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**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**MS 1059**  
**AKIN, WAYNE**  
**Papers, 1921-1989**

**DESCRIPTION**

The bulk of this collection concerns Akin's involvement with Western Farm Management Company of Phoenix, as both co-founder and president. The information is in the form of business records, correspondence, and personal reminiscences. Akin had a keen interest in water rights issues and served as the first president of the Central Arizona Project Association and chairman of the Arizona Interstate Stream Commission. As such, he played a key role in the battle for Arizona's share of the Colorado River water.

3 Boxes, 1 outside item, 2.5 linear ft.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Wayne Mellinger Akin was born February 21, 1894 at Fort Collins, Colorado. His father was a rancher and livestock trader, and was active in litigation between Colorado and Wyoming over water rights in the early 1900s. In 1918 Akin earned a bachelor of science degree from what is now Colorado State University. For the next few years he worked in ranching, real estate, and education as a teacher, school principal, and selling school supplies. In 1933, Akin, his wife—the former Katherine Leach—and their children moved to Phoenix, where Akin formed a partnership with three other men to develop, manage and sell rural properties. Western Farm Management Company eventually operated in California and Nevada as well, later merging to form Doane-Western. During the 1940s and 1950s, Akin's strong interest in water issues led him to become active in Arizona's struggle to ensure its share of the Colorado River water. He joined with other businessmen in forming the Colorado River Project Association, serving as its first president and as the first chairman of the Interstate Stream Commission for 18 years. Akin served on the boards of numerous other state and federal organizations and commissions.

**ACQUISITION**

Donated in two parts by Wayne M. Akin in 1989 and 1991.

**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.

**PROCESSING**

The collection was consolidated and processed in March 1994 by Scott Thompson, under the supervision of Rose Byrne, Archivist.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Akin collection consists of three boxes arranged in six series: (1) Unpublished Materials; (2) Published Material; (3) Correspondence, 1933-1989; (4) Business Records; (5) Miscellaneous Material; and (6) Photographs.

The greater part of the collection pertains to Akin's involvement, first as co-founder and later as president, of Western Farm Management Company of Phoenix. The information is in the form of business records (deeds, appraisals, real estate listings, etc.), correspondence, and personal reminiscences. As the first president of the Central Arizona Project Association and chairman of the Arizona Interstate Stream commission, Akin was part of the vanguard in the fight for Arizona's share of the Colorado River water. Akin's own account of the battle over the Central Arizona Project (CAP), for a 1982 interview, is of particular interest. A 1989 interview with Akin can be found in the oral history collection (AV 0424)

Series One, Unpublished Material, contains an interview with Akin concerning his role in the Cap, an historical chronology of interstate discourse over the Colorado River, a typed manuscript of anecdotes of the early days of Akin's company, and other materials on the history of Western Farm Management Company. Folders are arranged topically.

Series Two, Published Materials, consists of a prospectus on the industrial development of property in Yuma, annuals from the Colorado community where Akin served as school superintendent from 1923 to 1930, a commencement project from the University of Arizona (Akin received the honorary degree of Doctor of Science), and a CAP briefing book. Folders in this series are arranged in chronological order.

Series Three, Correspondence, 1933-1989, is comprised of letters between Akin and L.D. Klemmedson regarding a joint business venture, as well as some of Akin's personal writings. Additional correspondence related to business dealings can be found in the following series. Materials are filed in chronological order.

Series Four, Business Records, spans the period 1921 to 1973 and contains miscellaneous reports and surveys, account sheets detailing operating expenses for a large ranch, real estate transactions, deeds, trust agreements, and loan applications from Akin's files at Western Farm Management Company. Folders are arranged chronologically.

Series Five, Miscellaneous Material, consists of political cartoon by Reg Manning, a copy of the film "Our American Heritage," by Ewald Stein, an article on Doane-Western (formerly Western Farm Management Company), and clippings of articles from the Arizona Republic on the struggle over the Central Arizona Project. These materials are filed in chronological order.

Series Six, Photographs, contains photographs of farms and ranches from Western Farm Management Company files. These items have been transferred to the photograph collection. Request the Wayne M. Akin Photo Collection.

## Box and Folder Listing

### Box 1

#### Series One Unpublished Materials

- f.1 Akin, Wayne M. "The Early Days" (n.d.). (2 items)
- f.2 Service brochure for Western Farm Management Company (WFMC); "A Brief History of Doane-Western Company." (5 items)
- f.3 Wayne M. Akin interview, September 14, 1982. (2 items)
- f.4 "Historical Chronology Colorado River Interstate and International, 1867-1965;" an historical chronology of specific events dealing with the Colorado River, in Akin's handwriting; and "The Bishop Story" and transcripts from Arizona Farmer-Ranchman (5 items)
- f.5 Typed manuscript lauding attorney Mark Wilmer's role in the suit between Arizona and California over the Colorado River water. (2 items)

#### Series Two Published Materials

- f.6 South Park Industrial District (1960). (1 item)
- f.7 Community Reflections (1976). (1 item)
- f.8 Community Affairs (1977). (1 item)
- f.9 Eighty-Second Annual Commencement Exercises (1977). (1 item)

### Box 2

- f.10 Central Arizona Project, Briefing Book (1988). (2 items)

#### Series Three Correspondence, 1933-1989

- f.11 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1933-1989. (14 items)

#### Series Four Business Records

- f.12 Miscellaneous reports and surveys of farm and ranch properties, 1921-1945. (8 items)
- f.13 Miscellaneous account sheets, 1934-1947. (6 items)
- f.14 "Farm and Ranch Information File." Listings and appraisals dated 1939-1969. (12 items)
- f.15 Papers on the Nichols transaction, 1946-1948. (14 items)

### Box 3

- f.16 Miscellaneous file on Industrial Properties, Inc., 1955-1972. (1 item)
- f.17 Industrial Properties, Inc., deeds file, 1958-1973. (1 item)
- f.18 Industrial Properties, Inc., maps and aerial photographs. (8 items)
- f.19 Taylor Trusts/Small Business Administration Loan Papers file contains loan applications, correspondence, maps, and schedules on re-submittal of SBA loan, 1966-1967. (1 item)
- f.20 Promissory note, 1967. (2 items)
- f.21 Stockholder agreement; American Capital. Corporation stock; and Omega Electronics Corporation stock. (3 items)

#### Series Five Miscellaneous Material

- f.22 Political cartoons signed by artist Reg Manning; newspaper clippings regarding Reg Manning; cartoon of Akin; journal and newspaper clippings about Doane-Western and the history of the Central Arizona Project; and film entitle, "Our American Heritage." (9 items)

#### Outside item

"Our American Heritage" videoreel

#### Series Six Photographs

Transferred to the photograph collection.