting of prisoners to federal prisons throughout the United States; the serving of papers; and investigations and record keeping. Other correspondence is with the Bureau of Prisons, Phoenix City Jail, and Pima County Jail, in regard to conditions and other matters relating to federal prisoners and their support. There is also correspondence from prisoners and relatives of prisoners regarding their status

and whereabouts. Approximately one-sixth of the correspondence is with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office in Phoenix and some directly with J. Edgar Hoover. The bulk of this is between 1939 and 1943 and involves the reporting of possible subversive activities of citizens and aliens during World War II. Other correspondence relating to the war, 1940-1941 concerns the capture and arrest of Pia Machita, a Papago Indian chief who counseled draft evasion to his tribe. A small amount of correspondence involves the selective service system and locating men who have failed to report for the draft.

Series 4: Sheriff's Correspondence (1951-1957) consists of congratulations to McKinney on his appointment as sheriff, activities of deputies, letters of inquiry on the status of prisoners by their relatives, and the organization of a standing sheriff's posse.

Series 5: Manuscripts (1812-1958) contains a biography of the McKinney family, a personal biography by Ben McKinney (1812-1934), and a biography of a cousin Joe T. McKinney (undated). There are also biographical sketches of the lives of William R. Mathews and Charles U. Pikerell, written around 1958, unsigned. This series also includes reminiscences of Mayela G. McKinney on the early history of St. Luke's Sanitarium, which is undated. Other fragments, also undated, recall her early days in Arizona and a trip to Alaska in the 1920s, as well as fragments of several short stories she wrote. Included is a manuscript entitled, "A Study of the Negroes of Tucson," conducted by an Interracial Committee, 1945-1946, a manuscript on drug addiction by Fred B. Hyde written from the Phoenix City Jail in 1938, and a speech on Prohibition, ca. 1924.

Series 6: Reports (1930-1956) consists of U.S. Marshal's reports, 1935-1945 and includes deputy ratings for 1935, 1939, 1942, subsistence of U.S. prisoners 1936-1937; reports on arrests and persons fingerprinted, 1936-1945; and memoranda, 1939-1944, from the office deputy involving telephone calls and visitors while the marshal was out. There are also lists of trial jurors, 1942; rates per day for all county jails in Arizona, 1941; certified guards and matrons, 1942; lists of police officials throughout the state; a list of persons and places suspected of being connected with the "Pete Licavoli" gang, 1951; and disposition of prisoner cases, 1951. Other reports relate to the sheriff's office, 1955-1956, and involve two reports on individuals and two on identification of weapons. The series includes the report of the treasurer of the Pima County Democratic Central Committee for 1930 and 1932, and lists of precinct committeemen, 1955-1956; Democratic Central Committee members, 1933, 1942; Maricopa County Registrar after the 1944 election and supporters of Senator Carl Hayden's campaign in 1950.

Series 7: Legal Documents (1902-1967) contains an abstract of title for Block 25, Tucson dated 1923; deeds on land in Marin County, CA to Mayela McKinney from Kate O'Brien, and the same land deeded by Mrs. McKinney to Ben McKinney, 1925; a deed for a cemetery lot in Evergreen Cemetery, Tucson for Ben McKinney, 1938; and two bargain and sale deeds for lots in University Manor, 1943 and 1949. Other documents include an inventory of Ventana Ranch, 1928; Insurance policies for life, accidents and property loss, 1915-1959; real estate contracts for the McKinney home in El Encanto Estates, 1943, and for 320 acres in Section 15 of Township 11, in 1925; a chattel mortgage between the McKinneys and Newsom Holesapple, 1941, and an extension of a note and mortgage between Mrs. McKinney and Clifford and Grace McFall, 1931. Other documents include petitions to the U.S. Marshal to retain S. C. Cunningham and W. E. Keegan as Deputy U.S. Marshals; and to appoint W. F. Ross as a deputy, date 1934; and to sheriff McKinney, 1956, to reinstate Joe Pl Bourne as deputy sheriff. There are also handwritten and typed wills of Ben McKinney, 1935 and 1962, and a typed will of Mayela McKinney, 1961.

Series 8: Financial Documents (1902-1967) has personal and business expense accounts, 1939-1941; accounts of cattle sales and labor, 1924-1935; and a report of assets and liabilities, 1934-1935. Also included are receipts for alien property such as radios and weapons and ammunition confiscated by U.S. Marshal's Office in 1942. Other receipts are for cattle sales, 1927-1936, and various receipts for household expenses, 1902-1967. The series also includes bankbooks, 1940-1950; tax records, 1931-1967; miscellaneous payrolls, 1925-1950; and expenses and receipts of the McKinney-for-sheriff fund, 1956.

Series 9: Diaries, Address Books, and Minutes (1903-1965) consists of day books, daily diaries and address books of Ben McKinney, 1933-1966; daily diaries, 1903, 1943-1960, of Mayela McKinney and her notebook of the welfare committee of St. Luke's in the Desert, 1932. Also included are three telephone address books and several guest books with signatures and addresses, 1965. The series also includes a log of a trip to Alaska from Seattle, 1938, minutes of a joint meeting of Arizona delegates and attendance to the 1932 National Democratic Convention; and minutes of U.S. District Court Session honoring Benjamin J. McKinney, U.S. Marshall, 1953.

Series 10: Printed Materials (1919-1963) includes American Kennel Club certificates, 1936-1938; butcher's licenses, 1929-1930; charitable contributions, 1939-1962; elk permit, 1935; livestock brands, 1932, 1951; certificates associated with police work, 1949-1956; and stock certificates 1919-1929, 1963.

Series 11: Photographs, Oversized Items and Scrapbooks (1910-1956) contains photographs, oversized certificates, and newspaper clippings in scrapbooks associated with the live and friends of Ben McKinney and his wife. Paper items include reproductions of art drawings on diverse subjects including an Indian with a pot, man and woman under shelter, image of a cowboy and horse, and a color image of Navajo Falls in Havasupai Canyon. Certificates include an invitation to inauguration of Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1965, seating list for dinner of delegates and alternates of the Democratic National Convention in 1924, appointment certificates for Ben McKinney as a U.S. Marshall for Arizona in 1935, 1939, 1944, and 1949. Photographs include snapshot images of individuals and events with some professional portraits. Professional portraits are present of Ben and Meyela McKinney. Many signed images are present with notations of well wishes. Three scrapbook contain newspaper clipping associated with Ben McKinney, events and activities between 1937 and 1954. The last leather bound scrapbook was prepared for Ben McKinney in 1956 and features many photographs of the Pima County Sheriff's Office.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Benjamin Julius McKinney was born December 28, 1883 in Uvaide, TX to Rufus and Susan Jones McKinney. He had three brothers, Balis, Charles and Fufus, Jr., and one sister, Annie Laurie. The family came to Arizona in 1892, and after ranching at Mammoth in Pinal County for four years moved to Wilcox. In 1898 the family moved to Sulphur Springs Valley where they homesteaded.

Ben McKinney married Mayela Genevieve Murphy of San Francisco in 1908. She was one of the first women to enter the medical school at Leland Stanford Junior University, where she took the medical degree in 1906.

McKinney became involved with ranching in 1911 with the purchase of Phil Dimmitt Ranch, the range rights to the Las Palomas Ranch in 1912, and the Cross-X Ranch in 1913. In 1916 he sold his holdings in Cochise County and bought the Zack Vail Ranch located in the Catalina and Rincon Mountains near Tucson. From 1915 to 1917 he was president of the Cochise County Cattle Growers' Association, which he had helped organize. From 1918 to 1931 he operated the Ventana Ranch where he brought the first purchased Brahma bulls to Arizona. He also inspected and appraised cattle and ranches all over Arizona for banks and individuals from 1920 – 1935, and during the same years operated a trading post on the Papago Indian Reservation.

McKinney and Mayela were active in Democratic politics. Mayela was the first Democratic National Committee woman from Arizona, serving from 1920-1924. Ben McKinney was chairman of the Tucson Democratic Committee in 1922 and of the Pima County Democratic Committee in 1928. He was chairman of the Arizona Livestock Sanitary Board from 1924-1925. In 1932 he was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and in 1934 was treasurer of the Pima County Democratic Committee.

In 1931 the U.S. Government bought his ranch and made it part of the Papago Indian Reservation. The McKinney family moved to El Encanto Estates in Tucson and in 1934 Ben was appointed U.S. Marshal for Arizona by President Roosevelt. He served from 1935-1953, the longest tenure of any U.S. Marshal in Arizona history. His most famous exploit during this time was the capture and arrest of Pia Machita, 88year-old Papago chief, and ten members of the tribe in 1941. The arrests resulted from the tribe's decision to resist the military draft. Following McKinney's retirement as U.S. Marshal he served as sheriff of Pima County from 1955-1956.

Mayela died in Tucson in 1961 and Ben McKinney died in Tucson September 28, 1971.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

### **Box 1**

#### **Series 1: General Correspondence, 1908 – 1967**

Folder 1-15 General Correspondence (A Through F) 1909 – 1967

### **Box 2**

f.16-27 General Correspondence (G Through K) 1916 – 1967

### **Box 3**

f.28-40 General Correspondence (K Through Mc) 1914 – 1967

### **Box 4**

f.41-54 General Correspondence (Mc Through R) 1908 – 1967

### **Box 5**

f.55-63 General Correspondence (S Through V) 1908 – 1966

## **Box 6**

f.64-67 General Correspondence (W Through Z) 1928 – 1966

### **Series 2: Political Correspondence, 1917 – 1964**

f.68-70 Political Correspondence – Ashurst, Henry F. 1917 – 1941  
f.71 Political Correspondence – Cummings, Homer S. 1921 – 1942  
f.72-73 Political Correspondence – Democratic National Committee 1920 – 1948  
f.74 Political Correspondence – Democratic State Central Committee 1920 – 1940  
f.75 Political Correspondence – Duke, Joe (Sgt. At Arms, U.S. Senate) 1944 - 1955  
f.76 Political Correspondence – Farley, James A. 1932 – 1947  
f.77 Political Correspondence – Greenway, Isabella 1922 – 1936

## **Box 7**

f.78-83 Political Correspondence – Hayden, Carl 1925 – 1963  
f.84 Political Correspondence – Hunt, George W. P. 1924 – 1934  
f.85 Political Correspondence – McFarland, Ernest W. 1923 – 1957  
f.86 Political Correspondence – Murdock, John R. 1937 – 1950  
f.87-88 Political Correspondence – Pima County Democratic Cent. Committee 1928 – 1964  
f.89 Political Correspondence – Roosevelt, Franklin D. 1928 – 1951

## **Box 8**

f.90-112 Political Correspondence – Political Patronage 1934 – 1956

## **Box 9**

### **Series 3: U.S. Marshall's Office Correspondence, 1934 - 1955**

f.113-127 General Correspondence (A Through D) 1934 – 1955

## **Box 10**

f.128-144 General Correspondence (E Through P) 1935 – 1954

## **Box 11**

f.145-159 General Correspondence (P Through W) 1935 – 1953  
f.160 Circulars – U.S. Dept. of Justice 1937 – 1951

### **Series 4: Sheriff's Office Correspondence, 1951 – 1957**

f.161 General Information 1955 – 1957  
f.162 Posse 1951 – 1954

### **Series 5: Manuscripts, Reports, Speeches and Reminiscences, 1878 – 1958**

## Box 12

f.163	Hyde, Fred B. on Drug Addiction	1938
f.164	McKinney Family, Biography	1812 - 1934
f.165	McKinney, Mayela and Ben Reminiscences	ca. 1920 - 1950
f.166	McKinney, Meyela, Short Story Fragments	N.D.
f.167	"The Name & Family of McKinney" by Media Research Bureau	N.D.
f.168	Biographical Sketches – William Rankin Mathews and Charles U. Pickrell	ca. 1958
f.169	"A Study of the Negroes of Tucson, Arizona"	1945 – 1946
f.170	U.S. Marshals of Arizona – Biographical Sketches	1878 – 1914
f.171	Miscellaneous Reminiscences	1949/1952
f.172	Miscellaneous Addresses and Speeches	1920 – 1924

## Series 6: Reports, 1930 – 1956

f.173	McKinney Residence – Specifications and Wiring	1932
f.174	Sheriff's Office Reports	1955 – 1956
f.175	Report of Treasurer of Pima Count Democratic Central Comm.	1930/1932
f.176	U.S. Marshal's Office: Deputy Ratings	1935/1939/1942
	"Subsistence of U.S. Prisoners in Certain Jails"	1936 – 1937
	Reports on Arrests and Persons Finger-printed	1926 – 1945
	Telephone Calls and Visitors While Marshall Was Out	1939 – 1944
f.177	Political Lists	1936/1942 – 1956
	Pima County Voter Registration (Located in Box 21)	1936
	Precinct Committee Members	19556 - 1956
	Democratic Central Committee Members	1933/1942
	Maricopa County Registration After 1944 Elections	
	Supporters of Senator Carl Hayden's Campaign	1950
f.178	U.S. Marshal's Office Lists	1940 – 1951
	Trial Jurors	1942
	Rates Per Day for All County Jails in Arizona	1941
	Certified Guards and Matrons	1942
f.179	Misc. Lists:	
	Lists of Ranchers in Arizona	N.D.
	List of Brands of Cattle Sold by Juan Marcus to H.D. Shontz	N.D.
	List of Real Estate	N.D.
	Tucson Executive Club Roster of Members	N.D.
	Members of Phi Delta Phi, U of A	N.D.
	Members of Kapa Village	1920
	Member of Tucson Junior Chamber of Commerce Vigilantes	1951

## Series 7: Legal Documents, 1891 – 1962

### Box 13

f.180	Abstract of Title, Block 25, Tucson	1935
f.181	Deeds	1916 – 1949
f.182	Affidavits – Labor Performed and Improvements	1930
	Ben McKinney's Birthdate	1935
	McKinney's Appointment as Deputy Sheriff	1935
f.183	Inventory of Ventana Ranch	1928

f.184	Insurance Policies	1950 – 1959
f.185	Misc. Court Documents	1891 – 1957
f.186	Mortgages	1931/1933
f.187	Petitions	1934/1956
f.188	Real Estate Contracts	1925 – 1943
f.189	Wills, Mayela and Ben McKinney	1935/1961/1962

#### **Box 14**

##### **Series 8: Financial Documents, 1902 - 1967**

f.190	Accounts Receivable, B. J. McKinney Trading Post	1933
	Item #1 Accounts of Cattle Sales and Labor	1928 – 1932
	Item #2 Accounts Payable Record Book	1924
f.191	Accountant's Report of Assets and Liabilities	1934/1935
	Item #3 B.J. McKinney Cattle Co. Account Book	N.D.
	Item #4 Personal and Business Expense Accounts	1939 – 1941
	Item #5 Record of Outstanding Notes and Payments (Box 21)	
	Business Trip Expense Accounts	1940 – 1941
f.192	Alien Property Receipts – U.S. Marshall	1942
f.193	Building Receipts, McKinney Home	1942 – 1966
f.194	Cattle Sales Receipts	1927 – 1937
f.195	Cattle Bill of Sale Books (2)	1930/1931
f.196	Cattle Sales Ticket Receipt Book	1931

#### **Box 15**

f.197	City Court of Tucson Receipts	1941 – 1966
f.198	Department Store Receipts	1942 – 1966
f.199	Drug Store Receipts	1942 – 1965
f.200	Grocery Receipts	1942 – 1967
f.201	Hotel Receipts	1938 – 1947
f.202	Hubbard's Greenhouse	1942 – 1944
f.203	Insurance Receipts	1932 – 1966
f.204	Laundry and Dry Cleaning Receipts	1942 – 1944
f.205	Medical Receipts	1938 – 1967
f.206	Rollings-Dawson Motor Company	1943 – 1963
f.207	Transfer and Storage Receipts	1942 – 1944
f.208	Utility Receipts	1942 – 1965
f.209	Misc. Receipts	1902 – 1967
f.210	Bank Books	1940 – 1965

#### **Box 16**

f.211-212	McKinney-for-Sheriff Fund	1956
f.213	McKinney-for-Sheriff Donation Receipt Book	1956
f.214	Payrolls:	
	Livestock Sanitary Board Payroll	1925
	City of Tucson Payroll	1932
	Pima County Payroll	N.D.
	Payroll for Personal Services, Dept. of Justice, U.S. Marshal's Office	1945



f.215	Taxes for Property in Cochise County	1936 – 1966
f.216	Taxes for Federal Income	1935 – 1967
f.217	Taxes for State, County and City	1931 – 1967
f.218	Taxes for State Income	1935 – 1966

**Series 9: Diaries, Address Books, Minutes, 1903 – 1966**

**Box 17**

Day Books, B. J. McKinney (24)	1934 – 1966
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**Box 18**

Daily Diaries & Address Books (37)	1935 – 1966
Address Books (16)	N.D.

**Box 19**

Daily Diaries (5) Mayela McKinney	1903/1943 – 1960
Daily Diaries (3) Mayela McKinney	N.D.
Notebook, Welfare Committee of St. Luke's In the Desert, Mayela McKinney	1932
Telephone Address Books (3)	N.D.

**Box 20**

Guest Books (4) Signatures & Addresses	1965
f.219 Log of Trip to Alaska from Seattle	1938
f.220 Minutes of Joint Meeting of Arizona Delegates and Alternates to National Democratic Convention	1932
f.221 Minutes of U.S.. District Court Session Honoring Benjamin J. McKinney, U.S. Marshal	1953

**Series 10: Printed Materials, 1919 – 1963**

f.222 American Kennel Club	1936 – 1938
f.223 Butcher's Licenses	1929 – 1930
f.224 Charitable	1939 – 1962
f.225 Elk Permit	1935
f.226 Livestock Brands	1932/1951
f.227 Police Work Associated	1949 – 1956
f.228 Stock Certificates	1919 – 1929/1963
f.229 Certificate – Arizona Helicopter Service	N.D.
f.230 Certificate – Desert Country	1955
f.231 Misc. Printed Materials	1938 – 1962
f.232 Misc. Business Cards	

**Box 21**

Contains Items from Series 6, Folder 177  
 Contains Items from Series 8, Box 14

## **Series 11: Photographs, Oversized Items & Scrapbooks, 1910 – 1965**

### **Box 22 Photographs**

Folder 1-2: Photographs of B. J. McKinney  
Folder 3: Mrs. B. J. McKinney Portraits  
Folder 4: McKinney Family Home in Arkansas  
Folder 5-6: Photos with Notations Addressed to McKinney  
Folder 7: Wedding Ceremony with McKinney Present  
Folder 8: Photos with Albert I. Lodwick  
Folder 9: Photographs of Identified Individuals

### **Box 22A Oversized Materials**

Folder 10: Photographs of Unidentified Individuals  
Folder 11: Images of Prisoners and “Guests”  
Folder 12: MISC Photographs  
Folder 13: Political Brochures/Dinners/Conventions  
Folder 14: Art Work

### **Box 22B Oversized Materials (Super Large)**

Folder 15: McKinney Certificates  
Folder 16: McKinney Home Drawings  
Folder 17: Two Large Art Drawings  
Folder 18: Oversized Photos

### **Box 23**

Scrapbook “BK of Scraps”, 1937 – 1947

### **Box 24**

Scrapbook, 1953 – 1954

### **Box 25**

Scrapbook, 1956