
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**MS 1077
Medigovich, Sam V.
Collection, 1881-1974**

DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of City of Tombstone official records and other materials collected by Sam and Theda Medigovich. City of Tombstone official records include financial reports, legal documents, correspondence, ordinances, contracts, ledgers, election materials, and more. The remainder of the collection contains correspondence, legal documents, research notes, reports, printed material, and photographs relating to Tombstone, Ariz., the Tombstone Restoration Commission, and individuals, organizations, and businesses in Tombstone.

26 boxes, 13 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The collection was donated by Sam Medigovich on June 6, 1985.

RELATED MATERIAL

The Jared Taylor Papers, MS 1078, were received from Sam Medigovich in the same donation as this collection. Taylor was an attorney in Bisbee and Tombstone from 1906 to the 1940s.

TRANSFER

Several U.S.G.S. maps and panoramas of a group of Bisbee men leaving for World War I were transferred to those areas.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection. Some fragile materials are stored in the Rare Cage but photocopies are available in the files for patron use.

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 by Alice Holmes, prior to 1996, and by Kim Frontz, September 1997.

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE

Sam and Theda Medigovich owned and operated the Wagon Wheel Restaurant and the Silver Nugget Museum in Tombstone, Ariz. from the 1940s to the 1980s. They were members of the Tombstone Restoration Commission and Theda served as its President at one time. They were active in collecting, preserving and recreating Tombstone's history.

The Tombstone Restoration Commission was formed in the 1940s by the residents of Tombstone, as a non-profit organization, to restore the exteriors of existing buildings to their original appearance, to restore plank sidewalks, to remove evidence of modern conveniences such as telephone lines from view, and to restore locations significant to Tombstone's legends and history.

The Tombstone Town Association formed on March 5, 1879; and by 1881, it had become one of the largest cities in the West. Larger than San Francisco, it was briefly one of the most cultured cities west of the Mississippi. The town flourished until 1886 when the mines began flooding and many people moved on to other places. Tombstone was also the county seat for Cochise County from 1881 to 1929. It has since become famous as the site of the OK Corral shoot out which occurred in 1881 between the Clanton and McLaury brothers and Doc Holliday and the Earp brothers.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection documents the workings of a City government from its beginnings as a frontier western mining community in 1881 to the period of Arizona's statehood, and also includes documentation of a Federal public works project for gas and electric services in the 1930s. There are also various collections of materials concerning the people, organizations, and businesses of Tombstone and documentation of the work of the Tombstone Restoration Commission.

The City of Tombstone records, chiefly from 1881 to 1912, depict in detail the operations of City government. The records of the Mayor and Council include appointments, resignations and oaths of office of City officials, petitions received from citizens regarding issues such as unpassable streets, filthy conditions, and public drunkenness, and ordinances passed relating to elections, saloon operations, prostitution, traffic and more. There are monthly summary reports from the various City departments reporting monies received, fines levied, business licenses issued, etc.

The election process can be followed through the nominating petitions, poll lists, tally sheets, and other documents from the City Clerk. Land transactions, ownership, and surveys are also documented on a case by case basis. The City Recorder reported monthly the number of arrests, trials, and types of crimes; and the Police Department records include a police blotter, 1888 to 1890, that details the arrestee's name, offense and disposition of the arrest. In addition, there are examples of wanted posters sent to Tombstone from other jurisdictions. The Police Dept. and License Tax Collector were often headed by the same person so these records may be found in either place over time.

Sam and Theda Medigovich also gathered an eclectic collection of original documents that provide information about some of Tombstone's residents, businesses and organizations. These include invoices and receipts of J. Goldwater & Co. Merchants and documents of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Tombstone Chapter.

The Restoration Commission documents include financial reports, plans of the Arizona State Parks Board, brochures, correspondence and printed material. Some of the

commission members also have correspondence and writings in the collection including Edna Landin who was President of the Commission and also served as President of the Tombstone Chamber of Commerce. Correspondence, invoices and printed material, written mostly in Chinese, are present from Yee Wee, a grocer in Elfrida, Arizona. There are also personal materials of Sam and Theda Medigovich. Photographs include portraits taken by C.S. Fly, an early Tombstone photographer and more recent scenes from Tombstone's annual Helldorado celebrations.

Researchers interested in the OK Corral shoot out will not find any specific information relating to that event. There are a few reports signed by Virgil Earp in the course of his police duties and the Earps' names appear in business license lists. However, the collection is rich in information concerning the frontier environment and the business of the town in later years.

SERIES LIST

Record Group 1: City of Tombstone, 1881-1954

- Administrative, 1881-1954
- Financial, 1881-1920
- Public Safety, 1881-1915
- Public Works, 1883-1936
- Land, 1881-1917

Record Group 2: Other Collections

- Cochise County Records, 1882, 1897-1936
- Tombstone Restoration Commission, 1959-1974
- Tombstone Individuals - Business and Personal Correspondence, 1881-1968
- Medigovich family materials, 1908-1974
- Photographs, ca. 1885-1970

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Record Group 1: City of Tombstone, 1881-1954

Series: Administrative, 1881-1954

Box 1

Mayor and Council - Administrative

- 1 Correspondence—General, 1884-1916
- 2 Annual Messages of the Mayor, 1882-1884 (John Carr)
- 3 Rules of the City Council
- 4 Appointments to City Offices, 1881-1889, 1910, 1921
- 5 Resignations, City Officials, 1882-1906
- 6 Oaths of Office, City Officials, 1894-1911
- 7 Officials' Bonds
- 8 Special Committees, 1883-1903
- 9 Draft of minutes and tax levy resolution, 1890, 1911

- 10-18 Petitions (Bldg. Permits, Property appraisals, Streets, Taxes, Salaries, Public Safety, Cemetery)
- 19 Financial reports, 1882-1896
- 20 Payment for lost warrants, 1888-1889

Box 2

Mayor and Council - Legal

- 21 Code of Ordinances
- 22-37 Ordinances, 1881-1888, 1902-1912, 1954 (Fire, Police, Nuisances, Salary, Elections, Licenses, Fees, Saloon Operations, Prostitution, Traffic, Restoration Zone)
- 38 Resolutions and drafts, 1881-1890
- 39 Legal Cases: Cof T vs. William Richie, 1883
- 40 Cof T vs. W.L. Gaston, 1885
- 41 William Staehle vs. Council, 1890
- 42 George Bravin vs. CofT, 1893
- 43 CofT vs. G.H. Fitts, 1897
- 44 CofT vs. Intervener Mining Co., 1898
- 45 James Reilly vs. CofT, 1896
- 46 W.A. Nash vs. Mayor Carr, 1883-1884
- 47 Misc., 1884-1886

City Attorney

- 48-62 Monthly and annual reports, agreements, contracts, delinquent taxes, 1881-1893 (Summary reports that do not mention individuals.)

Box 3

Justice of the Peace

- 63 Monthly report of delinquent taxes, 1883
(Summary reports that do not mention individuals)

City Clerk

- 64-87 Annual and monthly reports, correspondence, 1891-1916
(Summary financial reports) Elections material, 1881-1908
- 88 Poll list, Ward 3, 1881
- 89-91 Tally sheets and Poll lists, 1882
- 92-94 Request for vote recount, Poll lists, Tally sheets, 1884

Box 4

- 95-97 Poll lists, Tally sheets, Protest of Outcome, 1886
- 98 Protest of outcome, 1888
- 99 Special Election resolution and tally, 1890
- 100-101 List of nominees, receipt for ballots, 1894

- 102-103 Special Election judges and polling places, J.C. Wiser campaign contributions, 1896
- 104 Resolutions for elections, 1881-1883
- 105 Expenses, 1881-1897
- 106 Expenses, 1900-
- 107 Miscellaneous, 1900-1908
- 108 Nominating petitions, 1910
- 109 Nominating petitions, 1912
- 110 Candidate's Affidavit of Expenses, 1912
- 111 Certificates of election of George Bravin, 1910, 1912
- 112 Voters on County Registers, 1912
- 113-118 Nominating petitions, Tally sheets, Rejected ballots, Expenses, Voting lists, 1914 (Some in Oversize)

Box 5

City Clerk

- 119 Poll lists, Expenses, 1916
- 120 Poll list, Tally sheets, blank ballots, 1918-1922
- 121 Tally sheet, 1937
- 122 Poll list, sample ballot, 1946-1948

Series: Financial, 1881-1920

City Auditor

- 123-139 Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1881-1897
- 140 Journal of licenses issued by class of licenses, 1881-1897
(summary financial list, no individuals or businesses named)

City Treasurer

- 141-149 Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1881-1889

Box 6

- 150-159 Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1890-1899
- 160-162 Treasurer's receipts, 1885-1899
- 163-168 Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1900-1908
- 169-172 Treasurer's receipts, 1900-1913
- 173 Passbook, First National Bank, 1910s
- 174 Letter re: interest due on funded debt, 1902

Box 7

License Tax Collector

- 175-200 Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1881-1916

Some License Tax Collector reports will be found with the Police Annual and Monthly reports from 1891 on.

- 201 Business licenses listed – monthly ledger, 1898-1906
(Lists name of business and amount paid)

Box 8

- 202-223 Business licenses/affidavits, 1881-1910
(Includes Stage Co., Merchants, Bakers, Restaurants, Gambling, Saloons, Prostitutes, Blacksmiths, Tinsmiths, and more. A few doctors' certificates in Prostitutes file.)

* Also oversize Ledger – City License Book, v.1, 1881-1187 Box 19

Expenditures

- 224 Revenue Bond, 1936
225-233 Expenditures – Auditor's Warrants, 1895-1909

Box 9

- 234-243 Expenditures – Auditor's Warrants, 1910-1914
244-248 Expenditures – Tombstone newspapers – Contracts, bids, bills for public records notices, 1881-1890
249 Scrapbook of news clippings, Bisbee and Tombstone, 1881
(topics include Gov. Fremont and the death of Pres. Garfield)

Box 10

- 250-262 Expenditures, 1881-1895

Box 11

- 263-282 Expenditures, 1896-1920

Series: Public Safety, 1881-1915

Box 12

Health Officer/City Physician

- 283-286 Establishment of office, reports, correspondence, 1881—1884, 1915

City Recorder

- 287-293 Annual and monthly reports, 1882-1888
(Reports totals of arrests, trials, number guilty, types of crimes, just a few individuals named.)
294 Fines, 1886-1887 (Lists of amounts only)

Police Dept.

- 295 Police reports (mostly photocopies), 1881
(Summary totals and docket list of prisoners names)
- 296 Bills, claims, warrants, etc., 1881
- 297-321 Police reports, expenses, claims, warrants, etc., 1882-1896, 1912

Box 13

- 322-323 Expenses – feeding prisoners, 1896, 1906-1916
- 324 Bills, warrants, vouchers, 1912
- 325 Misc., 1907-1915
- 326 Wanted posters and wanted postcards (Non-Arizona)
(sent to Tombstone from other jurisdictions)
- 327 Police blotter, 1888-1890
(date, name, offense, officer, disposition)

Fire Dept.

- 328-360 Fire Dept. reports, correspondence, membership lists, contracts,
handbook, election results for Fire Dept. officials, 1881-1890

Box 14

- 361-372 Fire Dept. reports, correspondence, membership lists, contracts,
election results for Fire Dept. officials, 1891-1915

Series: Public Works, 1883-1936

Public Buildings and Streets

- 373-375 City Hall building
- 376-381 Leases, sales of buildings
- 382 Public Streets – Finances, reports, taxes

Public Utilities

- 383-387 Utilities, gas and electric correspondence, legal documents, 1884-1936

Box 15

- 388-389 Water and electric correspondence, legal documents, 1883-1926

Series: Land, 1881-1917

Assessor's Office

- 390-396 Reports, correspondence, bills, claims, warrants, etc., 1882-1917

397 Statements of City Tax Collector incl. delinquent lists, 1884-1893

Board of Equalization

398-407 Correspondence, minutes of meetings, notices, 1882-1914

City Surveyor

408 Reports regarding surveys, 1881-1883

Land Transactions

- 409 Deeds, claims, etc., 1881-1888
- 410 Deeds, claims, etc., 1900-1914
- 411 Bowman Addition – Rockfellow Survey, 1904-1909
- 412 Bowman Addition – Land claims

Box 16-18

Ledgers: Assessment Roll, 1881, 1884, 1886 (3) (Oversize)

Box 19

Ledger: City License Book, v. 1, 1881-1887 (1) (Oversize)
(Includes name, location, type of business, amount of license)

Record Group 2: Other collections

Series: Cochise County Materials

Box 20

Cochise County Records, 1882, 1897-1936

- 413 Voter registration information, 1882, 1924-1930
- 414 Abstract of election returns, 1932
- 415-417 Poll list, voting precincts, certificate of election, 1924-1936
- 418-422 Voters' lists, undated (post-1912)
- 423-426 Nomination papers, 1924-1950
- 427 Publicity pamphlet, 1933
- 428-430 Justice Court documents, 1897-1898, 1908-1911
- 431-432 Property tax receipts, live stock statement, 1902-1917
- 433 Expenditures, 1905-1912
- 434 Petition to the 13th Arizona Legislature for support for U.S. Public Health Service and Children's Bureau, undated

Box 21

Businesses, School, Organizations, People – Cochise County, 1882-1929

Ledger: Machomich Mercantile Co. sales ledger, 1914-1918 (Oversize)

Box 22

- 435 Schools – Cochise County
- 436-438 Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) – Correspondence, handbooks, medical exam reports for rejected memberships, 1884-1901
- 439 Junta Patriótica Mexicana – Tucson, Ariz. Invitation, 1885
- 440 Tombstone Miners' Union – Response to Star article on miner strike, 1884
- 441 Freemasons including materials of C.D. Gage, 1882-1913
- 442 International Order of Odd Fellows, letterhead, undated
- 443 Lion's Club – Proposed Health Resort – Tombstone, 1928-1929
- 444-446 J. Goldwater & Co. General Merchandise receipts and invoices, 1888-1889
- 447-450 John F. Ross, Attorney – Lutley and Cummings Estates, Correspondence, and membership certificates, 1941-1952
- 451 Dr. G.H. Fitzgerald – Speech for Rotary Club, 1928
- 452 John Slaughter – Deeds, 1883, 1917, Cattle tally 1930
- 453-454 James Wolf – Correspondence and legal papers, 1891-1916

Box 23

Series: Tombstone Restoration Commission, 1959-1974

- 455-456 Restoration Commission correspondence, 1959-1972
- 457 Commission financial reports, 1972-1973
- 458 Commission brochure drafts, 1974
- 459 Ariz. State Parks Board Master Plan, 1971-1972
- 460 Ariz. State Parks Board Printed material, 1968-1972
- 461 Master plan draft and notes, 1971-1972
- 462 Floor plan of Cochise County Courthouse
- 463 Misc. Commission materials
- 464 Restoration Commission correspondence, Edna Landin, Pres., 1955-1963

Series: Tombstone Individuals, Business and Personal Correspondence, 1881-1968

- 465-468 Edna Landin: correspondence, writings, and photographs, 1952-1965

Box 24

- 469 Helena Ragsdale correspondence, 1909-1928
- 470 Mrs. F.L. Larrieu Conyers correspondence, 1956-1968
- 471 John L. Larrieu correspondence, 1935-1937
- 472 E.N. Thompson correspondence, 1894-1895
- 473 Charles Helms statement, 1882
- 474-475 Yee Wee correspondence and printed material (in Chinese), 1950-1965
- 476 Martin Costello legal and personal documents, 1886-1893
- 477 James D. Blair, misc. documents, 1881-1912

- 478 George Bravin documents, 1908-1917
- 479 John Henry Greenway Albert printed material, undated
- 480 Andrew Hartman correspondence, 1898-1908

Series: Medigovich Family Materials, 1908-1974

- 481 General correspondence, 1940-1950
- 482 Correspondence re: Herron/Jeffrey families, 1972-1974
- 483 Business files, 1947-1958
- 484 Legal files, 1908-1910
- 485 Personal misc.
- 486 Research notes – Photocopies of early documents, 1880s
- 487 Research notes – 1881 City Directory notes
(notes for creation of historic Tombstone map in Oversize)
- 488 Research notes – Tombstone/Cochise County elections, 1912-1914
- 489 Research notes – paper “Hanging of Eva Dugan”
- 490 Research notes – Prostitution
- 491 Research notes – Misc. notes
- 492-497 Deeds, receipts, indentures from Eastern states for various people,
1826-1899

Box 25

- 498 Printed material re: Tombstone, 1960-1970s
- 499 Printed material – General topics, 1960-1970s
- 500 Reproductions of advertising posters, 1960s

Series: Photographs, ca. 1885-1970

- 501 Photograph – Sam Medigovich
- 502 Individuals and groups – Identified – Pre-1945
- 503 C.S. Fly Photos – Tombstone Individuals
- 504 James F. Duncan
- 505 Individuals and groups – Identified – Post-1945
- 506 Individuals and groups – Unidentified – Chiefly pre-1945
- 507 Tombstone and Bisbee scenes – Pre-1945
- 508 Tombstone’s Helldorado Days (Also 4 photos in Oversize)
- 509 Postcards – Arizona
- 510 Photographs – Non-Arizona subjects

Box 26

Oversize printed materials, maps, election materials and photographs noted previously in this Box and Folder List.