
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**MS 170
CONTZEN FAMILY
PAPERS, 1878-1954 (bulk: 1901-1954)**

DESCRIPTION

Papers relating to Fritz, Philip, Marie and Frederick Contzen. The bulk of the collection consists of the papers of Philip Contzen (1868-1954), U. S. Land and Mineral Surveyor, and engineer for Tucson and Pima County. Papers include maps and plats of mining locations, particularly in the Cañada del Oro area, mining claim notices, homestead entries and memo books of survey work.

10 Boxes, linear 6.5 ft.

ACQUISITION

Donated by William A. Duffin in 1960.

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, Archives Department.

ARRANGEMENT

1/Business Correspondence 2/Legal Documents 3/Realty & Mining Material 4/Memo Notebooks 5/Personal & Family Papers 6/Photographs 7/Oversized material

RELATED MATERIAL

PC 023 Contzen Photo Collection

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Mary Flynn, volunteer, under the supervision of Riva Dean in March 1998.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Fritz Contzen (1831-1909) was born in Germany had came to the United States in 1844. In 1853, he joined Emory's Boundary Survey Group and arrived in Tucson in 1854. He and his brother Julius established a ranch, Punto de Agua, about three miles south of San Xavier del Bac. He married Margariet Ferrer in 1862 and their son was Philip.

Philip Contzen (1868-1954) was also a surveyor. Philip was educated in Germany, and on his return to the United States he worked in the San Francisco City Surveyor's Office and for the Southern Pacific Railroad before returning to Tucson in 1889. He began working in the U.S. Surveyor General's office in 1891, and three years later was a U.S. Land and Mineral Surveyor with the U.S. General Land Office. He was also City Engineer, Pima County Surveyor, and during the 1920's served three terms on the City Council. He was also a Captain of Company D (Sharpshooters) in the 1st Infantry Regiment, Arizona National Guard (Arizona Militia).

He had mining interests in the Cañada del Oro District and real estate interests (Onekama Realty Company) in Pima and Pinal Counties. Philip Contzen was multilingual and translated old Spanish and Mexican land grants for local residents whose land grants were compromised by the Gadsden Purchase. His work for others resulted in the return of land to some of the title holders. He retired in 1947.

Philip Contzen married Frances Conrow in 1899 and had one daughter and two sons. Miss Conrow lived with her maternal Aunt, Bridget McHale Cronly and Andrew Cronly, (sometimes spelled Cronley). She died in 1930. Contzen married Lizette Snider in 1935, which marriage ended when Lizette died in 1940. He married for the third time to Stella Pritchard in 1947. Philip Contzen died in Tucson on December 31, 1954, aged 86.

Frederick Contzen (1910-1990), son of Philip, was also a surveyor. He worked for the U. S. Geological Survey, the Soil Conservation Service and the National Park Service.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Philip Contzen collection consists of business correspondence, legal documents, and material related to mining and realty concerns in the Tucson area. Also included are personal and family papers and miscellany, photographs and field notes, survey sketches, maps and drawings. The majority of the business and legal papers cover the time period 1900 to 1954. The bulk of the collection are "memo books" kept by Philip Contzen on survey work; they are largely technical in nature. Included in the collection are family papers and correspondence which date from 1878 to 1954.

There are photographs which show the fire at Steinfeld's Grocery in the 1920's. Some family members are represented in photos of Tumacacori, and the site of the old Cronly home, later used as an office by Philip Contzen. Nine scrapbook pages contain 37 black and white photographs taken at Mt. Lemmon, Cañada del Oro, Madera Canyon, White House Canyon, as well as other places in the Tucson area. Some of the people pictured are identified familiarly by nick-name.

The maps and drawings (in oversized boxes) are of Gold Channel Placer Claims, the Cañada del Oro Water Storage and Power Reservoir, Laguna Estates, Del Oro Placer Land Development Company, and Cañada del Oro Canal.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Series 1: Business Correspondence

Box 1

f. 1-8 Philip Contzen's Business Correspondence 1901-1954

Series 2: Legal Documents

- f. 9 Legal Documents: Deeds, Homesteads, Leases 1914-1952
- f. 10 Legal Documents: Affidavits of Labor, Bargain and Sale Deeds 1900-1944
- f. 11 Legal Documents: Notices of Mining Location, Water and Location 1906-1952
- f. 12 Legal Documents: Options, Powers of Attorney, Miscellany 1910-1941

Series 3: Realty and Mining Material

f. 13 Onekama Realty Company - By-Laws, Memos, Misc. 1930-1950

Box 2

- f. 14 Onekama Realty Co. Legal Documents 1932-1951
- f. 15 Onekama Realty Co. Mineral Claims Litigation 1950-1954
- f. 16 Onekama Realty Co. Drafts of Litigation 1950-1954
- f. 17 Onekama Realty Co. Appellants Reply Brief, Carrothers 1942-1943
- f. 18 Cañada del Oro - General Description and Plans 1910-1949
- f. 19 Cañada del Oro Water Appropriation Application 1941-1942
- f. 20 Gold Channel Mining Company - Legal Documents 1915-1947
- f. 21 Gold Channel Placers - Notes, Letters, Misc. Documents 1912-1947
- f. 22 Arrowhead Mining Development and Claims 1938-1951
- f. 23 Legal Dispute with A. Steinfeld 1915-1931
- f. 24 Miscellaneous Legal Documents 1889-1948
- f. 25 Memoranda, Etc, most relating to mining n.d.

Series 4: Philip Contzen : Memoranda Books

Box 3

- f. 26 Memo Books, 1911-1926
- f. 27 Memo Books 1931-1950,
- f. 28 Memo Books 1949-1953
- f. 28A-37 Memo Books #1-21, 1928-1937

Box 4

f. 38-54 Memo Books #22-54, 1937-1941

Box 5

f. 55-74 Memo Books #55-92, 1942-1945

Box 6

f. 75-88, Memo Books #93-116 and Misc. Unnumbered, 1946-1952

Box 7

f. 89 Field Notes, Survey Sketches and Maps, n.d.

Series 5: Personal and Family Papers

f. 90 Personal Correspondence from Philip Contzen, 1889-1920

f. 91 Personal Correspondence to Philip Contzen, 1880-1954

f. 92 Personal Correspondence to Fritz Contzen, 1881

f. 93 Personal Correspondence to Margarita Contzen, 1878-1925

f. 94 Personal Papers & Miscellany, 1841-1954

f. 95 Documents re: Fritz Contzen Indian Depredation Claim, 1909-1951

f. 96 Cronly Papers 1879-1907

Series 6: Photographs

f. 97 Photographs, 1920s

Series 7 : Oversized Maps And Drawings**Box 8**

One folder containing certificates for Philip Contzen. Also includes maps of mining claims.

Box 9

Rolled oversized maps and drawings of Gold Channel Placer Claims and Laguna Estates.

Box 10

Rolled oversized maps and drawings of Cañada del Oro Water Storage and Power Reservoirs.