



**TITLE:** Pennington Family, Geronimo Hotel Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1895-1981 (bulk dates: 1930s-1950s)

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 936

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes; 1 oversized folder)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Neal Pennington, 1980. Additional material was donated by Gladys M. Kenney in 2018.

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to Arizona Historical Society, Archives Division, Rights Permission Coordinator.

**PREFERRED CITATION:** Pennington Family Geronimo Hotel Collection, MS 936, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

**PROCESSED BY:** Riva Dean, Library/Archives Co-Manager, completed the original finding aid in 1997. Additional material was interfiled, and the finding aid was updated by Rachael Black in 2018.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Nealy Almer Pennington was a Tucson contractor, builder and real estate developer. He was born in Tennessee in 1877 and came to Clifton, Arizona in 1905. He moved to Phoenix in 1907 and to Tucson in 1916. He was married to Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington, also of Tennessee and they had two children, Neal Aubrey Pennington and a daughter, Katherine Pennington.

Nealy built numerous homes and apartments in Tucson. His most prominent projects were Zuni Court and the adjacent Geronimo Hotel located at the corner of University Boulevard and Euclid Avenue. Built in 1919, Zuni Court was one of the first court developments in Tucson. The Geronimo Hotel, which opened on October 29, 1929, was one of the last projects Nealy worked on prior to his death in 1934. After his death, ownership of the hotel passed to his son Neal and daughter Katherine, who along with their mother and Neal's wife Hazel ran the hotel until 1980.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** This collection contains a variety of business and personal papers related to the Pennington family, primarily the operation of the Geronimo Hotel in

Tucson. In some cases, such as some financial records, there is substantial overlap between the family's business and personal dealings.

The collection has been arranged into the following series:

*Series 1: Business and Financial Records:* This series consists of business and financial records primarily related to the Geronimo Hotel. In the case of some of the financial records, some information related to personal accounts is included as personal accounts were sometimes used for business transactions. *Note: One oversize folder with a portion of a Geronimo Hotel guest register is associated with this series.*

*Series 2: Personal Records:* This series consists one diary kept by Mary Katherine Hendricks Pennington chronicling guest arrivals, departures and other events at the Geronimo Hotel. The bulk of the material in this series consists of personal diaries. Also included is one folder of family photos.

*Series 3: Manuscripts:* This series contains unpublished stories by Katherine Hendricks Pennington, and one book-length typed manuscript describing experiences of a developer and landlord by Nealy Almer Pennington.

**SUBJECT TERMS:** Pennington, Nealy Almer, 1877-1934; Geronimo Hotel (Tucson, Ariz.); diaries, reminiscences

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Series 1: Business and Financial Records</b>			
1	1	<b>Business Records:</b> Checks and Bank Statements	1928-1981
	2	<b>Business Records:</b> Correspondence	1934-1954; undated
	3	<b>Business Records:</b> Daily Expense Journal for Geronimo Hotel	Sep. 1, 1936-Mar. 13, 1937
	4	<b>Business Records:</b> Daily Expense Journal for Geronimo Hotel	March 14, 1937- Aug. 31, 1937
	5	<b>Business Records:</b> Receipts	1953-1954
	6	<b>Business Records:</b> Room Record for Geronimo Hotel	1936-1937
<b>Series 2: Personal Records</b>			
	7	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Hotel Diary	Jan. 1957- Jan 1958

	8	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Katherine Pennington	1921
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
2	1	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks	1895
	2	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington (pages and fragments)	1902
	3	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington	March-May 1903
	4	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington; Diary and Stories	1914-1915
	5	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington	1919-1920
	6	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington	1920-1921
	7	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington; Loose Pages	June-July 1938
	8	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington	1938-1941
	9	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington	1940-1941
	10	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington	1944-1945
	11	<b>Personal Records:</b> Diary, Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington	1953-1954
	12	<b>Personal Records:</b> Photographs	undated
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>Series 3: Manuscripts</b>			
3	1	<b>Manuscripts:</b> "A Hard of Hearing 'Talkie' Fan" by Emmeline Hendricks (Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington)	undated
	2	<b>Manuscripts:</b> Sally Emmeline by Mary Kate Hendricks Pennington	1923
	3	<b>Manuscripts:</b> Untitled Manuscript (compiled reminiscences and diary entries) by Nealy Almer Pennington	undated
<b>Oversize Items</b>			
<b>Folder 1</b>		<b>Business Records:</b> Geronimo Hotel Register	1949-1950