

GUSSE THOMAS SMITH COLLECTION-MSS 5

Papers: 1910-1964

3 Boxes, 1.25 cu. ft.

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

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gusse Thomas Smith (1881-1964) and her family came to Arizona from Missouri in 1918. She served as Publicity Director for the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce from 1924 to 1929, and as Social Director of the Arizona Biltmore Hotel from 1929 to 1945. In both capacities, she wrote a number of promotional brochures and travel articles about Arizona. Ms. Smith also wrote short stories and articles which were submitted to national magazines for publication, and was a contributor to Arizona Highways. Fascinated by the birds in the desert surrounding the hotel, she studied local flora and fauna. In 1941, Smith published Birds of the Southwestern Desert, based on a popular lecture series she conducted while at the Biltmore. Matthews Library of Arizona State University later honored her by naming a nook for her literary contributions.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Gusse Thomas Smith Collection consists of five series: Biographical Material; Correspondence; Manuscripts/Research Notes; Arizona Biltmore Hotel; and Miscellaneous. The Gusse Thomas Smith Photograph Collection is separately cataloged, and consists primarily of photographs of the Arizona Biltmore and various Arizona tourist attractions, c. 1930.

DESCRIPTION

Box 1

Series 1 **Biographical Material**

- Folder 1 Autobiographical Essay, N.D.
Diary of the trip from Hannibal, MO to Phoenix, 1918.
- Folder 2 Speech to High School Vocational Assembly, 1941
Newsclipping, 1956

Series 2 **Correspondence**

- Folder 1 Literary Agents, newspapers, magazines; 1910-1945
- Folder 2 Odessa Davenport, Literary Agent, 1948-49

Series 3 **Manuscripts/Research Notes**

- Folder 1 Text and notes for speech before Arizona State Federation of Women's Clubs, N.D.

Series 3 Continued

- Folder 2 Newsclippings and Notes on Material in Arizona State Historian's Office, 1927-1940?
- Folder 3 Notes on Flora and Fauna of Arizona; Reading Notes - for book reviews
- Folder 4 Manuscripts: Short Stories, 1929-1952
- Folder 5 Manuscript: The Mystery of Spirit Mountain (253 pgs)
- Folder 6 Manuscript: Arizona Tourist Camps, c. 1930

Box 2

- Folder 7 Manuscripts: Desert Plants and Animals, c. 1925
- Folder 8 Manuscript: Bar F X Ranch, Wickenburg, AZ, 1931
- Folder 9 Manuscript: Cork Industry (includes background research), c. 1946
- Folder 10 Manuscript: Cattlebrands, N.D.
- Folder 11 Manuscripts: Meteor Crater (includes background research), c. 1945
- Folder 12 Manuscripts: Miscellaneous - Arizona topics, c. 1925

Series 4 Arizona Biltmore Hotel

- Folder 1 Arizona Biltmore Hotel Brochures, c. 1940
- Folder 2 "Booklovers" Program: newsclipping, printed agendas, book reviews by Gusse Smith
- Folder 3 Promotional articles by Gusse Smith
- Folder 4 Biltmore Sahuaro Park Residential Development- prospectus letter, 1929; Arizona Biltmore Corporation- stock prospectus; Hotel floor plans (room rates noted); Biltmore Hotels promotional pamphlet re: proposed Arizona Biltmore Hotel; Arizona Biltmore Hotel, opening announcement, 1939

Series 5 Miscellaneous

- Folder 1 Printed Matter- brochures and travel articles written by Gusse Smith for the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, 1920s
- Folder 2 Sketches- Arizona birds

Box 3

- Folder 3-5 Correspondence Course Materials- Short Story Writing, 1911-1912

Index to the Gusse Thomas Smith Collection

Arizona Biltmore Hotel: Box 1/ folder 2a, 2b

Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs: Box 1/ folder 1c

Bar FX Ranch: Box 2/ folder 4c

Birds: Box 1/ folders 1a to 4b

Book Reviews: Box 1/ folder 1a to 4b

Cattle Brands: Box 2/ folder 4g

Cork Industry: Box 2/ folder 4f

Desert Flora: Box 2/ folder 4d

Meteor Crater: Box 2/ folder 4h

Poetry: Box 1/ folders 1a to 4b

Kris Darnall
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