
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

949 East Second Street

Library and Archives

Tucson, AZ 85719

(520) 617-1157

ahsref@vms.arizona.edu

MS 1199**Murphey, Walter Edgar Sr., 1859-1934****Murphey Papers, 1910-1934****DESCRIPTION**

The collection consists of varied correspondence concerning Murphey's business holding's in Arizona, and personal Family materials. Murphey was heavily involved in the Tucson Real Estate business, as well as owning and managing farmland near Coolidge, AZ. The correspondence concerning land management of the farm involves discussion of the San Carlos Irrigation Project. Arizona Representative, Isabella Greenway, writes to inform Murphey on the attempted amendments being made to the Project in Congress. In 1919 Murphey purchased land east of Tucson, near the University of Arizona, called University Heights for division and sale into residential and business lots. This collection includes printed ads for those lots. Also included is Mrs. Elizabeth Bivins Murphey's personal mail concerning the upkeep and rental of her farm land in Georgia, and an exercise folio containing papers related to her appointment as the President of the Lady's Aid Society of the First Baptist Church in Tucson from 1914-1915.

1 box, .25 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Walter Edgar Murphey Sr. was born in Hamilton, Georgia on May 4, 1859. He graduated from the University of Nashville, a member of the Greek letter fraternity, Phi Delta Theta. After graduation he became a teacher in Columbus then moved on to become a banker in Americus, GA. In 1885 Murphey married Miss Elizabeth Ella Bivins in Americus, and the couple eventually had seven children together. In 1894 he traveled to Phoenix, Arizona and became the Assistant Surveyor General of the Territory of Arizona, which he held for a total of seven years. In his second year of office he moved his family to Tucson. After he left office he entered the Real Estate and Insurance business, in which he remained until 1921 when he retired to look after his personal holdings. He was one of the first to capitalize on the growth potential of the area surrounding the University of Arizona, east of Tucson at that time, and purchased several pieces of the surrounding land for private development. Murphey was also one of the founders of the original Old Pueblo Club. He died on September 29, 1934 in his home in Tucson.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Chuck and Judy Raetzman

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

Brandi Barleycorn, AHS volunteer, processed this collection under the supervision of Riva Dean. June 2001.