

Guide to
MS 31
**Friday Club Records,
1897-1987**

Bulk Dates 1897-1987

8 inches

Prepared by Hermine Shapiro
July 1998

Donation by Mrs. Milton P. Smith, member of the Friday Club, in 1987.

Citation: Friday Club Records, 1897-1987, MS31, Library and Archives, Central Arizona Division, Arizona Historical Society.

Library and Archives
Arizona Historical Society
Central Arizona Division

HISTORICAL NOTE

Founded in 1897, the Friday Club was Arizona's oldest club. The original members included women from influential families in the Valley of the Sun. It was organized as a literary club for the intellectual and social development of its members. Meetings were held every Friday from October through April. Membership was not to exceed twelve women and new members were only added by invitation and unanimous acceptance by secret ballot. There were not any guest speakers allowed nor outsiders invited to hear the weekly programs. Members took the responsibility for researching, drafting and delivering talks on various historical topics. They wished only to enlighten and improve themselves.

Soon after the club was organized the women decided that Phoenix needed free public library service. The Friday Club established the first library in Phoenix and their members served as the librarians for several years. They turned some 1500 volumes over to the territorial city as an incentive toward funding from the Carnegie Fund. Some changes that were initiated after the death of Edith James and the end of World War 2 were as follows: meetings were held every other Friday instead of every Friday; they agreed not to study history but to study the week's events and report on them; a variety of categories were assigned to small groups of members to prepare two 45-minute reports. This program was followed for more than twenty successful years.

In April 1986 one member suggested that the Friday Club disband due to illnesses reflected in reduced attendance. The decision was made to hold two or three meetings annually to maintain their old and valued friendships. March 13, 1987 was the final meeting of the ninety-year-old organization with six members present (3 in their nineties and 3 in their eighties). They voted to turn over to the Arizona Historical Society all of the records accumulated over the years.

"The Story of the Friday Club" written by member Mrs. W.J. James, is on file in the Arizona Room of the Phoenix Central Library.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

The Friday Club Records are arranged in 3 series:

Series 1. **Minutes**, 1897-1987. 6 inches, 9 folders

This series consists of the original and revised Constitution and By Laws and Minutes from the weekly meetings.

Series 2. **Scrapbook**, 1950-1966. 1 ½ inches, 2 folders.

This series contains copies and original photos also copies of newspaper clippings and correspondence from the scrapbook from 1950s & 1960s.

Series 3. **Correspondence and Reports**, 1916-1936, ½ inch, 1 folder.

This series consists of program notes and club officers' reports.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Friday Club Records consist of minutes of the club's meetings from its organization in 1897 to its last meeting in 1987 as well as correspondence, reports and a scrapbook. The hand-written, original Constitution and Bylaws of 1897 and the revised document exist as part of the records. The bulk of the materials relate to the administration of the Friday Club. Some years of minutes are lacking.

Series 1: **Minutes**, 1897-1987. Arranged chronologically, this series documents the activities and meetings of the Friday Club. This series also contains the constitution and bylaws of the group.

Series 2: **Scrapbook**, 1950s-1960s. This series contains the items that had been kept in the Friday Club's scrapbook. The materials in this series are arranged in the same order in which they were arranged in the original scrapbook.

Series 3: **Correspondence and Reports**, 1916-1936. Consisting of program notes and club officers' reports, this series documents the activities of the Friday Club as well as the activities and roles of its officers.

PROVENANCE

These records were accumulated by the Friday Club and donated on May 21, 1987 by Mrs. Milton P. Smith, who was a member of the club. The Friday Club Records were donated to the Arizona Historical Society, Central Arizona Division.

RESTRICTIONS

None.

LITERARY RIGHTS STATEMENT

Permission to publish material from the Friday Club Records, must be obtained from the Library and Archives Department at the Central Arizona Division of the Arizona Historical Society.

NOTES TO RESEARCHERS

Box 2 Folder 11 contains a seven page typewritten letter from Eleanor L. King (a long-time member of the Friday Club) titled "Personal Recollections of the Friday Club."

Contents of the scrapbook, which contained newspaper clippings, have been copied for preservation. The photos were also copied and the originals were placed in individual archival envelopes.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES 1: MINUTES,1897-1987

Box : Folder

1	: 1	Constitution and Bylaws,1897-1898
1	: 2	1900-1903
1	: 3	1910-1923
1	: 4	1926-1939
1	: 5	1940-1948
1	: 6	1948-1950
1	: 7	1955-1962
2	: 8	1962-1971
2	: 9	1978-1987

SERIES 2: SCRAPBOOK,1950s-1966

2	: 10	Photos and Newspaper Clippings,1950s &1960s
2	: 11	Correspondence,1963-1966

SERIES 3: CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS,1916-1936

2	:12	Correspondence and reports,1916-1936
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