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**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**MS 758**  
**STANLEY, BRUCE MACY, 1872-1957**  
**Papers, 1902-1950**

**DESCRIPTION**

Primarily business correspondence dealing with the Southern Pacific Railroad Telegraph Office. Also includes union materials affecting railroad employees. Includes time books, Southern Pacific Railroad publications, letters and drawings about telegraph transmission systems worked out by Stanley; correspondence concerning his applications for patents, legal materials and a small amount of personal correspondence.

3 Boxes, 1.5 linear feet

**ACQUISITION**

Donated by the Estate of Bruce M. Stanley in 1957.

**RELATED MATERIAL**

PC 154 : Bruce M. Stanley Photo Collection

**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

**COPYRIGHT**

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

**ARRANGEMENT**

4 Series: 1/Southern Pacific Railroad Telegraph Office, 2/Unions & Memberships, 3/Telegraph Inventions, 4/ Personal papers

**PROCESSING**

The collection was processed by Riva Dean in January 1999.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Bruce M. Stanley, manager of the Southern Pacific Telegraph office, came to Tucson in 1902. He was born in Salina, Kansas in 1872 and grew up there. He married Marion Cummings in 1901 in Berkeley, California. Prior to his arrival in Tucson, he had worked in other railroad telegraph offices, included the Southern Pacific de Mexico (Nogales), and the Northern Pacific in St. Paul, Minnesota. He became manager of the Tucson office in 1906 and remained there until his retirement in 1937. Stanley was affiliated with many fraternal organizations and clubs including the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, the National Association of Retired and Veteran Railroad Employees and the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society. He died in 1957.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The bulk of the collection is concerned with the business operations of the Southern Pacific Railroad Telegraph Office in Tucson between 1904 and 1937 when Bruce M. Stanley managed the office. The correspondence (which is mostly in telegrams) is concerned with the day to day operations of transmitting the telegrams and the employees working in the office. The collections also includes the time books for employees. Printed material put out by SPRR includes the "Rules, Regulations and Rates of Pay" for employees.

Stanley was a member of several unions that affected Railroad employees, including Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, and the American Federation of Labor. The collection includes some papers and correspondence concerning his involvement with the unions. Of particular interest is a book which Stanley kept entitled "U N History." Some of this "diary" appears to have been written on the date given on the page, but others were written later of events that Stanley felt were important to the Railroad or Arizona. Much of the entries are concerned with union activities. Toward the end of the book, most of the entries are obituaries of people he knew or admired and a second folder has mostly telegrams of obituaries for Railroad employees.

Several folders are correspondence and drawings concerning Stanley's telegraph equipment inventions, including blueprints and diagrams. Also included are two folders have correspondence and a log book of Stanley's interest and activities in growing dates and pecans in the Tucson area.

**Series 1: Southern Pacific Railroad Telegraph Office**

**Box 1**

f. 1-9 SPRR Telegraph Office – Business Correspondence, 1908-1936

**Box 2**

f. 10 SPRR Telegraph Office – Record of Business handled, May 1906-Oct. 1910

f. 11-15 SPRR Telegraph Office – Time Books, October 1906-August 1919

f. 16 “UN History”, 1903-1950

f. 17 Telegrams re: deaths, 1927-48 (Part of UN History)

**Box 3**

f. 18-20 SPRR Telegraph Office – Rules, Regulations & Rates of Pay, 1902-1930

f. 21 SPRR Telegraph Office – Miscellaneous printed material

f. 22 SPRR Telegraph Office – Cochise Utilities Company

**Series 2 : Unions & Memberships**

f. 23 “Big 4,” 1915-16

f. 24 Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, 1915

f. 25 Order of Railroad Telegraphers, 1916-27

f. 26 American Federation of Labor, 1916

f. 27 Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, 1944-47

**Series 3 : Telegraph Inventions**

f. 28 Correspondence from C. Harding with drawings, 1908-1911

f. 29 Blueprints of Telegraph Systems

f. 30 Notes & Sketches by Stanley for inventions

f. 31 Correspondence concerning telegraph inventions, 1908-1916

**Series 4: Miscellaneous**

f. 32 Political Correspondence, 1926-33

f. 33 Personal Property, 1904-07

f. 34 Personal Correspondence to Stanley, 1913-16

f. 35 Personal Correspondence with Gertrude Oland, 1915

f. 36 Date & Pecan Growing – Log Book

f. 37 Date & Pecan Growing – Correspondence, 1927-28

f. 38 Clippings, 1938