

**MS 1080**  
**Anna Charouleau, 1884-1973**  
**Papers 1907-1965 (bulk 1934-1958)**

## **DESCRIPTION**

The Charouleau Collection contains a wide variety of materials from personal and family papers, to correspondence regarding the sport of boxing, photographs of Barrio Historico and charity events, real estate records, and 21 reels of 16mm film. Much of the material relates to Ms. Charouleau's work as a boxing promoter for Jack Willis in the mid-1930s and her work with charities and the Chamber of Commerce in Tucson in the mid- to late-1950s. Papers and photographs span from 1907 to 1965, with the bulk dates of 1934–1958.

11 boxes, 9.5 linear feet

## **ACQUISITION**

Part of this collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Society in 1958 by Anna Charouleau, the remainder at an unknown time.

## **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**

This collection was processed by James Bailey, Volunteer, and by Mario M. Einaudi, Archivist, November 1997.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Anna Charouleau was born in 1884 in Tucson, A.T. Her father Pierre Charouleau had arrived in Tucson in 1870 from France via Peru. Pierre Charouleau, who was also known as Pedro, became a prosperous rancher and landowner in Tucson. In 1880 he married Anna's mother, Angelina Pierson, who was also French. Anna grew up in Tucson, but in around 1900 she moved to California, living first in Los Angeles and then San Francisco. When her father died in 1930, she returned to Tucson to maintain and develop the properties owned by her father in downtown Tucson.

The primary property was Block 216 of downtown Tucson which was bordered by Broadway, Scott Ave., Jackson, and Stone Ave. For a time she lived at 49 E. Jackson. While she developed her family properties in the 1930s, she also developed an interest in professional boxing. She promoted Jack Willis, an African-American heavyweight boxer from L.A. from 1934 to '35. In the late 1940s

she sold her family properties for \$500,000.00. She used the money to take a trip around the World in 1948 by plane, the first Tucsonan to do so.

Anna would remain in Tucson the rest of her life. She was very active in civic affairs, including the Chamber of Commerce and various charities. She was most active coordinating charity events with both the Tucson Police and Fire Departments, helping to host several parties at several children's hospitals, including Comstock. She was also involved in some early historic research of downtown. Anna had one sister, Marie Louise Leonie, who was born in 1881 and died in 1950 of asthma. Anna Charouleau died in Tucson on June 12, 1973 at the age of 88 years.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Charouleau Collection has been divided into five series: Personal Papers, Business papers, Printed Materials, Photographs, and Films. The collection contains a wide variety of materials including correspondence with Teofilo Otero regarding her parent's properties in central Tucson; real estate papers regarding Block 216 of Tucson; correspondence with heavyweight fighter Jack Willis, his mother, and his trainer Harry Eagles; and photographs of downtown Tucson in the 1950s, with some very good images of Barrio Historico including Jackson Street.

There are two diaries in the collection, one is Anna's Travel Diary for her flight around the world, the other by an unknown author, but possibly her sister Louise's. There is a sizable clipping file from the 1910s and 1920s on various beauty solutions. This includes a selection of photographs showing facial disfigurement due to acne or other ailments. The films have primarily to do with Hawaii, although there are some films showing a bull fight in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

Many of the photographs are professionally done, usually either by Peter Balestrero or Ray Manley. There is also a Buehman portrait of notable Tucson Pioneers, including George Roskruge and Anna's father, Pedro Charouleau. Also included are photographs of various boxing champions, including Dempsey, Max Baer, John Henry Laws, and Jack Willis. Photographs include four photograph albums showing charity events at Comstock Hospital and the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind. There is also one oversized box of images including many images of Hawaii. Two folders of amateur photographs may have been inherited from Anna's sister, Louise.

#### Box 1

##### S.1 Personal Papers

f.1-3	Correspondence	1919-1958
f.4-5	Bank and Financial Records	1914-1936
f.6-7	Travel Diary & Passports	1948-1952
f.8	Baptism Certificate, Marie Louise Charouleau	n.d.
f.9	Ration Books and Stamps	c. 1943
f.10	Diary, unknown author, possibly Louise's	1909-1924
f.11	Two play scripts	n.d.

##### S.2 Business Papers

f.12-15	Boxing correspondence	1934-1936
---------	-----------------------	-----------

#### Box 2

f.16-17	Chamber of Commerce	1935-1955
f.18	Charity work, Comstock Children's Hospital	1958
f.19	Mining claim	1929
f.20-23	Real-estate	1907-1957
f.24	Financial ledger	1908-1924

##### S.3 Printed Materials

	f.25	Newspaper clippings	c.1910-1964
	f.26	Beauty aids clipping	1910-1926
	S.4 Photographs		
	f.27	Anna Charouleau Portraits and Travel	c.1895-1948
	f.28	Family Album	c.1915
Box 3			
	f.29	Evergreen Cemetery	1952
	f.30-33	Misc. Unidentified Portraits, Places	n.d.
	f.34	Buehman Portrait of Notable Tucson Pioneers	1924
	f.35-38	Tucson Barrio Historico	1954-1964
	f.39	Boxing	c.1935
	f.40	Portraits for beauty advertisement	c.1920
Box 4-5	f.41-50	Charity Work	1958-1965
		Seeing eye dogs	
		Comstock Children's Hospital	
		AZ School for the Deaf & Blind	
		Pistol team of the Tucson Police Department	
		Covered Well Mission	
	f.51-52	Hawaii	n.d.
Box 6			
	Oversized box		
		Portraits	n.d.
		Hawaii	n.d.
Box 7-8			
	S.5 Films	Bull fight, Ice Follies, Desert scenes, Hawaiian Scenes	c.1960
Box 9			
	Architectural Drawings – Drawings of Charouleau's downtown property by H. Jaastad		
Box 9-10 (added 9/2015)			
	S.5 Films	Hawaiian volcanoes, other trips, desert sunsets	