
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PC 025
Corbett family
Photographs, 1895-1963 (bulk 1920-1963)

DESCRIPTION

Photographs of the Corbett family, primarily J. Knox Corbett and his son, Hiram Corbett, their businesses and their activities including golf tournaments.

5 boxes, 1.5 linear ft.

RELATED MATERIAL

Related Corbett family papers, MS 174.

ACQUISITION

Gift of Hiram S. Corbett, 1949, and Ruth Corbett Cross, 1987.

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, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed previously and a finding aid was prepared by Kim Frontz, September 1998.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John N. Corbett, of Sumtner, South Carolina, and his wife, Gulie Britton, had eight children: L. George, Henry, J. Knox, Leonard, William, Elizabeth, Emma, and Susan. In 1880, William and Henry came to Arizona. They were joined by J. Knox in 1881. William Corbett was appointed assistant Postmaster in Tucson and in 1889, he married Bell Creary. In 1890, he established the W.J. Corbett Hardware Company which he operated until his death in 1919. Henry was employed as a merchant, prospector and laborer. He married Rose, and they had one daughter, Emma.

In 1883, J. Knox Corbett was appointed assistant Postmaster. He married Elizabeth Hughes, daughter of Samuel Hughes and Anastacia Santa Cruz Hughes, in 1885. They had two children Hiram S. and Gulie (married first to Joseph C. Caperton, second to William A. Bell). In 1890, J. Knox was appointed Postmaster; he served four years then he established J. Knox Corbett Lumber. From 1915 to 1917, he served as Mayor of Tucson. He died in April 1934.

At the retirement of his father, Hiram S. Corbett became president of what was then the J. Knox Corbett Hardware and Lumber Company. He married Dorothy Udall in 1924; they were later divorced. They had one son, J. Knox Corbett II. Hiram later married Ruth Weissinger and they had one daughter, Ruth (married to Edward J. Meyer and later Barton Cross). After the death of Hiram's wife, Ruth, he married Frances Ruppelius.

Hiram was an amateur golfer in the 1920s and 1930s. He organized the first Tucson Open golf tournament in 1950. As president of the Texas Baseball League, Hiram was instrumental in bringing professional baseball to Tucson. In 1951, the baseball field at Reid Park was named "Hi Corbett Field" in his honor. Hiram was active in the Republican Party and served as Pima County Chairman, 1920-1924, State Chairman, 1924-1928, and as a national committeeman, 1928-1932. He represented Pima County in the State Senate from 1953 to 1964. He died in July 1967.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Photographs of Corbett, Bell, and Hughes family members, including both portraits and activities. The collection includes many photographs of Hi Corbett with politicians and businessmen, at golf tournaments, on the U.S.S. Dixie (a cruise from San Diego to Pearl Harbor in 1952 as guests of the Navy), and during his college days at Belmont College. There are photographs of a baseball game at Hi Corbett Field, a mule ride at Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon, and a golf tournament at the Tucson Golf and Country Club. Photographs of the filming of the "Rough Riders" in San Antonio, Texas are present which include David Hughes and other veterans attending a reunion on the movie set.

There are photographs of J. Knox Corbett at his desk and with his family. Photographs of the exterior and interior of J. Knox Corbett Lumber and Hardware Co. and the Corbett homes are present. Portraits of family members include his brothers, George and Henry, his mother, A.M. "Jake" Meyer, and the Sam Hughes family celebrating the 50th wedding anniversary of Sam and Atanacia Hughes.

An family album is present from the Weissinger family, circa 1919-1920; later Ruth Weissinger became Hi Corbett's second wife. The album includes images of the S. 4th Avenue home of Nadine Weissinger Zinsmeister and many snapshots of the sisters with their friends as young adults.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

- f.1-2 Bell, Gulie
- f.3-4 Bell, William C.
- f.5 Chandler, A.B.
- f.6 Cooper, Gulita Caperton
- f.7 Corbett, George
- f.8 Corbett, Gulielma
- f.9 Corbett, Henry D.

- f.10 Corbett, Hiram - Album #43781 college days
- f.11 Corbett, Hiram – Automobiles
- f.12 Corbett, Hiram – Buehman’s Babies
- f.13 Corbett, Hiram – Miscellaneous
- f.14 Corbett, Hiram – Golf
- f.15-20 Corbett, Hiram – Group portraits
- f.21 Corbett, Hiram – Hi Corbett Field
- f.22 Corbett, Hiram – Patagonia Lumber Co.
- f.23-25 Corbett, Hiram – Portraits

Box 2

- f.26-27 Corbett, Hiram - “Rough Riders” movie
- f.28 Corbett, Hiram - Newspaper clipping (photos of Tucson businessmen as babies)
- f.29 Corbett, Hiram – Miscellaneous
- f.30-31 Corbett, Hiram – Snapshots
- f.32 Corbett, Hiram – Snapshots in family album
- f.33-34 Corbett, Hiram – Souvenir photos of groups at Flame Restaurant, Phx. and other restaurants
- f.35-37 Corbett, Hiram – U.S.S. Dixie Cruise
- f.38 Corbett, Jackie Ames
- f.39 Corbett, J. Knox
- f.40 Corbett, J. Knox – Business
- f.41 Corbett, J. Knox – Homes
- f.42 Corbett, J. Knox – Portraits
- f.43 Corbett, J. Knox, II and III
- f.44 Corbett, Len W.

Box 3

- f.45 Corbett, Ruth W.
- f.46 Cross, Ruth E. Corbett Meyer
- f.47 Gonzalez, Ray
- f.48 Herlich, Joanne Zinsmeister

- f.49 Hill, Hazel
- f.50 Hughes, Annie
- f.51 Hughes, Jessie
- f.52 Hughes, Lizzie
- f.53 Isaacs, Attie Hughes
- f.54 Meyer, A.M.
- f.55 Meyer, Edward J.
- f.56 Meyer, Elizabeth Lynn and Christina Ruth
- f.57 Roosevelt, Theodore (with crowd at train station)
- f.58 Sheean, Mary
- f.59 Stevens, Hiram
- f.60-61 Unidentified people
- f.62 Vest, Hildred Weissinger (also Box 4)
- f.63 Vincent, Pat Connolly
- f.64 Weissinger, Mrs. Harold
- f.65 Wilkins, Mrs. R.
- f.66 Young, Virginia Grose
- f.67 Misc. – Horse round-up at Empire Ranch (1 photo)
- f.68-71 Scrapbook – Hi Corbett Golf Tournament (loose pages)

Box 4

Family album of Weissinger girls (Hildred Weissinger Best, Nadine Weissinger Zinsmeister Bishopp, Ruth W. Weissinger Corbett) and their friends, circa 1919-1920, assembled by Hildred Weissinger

Box 5 Oversize photos

Including Sam Hughes portrait, Mariner's Juvenile Band, Hiram Corbett and golf tournaments, Composite litho of Arizona 24th and 25th legislatures, 1960-1961, and more.