
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**MS 909
Tucson Little Theatre
Papers, 1926-1951**

DESCRIPTION

Activities of the Tucson Little Theatre, primarily documented by photographs, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings and theatre programs.

6 Boxes, 5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The bulk of the collection came from the estate of Marian Maude Sarrels donated by G. E. Kingman.

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

Riva Dean processed the collection in November 1999.

ARRANGEMENT

4 Series : 1/ Minutes, by-laws, etc., 1940-1948, 2 : Programs & Newsletters, 1937-1951, 3/ : Photographs, ca. 1937-1951, 4/ Clippings & Scrapbooks, 1926-1951.

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Marian Maud Sarrels (1911-1993) was born in Tucson and attended schools here, including graduating from the University of Arizona in 1936. She lived and worked in Tucson until 1965 when she moved to Safford and later Kingman, Arizona. During her years in Tucson, she was very active in the community, especially in the work of the Tucson Little Theatre.

The Tucson Little Theatre was an active community theatre group performing plays at the Temple of Music and Art. They had an active membership from the community and a large group players from the community, putting on popular plays of the day, such as *The Inspector General*, *Margin for Error*, *Here Comes Mr. Jordan* and *The Skin of Our Teeth*. They were active from 1937/1938 to 1951/52, having “seasons” every winter. In addition, they put on teaching workshops with “School of the Theatre.”

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection documents the activities of the Tucson Little Theatre, a community theatre company in Tucson from the late 1930s to the early 1950s. The activities are primarily documented by programs of the theatre and scrapbooks. Programs for all the productions are included as well as activities of the theatre workshops. Newspaper clippings of the activities and play reviews are also included. Minutes from meetings during the 1940s include the active members as well as the goals of the community based theatre group.

One series of photographs includes photographs taken of productions. The photographs are arranged by the name of the play, but include stage sets and players. Some of the players are identified by name and there are several photographs of people involved in the production aspects, including Marian Sarrels. Photographs include shots of the empty sets as well as players during rehearsal. The photographs were taken by professional studios in Tucson including Esther Henderson.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Series 1 : Minutes, by-laws, etc., 1940-1948

Box 1

- f. 1 By-laws, members & plays performed
- f. 2-5 Tucson Little Theatre Minutes, 1940-1945
- f. 6 Misc. notebooks, ca. 1948

Series 2 : Programs & Newsletters, 1937-1951

- f. 7-10 Tucson Little Theatre Programs, 1937-1951
- f. 11 Misc. Programs & "School of the Theatre," ca. 1938-1940
- f. 12 Tucson Little Theatre Newsletters, 1939-1947
- f. 13 Letters to subscribers
- f. 14 University of Arizona Programs
- f. 15 Sheet Music
- f. 16 Plays by Marian Sarrels

Series 3 : Photographs

Box 2

- f. 17 Portraits : Marian Sarrels
- f. 18 Portraits : Players
- f. 19-28 Plays, A-W
- f. 29 Misc. Sets, etc.

Series 4 : Clippings & Scrapbooks, 1926-1951

- f. 30-38 Clippings, 1937-1948 theatre seasons
- f. 39 Scrapbook by Marian Sarrels, 1926-1931

Box 3

Scrapbooks, 1937-1940

Box 4

Scrapbooks, 1940-1945

Box 5

Scrapbooks, 1945-1948

Box 6

Scrapbooks, 1950-1951