
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1387

**Tucson Branch of the National League of American Pen Women Inc.
1930-1978
Manuscript Collection**

DESCRIPTION

Administrative papers and works created by the members of the Tucson Branch of the National League of American Pen Women, representing the period from 1930 and 1978.

6 Boxes, 10.5 linear ft.

RELATED MATERIALS

See also:

- Ephemera file: *Places-Arizona-Tucson-organizations-National League of American Pen Women*
- Ephemera file: *Organizations-Arizona Pen Women*.
- Book: *Roster and bylaws / National League of American Pen Women, Inc.*, Tucson stacks, call number 366.06 N277

HISTORICAL NOTE

The National League of American Pen Women was founded in Washington D.C. in 1897. Eudora Welty, Pearl Buck, Eleanor Roosevelt have all members of the group at various times. Today, the League of American Pen Women's homepage, <http://www.americanpenwomen.org/home/index.cfm>, describes the organization as "...a community of professional artists, writers, poets, composers, and arrangers who believe in the power of words, art, and music to illuminate the human experience, fire the imagination, and nourish the soul."

The Tucson chapter was established in 1930, with Effie Scott, *Tucson Citizen* newspaper society editor as its driving force. The group's charter members were:

- Effie Scott (president), writer, Society Editor for the *Tucson Citizen* newspaper;
- Mary Hughston, writer, teacher in Tucson ca. 1903, Society Editor for *Arizona Daily Star* newspaper, later member of Albert Steinfeld's staff, serving as his secretary and, later, as advertising manager for Steinfeld's department store. In 1934, she worked with Margaret Sanger in Washington D.C. seeking birth control legislation. In the 1940s, she opened an exclusive dress shop, Petite Maison, in Broadway Village in Tucson and in 1950 wrote a biography of Albert Steinfeld for *Arizona Highways* magazine;
- Kathleen O'Donnell, writer, one-time staff member of the Tucson Citizen newspaper;
- Effie Smith, artist
- Eva Dean, artist, studied at the Art Students League in New York and Chicago Art Institute, taught in art department at University of Arizona, illustrated Dr. MacDougall's book, *The Green Leaf*, and exhibited her work in the Tucson area;

- Frances Kerr Cook, artist, illustrator of children's book and wife of David C. Cook Jr., a magazine publisher;
- Elizabeth Amelia Cook, composer, graduate of Cincinnati Conservatory and director of the Glee Club at University of Arizona.

The first meeting of the Tucson Branch was held on April 7th, 1930. Membership requirements (from the national association website) are as follows:

Letters: Professional women eligible for letters membership include authors, co-authors, advertising sales promoters, compilers, dramatists, editors, genealogists, lecturers, librettists, lyric writers, periodical writers, photo journalists, poets, press writers, script writers for communication media or motion pictures, research workers, and musicologists. Required credentials must include proof of publication and payment.

Art: Professional women eligible for the art membership include architects, cartoonists, craftswomen, designers, graphic artists, illustrators, painters, photographers, and sculptors. Credentials submitted must include proof of payment for works or services and, for exhibiting artists, proof of work accepted in three juried exhibitions. In addition, the painter, sculptor, craftsman, or graphic artist must show proof of work accepted for at least three select juried exhibitions.

Composition in Music and Dance: Professional women eligible for the music membership may present original compositions or original creative arrangements that have been professionally published or performed in a public forum. Choreographers shall present notated scores or video or filmed performances. Credentials shall be accompanied by proof of payment, or salary, for creating and directing the work submitted.

Members of the league call themselves "Women with pens, pencils and brushes." The Tucson organization celebrated professional women's accomplishments in the arts, promoting their publications, performances and exhibitions. Meetings usually included a presentation, conversation and, as one newspaper clipping put it, "dainty refreshments."

Materials in the collection document the period from 1930 until 1978. The Pen Women are still organized in Tucson.

ACQUISITION

The collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Society by Dr. Marthann E. Wilson, on behalf of the Tucson Branch of the National League of American Pen Women Inc., in 1981.

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

Dena McDuffie processed the collection in May 2010.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Tucson chapter of the National League of American Pen Women Manuscript Collection includes achievement annuals, publications, yearbooks, guest books, photographs and eight scrapbooks.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged topically.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

f.1-11 Achievements, Annuals, 1939-1940, 1941-1949-; 1944-1945; 1945-1946; 1946-1947; 1947-1948; 1948-1949; 1949-1950; 1950-1951; 1951-1952; 1952-1953

Box 2

f. 12-15 Achievements, Annuals, 1953-1954; 1954-1955; 1956; 1956-1957
f. 16 Activities
f. 17 Correspondence, 1930s
f. 18 Correspondence, 1940s
f. 19 Correspondence, 1950s
f. 20 Correspondence, n.d.
f. 21 Events, Celebrity Breakfasts, 1938-1953
f. 22 Events, Memorial meeting in honor of Sophie Chantal Hart, 1949

Box 3

f. 23 Guest Books, 1961, 1964, 1968-1970
f. 24 Guest Books, handmade cover for guest books
f. 25 History, *The History of the Tucson Branch of the National League of American Pen Women*, 1930-1962, 1930-1971 (See also Oversize)
f. 26 History, *The History of the Tucson Branch of the National League of American Pen Women*, 1930-1976 (See also Oversize)
f. 27 National, League of American Pen Women, Miscellaneous (correspondence and forms)
f. 28 National, League of American Pen Women, Membership Roster and By-Laws, 1952-1954, 1966-1968
f. 29 National, League of American Pen Women, Membership Roster and By-Laws, 1968-1970, 1970-1972
f. 30 National, League of American Pen Women, Activities
f. 31. Photographs, Slides

Box 4

f. 32-34 Photographs
f. 35 Publications and Manuscripts, Collections [Includes *An Anthology of Arizona Women Poets*, ed. Lulu Brent Dawson, Saxon Publishing Co., Dallas, 1939; and *Apple Blossoms*, ed. Wm. G. Wilcox, Northwoods Press, Bigfork, MN, 1976]
f. 36 Publications and Manuscripts, Gail Ridgway Brown, composer, *A Child's Wish at Christmas*, musical score, n.d.
f. 37 Publications and Manuscripts, Mary Cahill, poet, *The Desert Speaks*, The Naylor Co., San Antonio, TX, 1968; *Vagabond Gold*, self-published, 1972; *The Voice of Paula*, self-published, 1973
f. 38 Publications and Manuscripts, Marilla Merriman Guild, poet, *The Old House Speaks*, The Paebur Co., New York, 1944
f. 39 Publications and Manuscripts, LaVerne Harrell Clark, folklorist and photographer, *They Sang for Horses: The Impact of the Horse on Navajo and Apache Folklore*, illustrated by DeGrazia, University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1966; *The Face of Poetry: 101 Poets in Two Significant Decades, -the 60s and the 70s*, ed. Clark and Mary MacArthur, illustrated by Clark, Gallimaufry, Arlington, VA, 1976

f. 40 Publications and Manuscripts, Mary McClaughry Henry, poet, *Desert Trails and Other Verses*, The Desert Press, Tucson, poetry, 1943

Box 5

f. 41 Publications and Manuscripts, Beth Milliken Joerger, composer, musical scores for: "Arizona"; song in honor of John F. Kennedy; "Home for Christmas"; "Smile"; Pen Women USA"; "Fairies"; "Hiking"; "Fun"; "Valentine"; "Winter is Near"; "Tucson (Gem of the Desert)"; and "Escape"

f. 42 Publications and Manuscripts, Elizabeth Fleming McFarland, *Forever Frontier: The Gila Cliff Dwellings*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1967; *This is Grand Canyon*, self-published, 1970; *Wilderness of the Gila*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1974

f. 43 Publications and Manuscripts, Ruth Reynolds, poet, *Cibolan Gold*, The Country Poet, Sanbornville, New Hampshire, 1955

f. 44 Publications and Manuscripts, Winnie Crandall Saunders, *The Old Pueblo Calls*, illustrations by Saunders, self-published, 1966; Tallman House Speaks, n.d.

f. 45 Publications and Manuscripts, Privately printed brochures [Includes "Rainbow Over the Year" by Beula-Mary Wadsworth, Desert Press, Tucson, 1943; "Desert Shadows" by Anna Elizabeth Falls, n.d.; "Three Measures of Meal" by Harriet H. d'Autremont, Blu D Lutz Co., Duluth, Minnesota, 1922; "Montana Interlude" by Oraline M. Benhart, n.d.]

f. 46 Publications and Manuscripts, Miscellaneous

f. 47 Yearbooks, 1930s and 1940s

f. 48 Yearbooks, 1950s

f. 49 Yearbooks, 1960s

f. 50 Yearbooks, 1970s

Oversize

Scrapbooks, Tucson Branch of the National League of American Pen Women History, 1930-1963

Scrapbooks [Containing news articles about meetings, members, art exhibits, photos], some 1956-1965

Scrapbooks, some 1964-1967

Scrapbooks, 1966-1971

Scrapbooks, 1970-1974

Scrapbooks, 1973 [Includes proclamation of Poetry Month in Arizona, signed by Jack Williams, Governor and Rose Mofford, Secretary of State]

Scrapbooks, 1974

Scrapbooks, 1975