
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 164
Collins, Thomas, 1884-1966
Papers, 1930-1957

DESCRIPTION

Papers dealing with Collins' years as state senator from 1930-1954. Included is correspondence concerning political campaigns, building of roads and highways, taxation, public education, Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind, Civil rights, divorce law, hospital law and Locomotive Engineers. Also includes correspondence with Edith Kitt relating to Collins' efforts to raise appropriations for the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society.

2 Boxes, 1 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Donated by James M. Murphy in 1965

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was preliminarily processed by Larry Fong in 1979; Riva Dean completed the finding aid in May 1999.

ARRANGEMENT

Two Series: 1/General Correspondence by date, 2/ Legislation by subject

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Collins, Arizona State Senator and member of the Pima County board of supervisors, was born in Ireland and came to Tucson in 1904. He worked as a locomotive engineer for the Southern Pacific Railroad for forty-seven years before retiring in 1951. He was elected to the Pima County Board of Supervisors in 1922 and 1938. He served on the Board of Supervisors for eight years and was a legislative representative for the Brother of Locomotive Engineers for twenty years. He represented Pima County as a Democrat in the state senate for ten years and was a member of the State Public Welfare Board. He was a member of the board of supervisors when "Old Tucson" was built and was also influential in the county's purchase of Colossal Cave. He was married to Mary Duffy Collins, teacher, who was also active in Democratic politics in Pima County.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is representative of legislation in the Arizona State Senate in the 1930s. Collins' was often concerned with social causes and the correspondence represents his work on such issues as the Alien Land Law (Japanese), Civil Rights, Highways & Roads,

Education and Labor legislation. Collins was also an advocate for funds for the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society.

The collection includes correspondence and notebooks concerning the democratic party in Arizona. Correspondence includes requests for favors as well as advice on votes for particular bills. Correspondents include Carl Hayden, William Matthews, Benjamin Moeur and G. W. P. Hunt.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

- f. 1-2 Correspondence, 1930-1931
- f. 3 Correspondence – Mary Duffy Collins, 1932
- f. 4-10C Correspondence, 1932-1957
- f. 11 Printer Matter

Box 2

- f. 12 Campaign Material
- f. 13 Alien Land Law (Japanese)
- f. 14 Appointments & Requests
- f. 15 Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society
- f. 16 Banking
- f. 17 Beauty Shops & Barbers
- f. 18 Civil Rights
- f. 19 Divorce (Crenshaw Law)
- f. 20 Dentists – Legislation
- f. 21 Education
- f. 22 Highways & Roads
- f. 23 Hospitals
- f. 24 Insurance
- f. 25 Justice System
- f. 26 Library
- f. 27 Livestock Industry
- f. 28 No Fence Bill
- f. 29 Pharmacists – Legislation
- f. 30 Railroads
- f. 31 Religion
- f. 32 School for the Deaf & Blind
- f. 33 Taxes
- f. 34 United Community Campaign