
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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PC 222
Hugo Ernst Birkner Collection
Photograph Collection, ca. 1906

DESCRIPTION

This collection contains pages of a photograph album of black-and-white and cyanotype images. It was compiled around 1906 by Hugo Ernst Birkner while he was a student in the School of Mining at the University of Arizona. Significant images in this collection include the ruins of the Convento in Tucson, the University campus, the Tucson area, and mines (in Douglas and Bisbee, Arizona and Cananea, Mexico) where students conducted fieldwork.

1 box (album), .5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Society by Terry L. Munderloh, granddaughter of Hugo Ernst Birkner, in 2003.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society-Tucson, Library and Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Dena McDuffie in October 2003.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Note: The following information was provided by Terry Littlepage Munderloh, granddaughter of Hugo Ernst Birkner:

Hugo Ernst Birkner was born May 1, 1886 in Sutton, Nebraska. He was the son of Dr. John Martin and Elvira Middleton Birkner, first generation immigrants from Germany. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Arizona School of Mining and later the University of Nebraska. He was a talented football player, starring as the right halfback at Nebraska in 1908, and a member of Phi Delta Theta.

After graduating from college, Hugo was a member of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) surveying team in Alaska before becoming city forester to Portland, Oregon.

Hugo married May Louise Richards in Lincoln, Nebraska on November 6, 1912. The couple had five children: Alice Louise Littlepage, Hugo Ernst Jr., John Martin II, Francis Richard and William Bellows.

In 1915, Hugo enrolled in a Davey Tree Company extension course. The company officials in Kent, Ohio were so impressed by the young Nebraskan's papers, they offered him the extension course manager's job and Hugo and May Louise moved to Kent. During his Davey years, he served as sales manager, assistant general manager and a director of the company, and a vice president.

In 1930, he supervised arrangements for chartering Davey's Canadian subsidiary and was named general manager of the Canadian concern. During the many years of his career with the Davey Tree Company, he also taught business ethics at the Davey Institute of Tree Surgery. After retiring from his full-time duties in 1953, he continued managing Davey properties in North and South Carolina and to direct legal matters of the Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada.

While a resident of Kent, he served on the Kent Board of Education, was a 32nd degree Mason, a charter and emeritus member of the Wranglers Club of Kent, and a member of the Kent area Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Kent.

He was a great lover of the out-of-doors and taught his children and grandchildren the names of the local flora and birds and a respect for nature. His granddaughter Terry fondly remembers all the nature hikes he took his grandchildren on; every hike was a wondrous learning experience.

Hugo died in June 1963 and is buried in the Kent Cemetery.