



TITLE: Howard Carroll Groton collection

DATE RANGE: 1912-1956 and undated

CALL NUMBER: MS 1509

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

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .25 linear ft (1 box)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Margaret Sue Giesenhagen, 2016.

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

CITATION: Arizona Historical Society, Howard Carroll Groton collection, MS 1509

PROCESSED BY: Tory Bellavance in November 2018.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Howard Carroll Groton (1890-1980) was born in Los Angeles, California. Throughout his life he traveled across southern Arizona and northern Mexico, taking jobs in mercantile departments of mining companies. In 1916, his career began with Phelps Dodge in Douglas, Arizona but was cut short when he enlisted in civilian duty with a construction company as part of the war effort of WWI. Upon his return, his job in Douglas was not waiting for him and he made his way south to the El Tigre mining town in Sonora, Mexico.

In 1919, Groton married Eileen Reasonover (1896-1986) and a year later their daughter, Martha, was born. Believing that the small mining town was no place to raise an infant, the couple moved back to Douglas and took over operation of the Reasonovers' Sunnyside Grocery store in 1921, while also helping Eileen's family at their ranch, located 20 miles east of Douglas on Silver Creek. Drought in Arizona put the Reasonovers out of the ranching business and the Grotons turned their grocery back over before following job prospects across the border in the mining town of Pilares de Nacozari. The Groton family would stay here until the shut down of the mines in 1931 when they moved back to the United States and found permanent residence in Truth or Consequences (formerly Hot Springs), New Mexico.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The collection primarily consists of Howard Carroll Groton's recollections of life working in management at mercantile departments of mining companies across southern Arizona and northern Mexico. His life in the mining towns of El Tigre and Pilares de Nacozari are documented in detail, including images of homes, inhabitants and the surrounding area. Descriptions of minor raids on the towns, crossing the U.S.-Mexico border and ranching in southern Arizona during drought are also included in his recollections. Groton documents his experience as a member of a deputized posse involved in the Bisbee deportation of 1917, supplemented with images and newspaper clippings of the event.

Eileen Groton, included her perspective on events since their marriage, titled "Highlights of Our Times." Their daughter, Martha, provides her recollections of growing up in Pilares, with photographs and correspondence. Lastly, the collection includes a scrapbook of cards, clippings, correspondence, and photos documenting the Groton's life after the shutdown of the mine in Pilares and their subsequent move to New Mexico.

SUBJECT TERMS: Ranching -- Arizona; General stores -- Arizona; General stores -- Sonora -- Mexico; Mining camps -- Sonora -- Mexico; Pilares -- Sonora -- Mexico; El Tigre -- Sonora -- Mexico

RELATED MATERIALS: Abbreviated versions of Groton's recollections are in the Winter 1994 issue of the Cochise Quarterly, under the title "The Flying Tortilla and Other Stories" and the Summer 1990 issue of the Journal of Arizona History under the title "Riding the Flying Tortilla, Recollections of a Gringo Storekeeper in Mexico"

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Portrait of Howard Carroll Groton	undated
	2	Howard Carroll Groton recollections (1 of 2)	1912-1927, 1987
	3	Howard Carroll Groton recollections (2 of 2)	1924-1931
	4	Eileen Groton's "Highlights of Our Times"	undated
	5	Martha Groton's recollections	1928-1932 and undated
	6	Scrapbook	1926-1956 and undated