

TITLE: James Fred McKale Collection

DATE RANGE: 1902 - 1967

CALL NUMBER: MS 456

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear ft. (2 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Material donated by James Fred McKale on 30 November 1963, 21 March 1963, and 5 May 1981.

COPYRIGHT: Requests for permission to publish materials from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Archives Department.

RESTRICTIONS: Some material is fragile and may not be photocopied.

CREDIT LINE: Arizona Historical Society-Tucson, MS 456 – James Fred McKale Collection

PROCESSED BY: This collection was processed on November 14, 1994 by Charles H. Becker, Jr. under the supervision of Archivist Rose Byrne.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: James F. McKale, or “Pop” as he was known to athletes and students, became nationally recognized as Athletic Director for the University of Arizona. Born in Lansing, Michigan on 12 June 1887, he graduated from Lansing High School in 1905, going on to Albion College where he received a bachelor’s degree in History and Chemistry. He was a born athlete, quarterback, catcher, and broad-jumper, winning all-Michigan intercollegiate honors in his junior year. That same year he turned down an offer to play professional baseball. Devoted to education, McKale believed that a man should enter school to learn and prepare for life. Competitive sports were a part of that preparation.

After graduating from Albion, he taught in Superior, Wisconsin for a year before moving south to Arizona. He arrived in Tucson in 1911 where he taught history and coached at Tucson High School until he was invited, by “popular acclaim,” in 1914 to join the faculty of the U of A.

In 1915 he was appointed University of Arizona’s Athletic Director and coach, a post he served for forty-two years before retiring in 1957. After appointment he married his college sweetheart, Ada Sackett, on 31 July 1915. In the coming years they had three children; Marian, Elizabeth, and Ruth. Later in 1919 he received his Master’s degree in Education with a minor in Law.

During his tenure he coached every major university sport, leading the football team onto the field for seventeen years and baseball team for thirty-five. He was president of the American Association of College Baseball Coaches and elected into the Helms College Baseball Hall of Fame in 1954. He was elected to the Arizona Pioneer’s Historical Society in 1944.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The Collection contains 1 cubic foot of material arranged in two boxes consisting of the biographical material of James Fred McKale’s professional career as

Athletic Director of the University of Arizona, 1914 to 1957, in six series: (1) Correspondence, Ephemera, and Printed Material, 1902-1967; (2) Newspaper Clippings and Magazine Articles, 1925-1964; (3) Programs, 1912-1961; (4) Song Books and Athletic Souvenirs, and (5) Lansing High School Yearbooks, Lansing Michigan, 1902-1906.

Series 1, Correspondence, Ephemera, and Printed Material, 1902-1967, consists of two folders. Folder 1 contains printed reference material centering on the University of Arizona and Southwest Arizona. Included is James F. McKale's Abraham Lincoln: The Politician. Folder 2 contains personal correspondence, a petition, and some biographical material centering on McKale's late career (1950's) at the University.

Series 2, Newspaper Clippings and Magazine Articles, 1925-1964, consists of two folders. Folder 1 contains biographical and related articles from Tucson newspapers from 1925 to 1964. Folder contains articles from 1938 to 1958 centered mostly on McKale's appointment in 1915 and retirement in 1957.

Series 3, Programs, 1912-1961, consists of two folders. Folder 1 contains game programs and other assorted programs centered around the late 1950's. Folder 2 contains programs from the Arizona High School Basketball Tournament, from 1933 to 1955, held yearly at the University of Arizona.

Series 4, Song Books and Athletic Souvenirs, consists of one folder containing University of Arizona Song Books for 1903 and 1941 and an Athletic Souvenirs broadside from 1911.

Series 5, Lansing High School Yearbooks, 1902-1906, consists of a single folder containing six high school yearbooks from 1902 to 1906.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1		Series 1, Correspondence, Ephemera, and Printed Material	1902-1967
	1	Pamphlets	1902-1967
	2	Correspondence, etc.	1902-1967
		Series 2, Newspaper Clippings and Magazine Articles	1925-1964
	3	Clippings	1925-1964
	4	Articles	1938-1958
		Series 3, Programs	1912-1961
	5	Programs	1950-1964
	6	Programs (incomplete)	1933-1955
		Series 4, Song Books and Athletic Souvenirs	1903-1941
	7	Song Books and Broad sides	1903-1941
		Series 5, Lansing High School Yearbooks	1902-1906
	8	Scrapbook	1911-1914
	9	Photo of Team	1911
2		Yearbooks	1902-1906