

**TITLE:** Olbert Family collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1940-1950 and undated

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1511

**LOCATION:** Arizona History Museum, 949 E Second St, Tucson, AZ 85719

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 linear ft (1 box)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Sheila Kelly Spinn, 2001.

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to Arizona Historical Society, Library & Archives.

**PREFERRED CITATION:** Arizona Historical Society, Olbert Family collection, MS 1511

**PROCESSED BY:** This collection was formerly in the small manuscripts collection under SMS 97. Tory Bellavance reprocessed the collection in 2019.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Birney P. Olbert (1886-1973) was born in Macon, Missouri and his family moved to Mexico in 1896. In 1913 he moved to Mexico City and married Helene (Helen) Roberts Olbert (1885-1981). Together they had five children, George B. Olbert (1914-1971), Helene Cora Olbert (1917-1993), Rosemary Roberts Olbert (1920-1999), Richard (Dick) Powell Olbert (1922-1992) and Dorothy Bertha Olbert (1927-2015). The family moved between Mexico City, Cananea, Nogales, Tucson and El Paso as Birney took various positions in mining and hardware companies. In 1930, Helen and the children moved to Bisbee while Birney worked as Public Service Superintendent at the Cananea Consolidated Anaconda Copper Co. In 1940, Helen moved back to Cananea and Birney retired from his position 14 years later. They joined their daughter, Rosemary, in Mesa, where Birney worked for Naylor Realty until 1966.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** This collection consists of a written family history, postcards, photographs and a scrapbook. The family history is compiled by Helene Cora Olbert, with information provided by her mother, Helen. Photographs depict several family members, including Helene and Rosemary as well as their spouses, Kenneth K. Kelly and Duncan Gordon Graham. The scrapbook contains clippings about the weddings of the Olbert daughters, greeting cards and telegrams addressed to members of the family and articles from Bisbee newspapers detailing WWII, as well as issues of the *Bisbee Daily Review* and the *Stars and Stripes*.

**SUBJECT TERMS:** World War, 1939-1945 -- United States; Cananea (Mexico); Bisbee (Ariz.); Newspapers; Scrapbooks -- 1925-1949

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	1	Olbert family history	undated
	2	Photographs and postcards	1940-1950
	3	Scrapbook	1940-1945