

VIOLA RUTH MUSIC COLLECTION-MSS 98

Records: 1910-1964

No. of Items: 6 boxes, 3 cu. ft.

Provenance: Donated to the Arizona Historical Society in 2012 by the Arizona Historical Foundation.

The Viola Ruth Music Collection is about the life of Viola Ruth, Arizona fiddling champion, 1926-1949. "Mom" Ruth was the subject of Ralph Edwards, "This Is Your Life" television program on April 13, 1955. Mrs. Ruth offered instruction in violin, mandolin and voice at the Ruth School of Western Music in Phoenix.

Material consists of "This Is Your Life" scrapbook, correspondences news clippings, assorted music books--some from the 1800s, and sound recordings consisting of reel-to-reel as well as wire recordings.

The Viola Ruth Music Collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Foundation by her daughter and fellow musician, Marie Ruth.

Condition: Good.

Volume: 5 Hollinger boxes: 2.5 cu. ft.

Box 1

Folder 1 Viola Ruth - "This Is Your Life," scrapbook/script, Apr. 13, 1955

Folder 2 Correspondence, contracts, 1954-55

Folder 3 News clippings, newsletters, 1952-61

Box 2-6 Miscellaneous song books and sound recordings. 1800s-1964

Box 2: One wire recording "Medley Mom and Marie" N.D. has been digitally converted to CD.

One ¼ inch reel-to-reel recording "Vicki Ruth-Fiddle & Singing Calls Marie Ruth-Piano 1960" has been digitally converted to CD.

Note: Several music books by Scottish musician, Robert Holliday, contain hand-scored Scottish aires, reels and polkas, 1800s-1962.

In addition, one snapshot of Viola Ruth and her daughter, Marie, at home. One 8 x 10 photograph of Ruth and others in front of Ruth's Western School of Music.

Betty L. Bustos
Feb. 4, 1991