
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**MS 1146
Sullivan, Muriel K.
Papers, 1962-1983; Bulk Dates, 1960s**

DESCRIPTION

The collection consists of photographs and a scrapbook. The photographs, taken between 1964 and 1968, relate to Muriel Sullivan's work as an Extension Home Economist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Tohono O'odham reservation. The scrapbook of photos, newspaper clippings and information on the Tohono O'odham was created by Muriel Sullivan to describe the work of the Sells Service Women between 1962 and 1983.

4 boxes, 2.25 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The collection was donated by Muriel K. Sullivan in 1991 and 1994.

RELATED MATERIALS

Sells Service Women Papers, MS 1145.
Muriel Sullivan oral history interview, AV 0448.

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.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Megan D. Mulligan, intern, under the supervision of Kim Frontz, and completed in November 1999.

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE

Muriel K. Sullivan was born in Brockton, Massachusetts and was educated in the Boston area. Sullivan worked for the Works Progress Administration in the area of early childhood training after graduating from college. She quickly changed jobs and began to work for Boston Edison where she learned to use the latest equipment in order to train others in cooking classes. As Boston Edison shifted all of its attention to war production during World War II, Sullivan was forced to look for another job. She worked briefly for the Farm Security Administration until the federal government dissolved the budget, at which time she taught sewing, cooking and home management in Boston-area junior high schools and senior high schools.

Diagnosed with pleurisy in the mid-1940s, Sullivan moved to Phoenix to clear her lungs. She worked for the Arizona Edison Company (now named Arizona Public Service) in the Home Services Department for about five years, at which time she married and relocated to Tucson. In 1962, with the help of Elizabeth Estrada, Sullivan established the Sells Service Women with a membership of 27 women. Sullivan became president of the group, a position which she retained until her death. Sullivan was responsible for bringing the University of Arizona's Town and Country Week to the Tohono O'odham reservation. Every year the University would close prior to the start of summer session at which time anyone could participate in the variety of classes offered. Sullivan arranged for two women from each village on the reservation to attend the classes. She hoped that, through this program, the children of these women would be encouraged to attend the University. In 1964, after Sullivan's husband died, she obtained a job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and moved to Sells. She worked for the BIA from 1964 to 1968 and, as an Extension Home Economist, her job was to do anything worthwhile that upgraded living conditions on the reservation. Muriel Sullivan died on October 26, 1995.

The Sells Hospital Service Women, based in Tucson, Arizona, organized in 1962 (later changing the name to Sells Service Women) in order to aid the Sells Indian Hospital in Sells, Arizona, by hosting arts and crafts activities, by acquiring necessary medical equipment, and by sponsoring the Sells Candy Strippers. The group quickly expanded its work to provide such items as clothes, shoes and playground equipment. Their major fundraising event was their annual card party where they received many donations from local businesses and sold raffle tickets. The Sells Service Women often received help from other volunteer (mostly women's) organizations, either through knitting clothes or through aiding the women's fundraising efforts. In the late 1970s federal funding increased for the hospital, but the Sells Service Women continued its work in new ways by providing small scholarships for Tohono O'odham students attending Pima Community College and by donating books and magazines to libraries on the Reservation.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

There are two parts to this collection. The first part consists of photos recording Sullivan's work for the BIA on the Tohono O'odham reservation from 1964-1968. In this capacity, Muriel Sullivan taught classes in sewing, nutrition, and arts & crafts for the women on the reservation, mostly in Sells, Pisinimo, Gila Bend, San Xavier, Santa Rosa Ranch, Kerwo, Topawa and New Fields. Sullivan labeled many of the photos, indicating the year, the project and sometimes the people. There are photos of the landscape and houses in Gila Bend and New Fields, and there are also several photos relating to the Sells Service Women. Most of the photos are black and white, but there are some color photos, slides and one negative.

The second part of the collection contains a scrapbook of newspaper clippings, photos and programs collected by Sullivan that details the work of the Sells Service Women from 1962-1983. The scrapbook also contains information on the Papago Candy Strippers, the Sells Service Women annual card party, and thank yous for the group's various contributions.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1 of 4 (Black-and-white Photographs)

- Folder 1 – Lesson Book
- Folder 2 – Picture of Muriel Sullivan
- Folder 3 – Home Decoration in Sells, Santa Rosa Ranch and Chu Chu, 1965
- Folder 4 – Summer Sewing Session: Kerwo, 1965-1966
- Folder 5 – Summer Sewing Session: Pisinimo, 1965-1967
- Folder 6 – Summer Sewing Session: San Xavier, 1966-1967
- Folder 7 – Summer Sewing Session: Santa Rosa Ranch, 1965-1967
- Folder 8 – Summer Sewing Session: Sells, 1965-1967
- Folder 9 – Summer Sewing Session: Topawa, 1965
- Folder 10 – Summer Sewing Session: Vaya Chin, 1966
- Folder 11 – Summer Sewing Session: Miscellaneous, 1965-1967
- Folder 12 – Basic Dressmaking: Sells, Santa Rosa, Pisinimo, and Topawa, 1966, 1968
- Folder 13 – Basic Dressmaking: Gila Bend and New Fields, 1965-1967
- Folder 14 – Basic Dressmaking: Miscellaneous, 1967-1968
- Folder 15 – Papago Fair, 1965
- Folder 16 – Papago Fair, 1966-1967
- Folder 17 – Arts & Crafts: Gila Bend, Pisinimo, Sells and Topawa, December 1965
- Folder 18 – Arts & Crafts: San Xavier, Sells, and Pisinimo, 1966-1968
- Folder 19 – San Xavier Community Hall: Making Drapes and Social Gathering, 1965-1966
- Folder 20 – Knitting and Embroidery, 1967
- Folder 21 – Parent/Child and Headstart: Sells and Santa Rosa Ranch, 1966, 1968
- Folder 22 – Foods and Nutrition Classes, 1965-1968
- Folder 23 – Foods and Nutrition Classes: Community Luncheon and Misc., 1966-1967
- Folder 24 – Town and Country Week, 1966-1967

Box 2 of 4 (Black-and-white Photographs)

- Folder 25 – Sells Service Women: Pisinimo Tour, 1966

Folder 26 – Sells Service Women: Sells Hospital, 1967-1968

BOX AND FOLDER LIST (contd.)

Box 2 of 4 (Cont.)

Folder 27 – Sells Service Women: Activities, 1968

Folder 28 – Gila Bend: People and Houses (interior), 1964-1967

Folder 29 – Gila Bend: Landscape, Houses (exterior) and Curtains, 1966-1967

Folder 30 – New Fields: Landscape

Dates: 1965-1966

Folder 31 – Miscellaneous

Dates: 1965-1968

Box 3 of 4 (Color Photographs)

Folder 32 – Summer Sewing Session Color Photos: Kerwo, Santa Rosa Ranch, and Sells, 1966-1967

Folder 33 – Summer Sewing Session Slides: Santa Rosa Ranch, Sells, Pisinimo, and Misc., 1966-1967

Folder 34 – Papago Fair Color Photos

Folder 35 – Papago Fair Slides, 1966-1967

Folder 36 – Basic Dressmaking Color Photos

Folder 37 – Basic Dressmaking Slides

Folder 38 – San Xavier Community Hall Color Photos, 1965-1966

Folder 39 – Parent/Child Slides and Color Photo

Folder 41 – Foods and Nutrition Slides, 1966-1967

Folder 42 – Town and Country Week Color Photo

Folder 43 – Sells Service Women Slides

Folder 44 – Gila Bend Color Photos

Folder 45 – Gila Bend Slides

Folder 46 – Miscellaneous Slides

Box 4 of 4

1 scrapbook of Sells Service Women Activities, 1962-1983