
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ARIZONA RANGERS COLLECTION**MS 1063****Collection, 1901-1909, 1958-1970 (bulk 1958-1970)****DESCRIPTION**

The bulk of the collection consists of minutes of meetings and correspondence between the various Ranger groups in Arizona from 1958 to 1970. Although these are not official records of the organization they do provide valuable information and background. Also included are photocopies of by-laws and reports from the original Arizona Rangers which were in existence from 1901 to 1910.

5 Boxes, 2.5 linear feet.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Arizona Rangers were organized in 1901 to combat the organized banditry growing in the territory. The Rangers were reorganized in 1957 to assist state and local law enforcement agencies and provide community service when needed. Stuart Copeland was the Historian for the Arizona Rangers when the group was reorganized in 1957. He compiled copies of historical materials for the earlier Rangers as well as maintained the historical records of the group reorganized in 1957.

ACQUISITION

This collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Society by Carol Dingel on November 29, 1993.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on this collection.

COPYRIGHT

Requests for permission to publish materials from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society.

PROCESSING

This collection was processed in April 1995 by Brian Beattie, under the supervision of Archivists Jerry Kyle and Rose Byrne. The collection was consolidated in May 1997 by William Tackenberg under the supervision of Archivist Rose Byrne.

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HISTORICAL NOTE

The 21st Territorial Legislature organized the original Arizona Rangers in 1901 to combat the organized banditry growing in the territory. Personal papers from Jefferson Kidder, a First Sergeant with the Rangers gives a look at life in the Rangers. The records indicate that the first group lasted until 1909.

In November of 1957, a legislative enactment allowed a new group of men to voluntarily form themselves into the Arizona Rangers, a non-profit volunteer law enforcement agency whose main objective was to maintain the heritage of the old Arizona Rangers. Their purpose was to assist other state and local law enforcement agencies. They also taught firearms safety to any willing group, while also providing community service.

H. S. Copeland served as the Historian for the Arizona Rangers as reorganized in 1957. One goal of the organization was to obtain as much information on the previous Ranger organization as possible. Mr. Copeland became the key member in this effort.

Scope and Content note

The collection consists of two groups; the original Rangers (1901-1910), and the second group, still called the Arizona Rangers (1957-1970). From the first group of Rangers, there are photocopies of the Arizona Ranger by-laws (1901, 1903, 1909). Copies of reports of arrests (1901-1902), and other territorial papers and notes, along with photocopies of some personal papers from Jefferson Kidder are included in the collection.

The second group of Rangers have a much larger volume of material. Included in this part of the collection are minutes from various companies in Arizona (1958-1970), and handbooks of the Rangers' Code, with one book in particular containing personal notes of H. S. Copeland, Historian for the Rangers. Also included is correspondence between the various companies and the group headquarters, located at Arizona Boys Ranch, Arizona. Minutes from the Arizona Board of Governors meetings pertaining to the Rangers are included along with a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, arm patches, and other materials.

The Arizona Ranger Collection consists of 5 boxes and is arranged into five series: (1) Photocopies of materials Associated With Arizona Rangers (1901-1910); (2) Correspondence of H. Stuart Copeland as group Historian; (3) Law-Enforcement Procedures and Fire Arms Activities and Demonstrations by the Organization; (4) Arizona Rangers (1957-1970); (5) Correspondence/Records of Arizona Ranger Companies.

Series One, Materials associated with the Arizona Rangers, 1901-1910. Contains **photocopies** of organization by-laws, reports to the Territorial Governor, and report on arrests from 1901-1902. In addition, an historical overview of the Arizona Ranger organization is present as well as a photo dated 1903.

Series Two, Correspondence of Stuart Copeland during period he served as Historian for the organization. Materials on historical events associated with activities involving the Arizona Rangers and correspondence with descendants of original members.

Series Three, Law enforcement activities and fire-arms displays conducted by the Arizona Rangers. Articles and correspondence associated with gun control.

Series Four, Materials associated with the Arizona Rangers, (1957-1970). Articles of Incorporation, 1957, with amendments, and Constitution and by-laws for the organization are included. Membership listings and membership handbooks provide personal information.

Series Five, Correspondence associated with the various Ranger Companies in Arizona. Materials include group meeting notes, correspondence from the State Headquarters Company and communication between organizations.

F.12 Copeland Correspondence: Ron Donoho

F. 12a Copeland Correspondence: O. A. Ash

Box 2

F.13 Copeland Correspondence: John Mason Jeffrey

F.14 Copeland Correspondence: Geo E. Virgines

F.15 Copeland Correspondence: Requests For Arizona Ranger History

F.16 Copeland Research Notes - 1907-1909

F.17 Copeland Historical Notebook

F.18 Arizona Ranger Badge Facsimile Applications
Correspondence Associated With New Badges

Series 3: Law-Enforcement Procedures and Fire Arms Activities and
Demonstrations by the Organization

F.19 Police Procedure Instruction

F.20 Police Training Keys

F.21 Articles and Correspondence Gun Control

F.22 Gun Show Display - October 14-15, 1967

F.23 Arizona Rangers Commemorative Colt Six Shooter

Box 3

F.24 Copeland Correspondence With Winchester Repeating Arms Co.

F.25 NRA Basic Small Arms Instructor Report Card (1964)

Series 4: Arizona Rangers (1957-1970)

F.26 Arizona Rangers, Articles of Incorporation - 1957
Amendments October 30, 1966
Constitution and By-Laws

F.27 Arizona Rangers, Articles of Incorporation
Amendments
Waiver of Publication
Publisher Affidavit

- F.28 Misc. Materials Found With Donation
 - News Clips
 - Letter From Horne to Copeland
 - Newsletter From Arizona Fish and Game Dept.
- F.29 Arizona Rangers, Articles of Incorporation - 1957
Amendments to September 1972
- F.30 Arizona Rangers, Inc. Handbook (4)
- F.31 Membership Cards (1961-1964)
- F.32 Minutes Board of Governors Meetings (1965)
- F.33 Membership Applications
- F.34 Semi-Annual Board of Governors Meetings (1967)
- F.35 Semi-Annual Board of Governors Meetings (1968)
- F.36 Semi-Annual Board of Governors Meetings (1969)
- F.37 Semi-Annual Board of Governors Meetings (1970)
- F.38 Arizona Ranger Correspondence (1965-1969)
 - S. Copeland Files

Box 4

- F.39 Meeting Notes - Board of Governors Meetings (1965-1967)
Green Spiral Notebook
- I.1 Small Black Notebook With Names, Addresses, Phone Numbers,
Serial Numbers of Weapons, and Notes
- I.2 36 "Douglas" Uniform Bar Insignias
- I.3 Blue Binder With Newspaper Clippings
 - Arizona Ranger Activities - 1956-1970
 - Letters of Correspondence
 - Poems By Rangers

Series 5: Correspondence/Records of Arizona Ranger Companies

- F.40 Headquarters Correspondence (1962-1965)
- F.41 Tucson Company (1961-1967)
- F.42 Show Low Company (1962-1966)

F.43 Huachuca Company (1962-1968)

Box 5

F.44 Headquarters Publication Materials (1962-1964)

F.45 Headquarters Correspondence 1966

F.46 Headquarters Correspondence and Group Information (1964-1967)

F.47 Parker Company (1963-1966)

F.48 Yuma Company (1962-1965)

F.49 Douglas Company (1958-1962)

F.50 Holbrook Company (1962-1965)

F.51 Bisbee Company (1965-1966)

F.52 Tucson Company (1964-1966)

F.53 Duplicate Reports of Company Meetings/Correspondence

F.54 Duplicate Reports of Company Meetings/Correspondence (1964-1968)