



TITLE: Sahuarita Homemaker's Club papers

DATE RANGE: 1938-1985 (bulk dates: 1938-1949)

CALL NUMBER: MS 1494

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

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear ft. (1 box)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Rachel Davis, 1985.

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, Sahuarita Homemaker's Club papers, MS 1494

PROCESSED BY: Jessamyn Swan, under the supervision of Kate Stewart, in 2018.

HISTORICAL NOTE: The passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 extended outreach programs of land-grant universities. As a result, Evalyn Bentley, a Home Demonstration Agent with the University of Arizona's Agricultural Extension Service, began to organize homemakers' clubs in Arizona in 1922. Though each club had its own leadership, Bentley directed the activities and curriculum for all the clubs. By 1938, there were a total of eight Homemaking clubs in Pima County, including Sahuarita, Sunnyside, Altar Valley, Marana, Fort Lowell, Tanque Verde, Wrightstown, Government Heights, and Sopori.

The Sahuarita Homemakers' Club began in April 1937, though a formal constitution was not adopted until 1947. Mrs. W.H. Lane was the organization's first president, with Mrs. Hazel Jones taking her place the following year. Club members focused on learning skills useful during the Great Depression, such as how to garden, manage a household on a tight budget, shop for food, make clothing, spot false advertisements, and build furniture. Members later supported the war effort. Club activities focused on helping one another economize and survive in difficult financial situations rather than about recreation and socializing. The club opened their meetings by having members share a helpful household hint or tell an Arizona story. Guest lecturers and correspondents included Thelma Huber, Harvey F. Tate, Mrs. M.S. Lieberman (pen name Muriel Strode), and Nellie Kemp. The Sahuarita Homemakers' Club dissolved sometime in the 1960s.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection includes one box arranged into four series:

Series I: Club Materials includes a copy of the club's 1947 constitution; select minutes and programs of club activities; writings and notes by club members; and homemaking pamphlets published at the time by various agencies and collected by club members.

Series II: Correspondence includes letters and cards mostly regarding club business.

Series III: Press Book includes newspaper clippings, programs, certificates, member poems, and mementos such as menus and napkins. There are several photographs of a 1938 tea hosted by Bentley to judge the Homemaker's clubs' press books, as well as other photographs of the Sahuarita homemakers' projects and activities, including quilting, copper work, sewing, gardening, and picking cotton. Of note are also two photographs and a typed transcript of a radio interview that took place on January 9, 1943 between the KTVC radio station, Evalyn Bentley, and the Sahuarita homemakers Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Bull, Marguerite Evans, and Rachel Davis. The beginning of the press book is in chronological order, but the order was not maintained.

Series IV: Artifacts includes ribbons won by the club at the state fair.

SUBJECT TERMS: Bentley, Evalyn A., 1878-1960; Homemakers—Arizona—Sahuarita; The Great Depression—Women—Arizona; University of Arizona Agricultural Extension Service; Sahuarita (Ariz.)—Organizations; Scrapbooks; Strode, Muriel; World War, 1939-1945

RELATED MATERIALS: Bentley Home Demonstration Papers and Photographs, 1912-1930, MS 1195; University of Arizona Agricultural Extension Service: Reports of Arizona Agricultural Extension and Home Demonstration Agents, 1925-1946, MS 1455

CONTAINER LIST:

Series I: Club Materials			
Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Club Materials: Constitution	April 3, 1947
	2	Club Materials: Minutes and Programs	Nov. 1946-Dec. 1949
	3	Club Materials: Writings	Unknown
	4	Club Materials: Homemaking Pamphlets	1943-1949
Series II: Correspondence			
	5	Correspondence: Letters	1943-1949
	6	Correspondence: Greeting Cards, Postcards	Unknown
Series III: Press Book			
	7	Press Book: Original Cover (1 of 12)	1937-1949
	8	Press Book: Original (2 of 12)	1937-1939, 1985
	9	Press Book: Original (3 of 12)	April 1938-Nov. 1938
	10	Press Book: Original (4 of 12)	Oct. 1937-Nov. 1939
	11	Press Book: Original (5 of 12)	Sept. 1937-Dec. 1938
	12	Press Book: Original (6 of 12)	Jan.-Dec. 1939
	13	Press Book: Original (7 of 12)	May-Nov. 1939

	14	Press Book: Original (8 of 12)	Jan.-June 1940
	15	Press Book: Original (9 of 12)	June 1940-Jan. 1942
	16	Press Book: Original (10 of 12)	Nov. 1941-April 1944
	17	Press Book: Original (11 of 12)	April 1944-April 1949
	18	Press Book: Original (12 of 12)	Feb. 1942-April 1949
Series IV: Artifacts			
		Artifacts: State Fair Ribbons	1947-1948