

TITLE: Orto Photograph Collection

DATE RANGE: 1950s-1980s

CALL NUMBER: Y-PC 6

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear feet (4 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Steve and Anne Orto, 1980s.

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RESTRICTIONS: This collection is unrestricted.

CREDIT LINE: Orto Photograph Collection Y-PC 6, Arizona Historical Society- Rio Colorado Division

PROCESSED BY: Linda Whitaker, January 2015

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Steve and Anne Orto owned the Hobby Craft Shop at 46 W. 2nd Street, Yuma, Arizona from 1953 to 1977. Both were popular, civic-minded citizens who contributed to the quality of life in Yuma. Anne was an active member of the Christian Science Church, Pilot Club, Desert Manor, Freedoms Foundation, Yuma County Historical Society and co-founder of Senior Citizens Day on the Territorial Mall. The Ortos were charter members of the Yuma Fine Arts Association and headed the Arts and Crafts display at the Yuma County Fair for twenty-eight years. For her enthusiastic leadership and many contributions to the community, Yuma Mayor Phil Clark proclaimed Anne Orto Day just two days before she died on July 1, 1983.

Her husband, Steve was also a professional photographer who documented Yuma County Fair events, youth model plane and car model competitions in addition to formal portraiture, buildings and landscapes. His photographs provide the bulk of this collection. Steve Orto died August 11, 1986 at his home in Yuma. The Ortos were survived by daughter, Lois Biggs and two grandchildren of West Lake, Ohio.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The photographs are significant for their quality and composition. They document youth and fine arts activities over a 20-year period and fill in important cultural and recreational gaps in the historical record. Apart from yearbook and class photos, youth is under-documented statewide. These photos provide candid and engaging images on making airplane models as well as activities relating to fine arts and crafts.

Arranged in eight series. **Series I: Arts and Crafts** – documents a wide range of activities with a focus on airplane models, competitions, and Yuma Fair displays. **Series II: Buildings** – local, regional and national images featuring architectural and structural

details. **Series III: Contact Prints** –photographic prints made by placing a negative directly onto sensitized paper, glass, or film and illuminating it; includes samples of a wide range of projects; **Series IV: Family and Friends** – covers social gatherings and community events; **Series V: Fine Arts** – documents displays at Yuma County Fair, Yuma Arts Center, and artists at work; **Series VI: Landscapes** – local, regional, national locations; **Series VII: Portraits** - formal sittings including military officials, youth, and Anne Orto; **Series VIII: Oversized** – 14 x 11 photographs sampled from the previous series.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Arts and Crafts: General 1 of 2	1950s-1960s
	2	Arts and Crafts: General 2 of 2	1950s-1960s
	3	Arts and Crafts: Model Cars	n.d.
	4	Arts and Crafts: Model Planes	1950s-1960s
	5	Arts and Crafts: Model Plane Competitions	1950s-1960s
	6	Arts and Crafts: Model Planes with Remote Control	1960s
	6	Buildings: Various	1950s-1960s
2	1	Contact Prints: Various	n.d.
	2	Family and Friends: 1 of 2	1950s-1980s
	3	Family and Friends: 2 of 2	1950s-1980s
	4	Fine Arts: Art Shows, Instruction	1950s-1960s
	5	Fine Arts: Special Events	n.d.
3	1	Landscapes: Various	1950s-1960s
	2	Portraits: Street Scenes, People of San Luis 1 of 3	1950s-1960s
	3	Portraits: Weddings, Musicians, Actresses 2 of 3	1950s-1960s
	4	Portraits: The Ortos, Desert Shoots 3 of 3	1950s-1960s
4	15	Oversized	1950s-1960s