

TITLE: Robert E. Gosnell Collection (1908-1994)

DATA RANGE: 1920s-1990s

CALL NUMBER: FM MSS 146

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6 linear feet

PROVENANCE: Donated by Dan G. Gosnell, 1998. Donated to the Arizona Historical Society in 2012 by the Arizona Historical Foundation.

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RESTRICTIONS: None

CREDIT LINE: Robert E. Gosnell Collection, MSS #146, Arizona Historical Society-Papago Park.

PROCESSED BY: Christopher O. Magee, August 2007

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Robert E. Gosnell was born August 4, 1908 in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. In 1919 his family moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Gosnell attended the Monroe Elementary School and Phoenix Union High School. He was a classmate of Barry Goldwater, Jack Williams and other influential Arizonans. Throughout the 1920s, he held a wide range of jobs including construction worker for the Montgomery Stadium and the Horse Mesa and Coolidge Dams. He joined the Phoenix National Bank in 1928. In 1930, he met and married Dorothy Lee Ketchie.

In 1938, the bank performed an audit and discovered that Gosnell had built candy machines and penny scales all over town. Gosnell was then ordered by the bank president to drop his outside interests. Six months later, Gosnell left the bank and began construction on the Green Gables Restaurant. Using his previous labor experience, Gosnell personally worked on the construction of the Green Gables Restaurant. For the restaurant's grand opening in 1940, Gosnell chartered and flew a Stinson airplane over Phoenix to gain publicity. That trip also marked the first radio broadcast by airplane in the state of Arizona. During the broadcast, Gosnell played jazz piano during the airplane's flight while Howard Pyle, who would later become Governor of Arizona, provided commercials from the KTAR studios. In 1949, Gosnell expanded the Green Gables Restaurant by bringing in rocks from northern Arizona to simulate a castle, part of the owner's recurrent reference to Robin Hood. Green Gables became a great success and a popular landmark. When the restaurant was bought out by Cabot, Cabot, and Forbes, they turned the lot into an office park but kept the restaurant's architecture in place.

Over the years Gosnell branched into other areas of business. He opened Sherwood Investment Company and Gosnell Builders which oversaw the construction of the Pointe Hilton Resort. Gosnell also acquired land for KOY Radio, KXIV Radio, and the Southern Broadcasting Company.

Gosnell was active in local Phoenix charitable organizations such as the Jaycees and the Phoenix Thunderbirds. He served as director of the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of the Phoenix Country Club, the Arizona Club, the Kiva Club, the 20-30 Club, the Exchange Club and the Y.M.C.A. Gosnell also helped organize Phoenix Union High School Class Reunions. He was an avid musician and composed themes for the Pointe Hilton, Green Gables, and the Phoenix Union High School Class Reunions.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection is arranged into four series. **Series I: Personal; Series II: Business; Series III: News Clippings; Series IV: Photos.** Files are arranged chronologically within series.

Of interest in **Series I** is memorabilia from Jack Williams' gubernatorial campaign. **Series II** documents Phoenix radio deals throughout the 1960s, the Green Gables Restaurant enterprise, and a litigious land exchange with John Hayden. **Series III** consists of news clippings, many of which relate to sports especially tennis and other points of interest for Gosnell. **Series IV** includes Gosnell's photo collection. Many of these are unidentified and undated. Included in oversized materials is the Cineviewer, a handheld 8mm movie projector which Gosnell invented and patented.

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Personal - Correspondence, General	1925-1983
	2	Personal - Correspondence from Carl Hoover	1965-1974
	3	Personal - Jack Williams for Governor	1965-1970
	4	Personal - Phoenix Union High School Reunion and Alumni	1981-1988
	5	Personal - Articles and Miscellaneous	1941-1981
	6	Personal - Articles and Miscellaneous	N.D.
2	1	Personal - Pointe Hilton Memorabilia	1992
	2	Personal – Sheet Music	1981-1983
	3	Personal – Sheet Music	N.D.
	4	Personal – Sheet Music	N.D.
	5	Personal – Sheet Music	N.D.
	6	Personal – Sheet Music	N.D.
	7	Personal - Music from Song Books	1936-1954

3	1	Personal - Wagener Family, Correspondence	1930-1936
	2	Personal - Wagener Family, Correspondence	1937-1981
	3	Personal - Wagener Family, Imprisonment and Parole of John Wagener	1946-1952
	4	Personal - Wagener Family, Imprisonment and Parole of John Wagener	1953-1959
	5	Personal - Wagener Family, Legal	1920-1963
	6	Personal - Wagener Family, Legal	1964-1965
	7	Personal - Wagener Family, Legal	1965-1981
	8	Personal - Wagener Family, Miscellaneous	N.D.
4	1	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Correspondence	1964-1966
	2	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Correspondence	1967
	3	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Correspondence	1967-1969
	4	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Correspondence	1970-1977
	5	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Correspondence to and from J.G. Johnson	1966
	6	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Correspondence to and from J.G. Johnson	1967-1969
	7	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Correspondence to and from J.G. Johnson	1970-1976
5	1	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Correspondence to and from Glenn Snyder and Jim Hoke	1966-1968
	2	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Property, SBC Properties in Phoenix, JJ Desk Copy	1950-1968
	3	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Property, FAA and FCC related material	1957-1967
	4	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Property, Childress Buick and Peterson Property	1964-1967
	5	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Property, Camelback Property	1966
	6	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Property, Tomato Patch	1966-1967

	7	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Property, Aeronautical Study	1967
	8	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Property, D.C. Ranch	1972-1977
6	1	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Property, Maps	N.D.
	2	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Property, Photos	1962-1971
	3	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Transmitter	1957-1967
	4	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Transmitter	1967
	5	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Transmitter, "Transmitter Site"	1966-1967
	6	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Legal	1966-1976
7	1	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Business,	1952-1966
	2	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Business,	1967-1975
	3	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Business, Financial Statements	1965-1966
	4	Business - KXIV, KOY, and SBC, Memorabilia	N.D.
	5	Business - Green Gables, "Green Gables Opening"	1940-1948
	6	Business - Green Gables, "Green Gables Figures 1944-48" "Green Gables July 31, 1944 - March 1946"	1944-1948
8	1	Business - Green Gables, "1949, 1950, 1951, 1952"	1949-1950
	2	Business - Green Gables, "1949, 1950, 1951, 1952"	1951-1953
	3	Business - Green Gables, "Green Gables Statements 1949-1954"	1949-1951
	4	Business - Green Gables, "Green Gables Statements 1949-1954"	1952-1954
	5	Business - Green Gables, "Green Gables Statements 1953-1956"	1953-1954
	6	Business - Green Gables, "Green Gables Statements 1953-1956"	1955-1966
9	1	Business - Green Gables, "Green Gables Statements 1957-1958"	1957-1958
	2	Business - Green Gables, Lawsuit of Gosnell	1946

	3	Business - Green Gables, Green Gables Events	1984
	4	Business - Green Gables, Green Gables Events	1984
	5	Business - Green Gables, Memorabilia	1949-1959
	6	Business - Sherwood Investment Company and other Finances	1959-1964
10	1	Business - Sherwood Investment Company and other Finances	1964-1969
	2	Business - Commerce Societies and Clubs	
	3	Business - Hayden Deal, Correspondence	1968
	4	Business - Hayden Deal, Correspondence	1968
	5	Business - Hayden Deal, Correspondence and Phone Calls and notes	1968
	6	Business - Hayden Deal, "Gosnell-Hayden"	1968
	7	Business - Hayden Deal, "Gosnell-Hayden"	1968
11	1	Business - Hayden Deal, "Section 8" and "Denver Trip"	1968
	2	Business - Hayden Deal, Legal Agreements	1968
	3	Business - Hayden Deal, Legal Appraisals	1966-1968
	4	Business - Hayden Deal, Maps	N.D.
	5	Business - Hayden Deal, Maps	N.D.
12	1	News Clippings - Business	1966-1971
	2	News Clippings - General	1929-1959
	3	News Clippings - General	1960-1973
	4	News Clippings - General	1973-1980
	5	News Clippings - General	N.D.
13	1	Photos - Hayden Deal	N.D.
	2	Photos - Farming	1953-1964
	3	Photos - Farming	N.D.
	4	Photos - Miscellaneous	1960-1982

	5	Photos - Miscellaneous	N.D.
	6	Photos - Family and Friends	1963-1989
	7	Photos - Family and Friends	N.D.
14	1	Photos - Vacation	1970-1981
	2	Photos - Vacation	N.D.
	3	Photos - Vacation	N.D.
	4	Photos - Vacation	N.D.
	5	Photos - Phoenix Union High School	N.D.
15	1	Photos - Green Gables	N.D.
	2	Photos - Green Gables	N.D.
	3	Photos - Portraits	N.D.
	4	Photos - Portraits	N.D.
16		Oversize Material: Studio Portraits and Negatives	N.D.
17		Oversize Material: Portraits, Business Course Diploma, Cineviewer	1927