DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of City of Tombstone official records and other materials collected by Sam and Theda Medigovich. City of Tombstone official records include financial reports, legal documents, correspondence, ordinances, contracts, ledgers, election materials, and more. The remainder of the collection contains correspondence, legal documents, research notes, reports, printed material, and photographs relating to Tombstone, Ariz., the Tombstone Restoration Commission, and individuals, organizations, and businesses in Tombstone.

26 boxes, 13 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The collection was donated by Sam Medigovich on June 6, 1985.

RELATED MATERIAL

The Jared Taylor Papers, MS 1078, were received from Sam Medigovich in the same donation as this collection. Taylor was an attorney in Bisbee and Tombstone from 1906 to the 1940s.

TRANSFER

Several U.S.G.S. maps and panoramas of a group of Bisbee men leaving for World War I were transferred to those areas.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection. Some fragile materials are stored in the Rare Cage but photocopies are available in the files for patron use.

COPYRIGHT

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

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Alice Holmes, prior to 1996, and by Kim Frontz, September 1997.
BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE

Sam and Theda Medigovich owned and operated the Wagon Wheel Restaurant and the Silver Nugget Museum in Tombstone, Ariz. from the 1940s to the 1980s. They were members of the Tombstone Restoration Commission and Theda served as it President at one time. They were active in collecting, preserving and recreating Tombstone’s history.

The Tombstone Restoration Commission was formed in the 1940s by the residents of Tombstone, as a non-profit organization, to restore the exteriors of existing buildings to their original appearance, to restore plank sidewalks, to remove evidence of modern conveniences such as telephone lines from view, and to restore locations significant to Tombstone’s legends and history.

The Tombstone Town Association formed on March 5, 1879; and by 1881, it had become one of the largest cities in the West. Larger than San Francisco, it was briefly one of the most cultured cities west of the Mississippi. The town flourished until 1886 when the mines began flooding and many people moved on to other places. Tombstone was also the county seat for Cochise County from 1881 to 1929. It has since become famous as the site of the OK Corral shoot out which occurred in 1881 between the Clanton and McLaury brothers and Doc Holliday and the Earp brothers.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection documents the workings of a City government from its beginnings as a frontier western mining community in 1881 to the period of Arizona’s statehood, and also includes documentation of a Federal public works project for gas and electric services in the 1930s. There are also various collections of materials concerning the people, organizations, and businesses of Tombstone and documentation of the work of the Tombstone Restoration Commission.

The City of Tombstone records, chiefly from 1881 to 1912, depict in detail the operations of City government. The records of the Mayor and Council include appointments, resignations and oaths of office of City officials, petitions received from citizens regarding issues such as unpassable streets, filthy conditions, and public drunkenness, and ordinances passed relating to elections, saloon operations, prostitution, traffic and more. There are monthly summary reports from the various City departments reporting monies received, fines levied, business licenses issued, etc.

The election process can be followed through the nominating petitions, poll lists, tally sheets, and other documents from the City Clerk. Land transactions, ownership, and surveys are also documented on a case by case basis. The City Recorder reported monthly the number of arrests, trials, and types of crimes; and the Police Department records include a police blotter, 1888 to 1890, that details the arrestee’s name, offense and disposition of the arrest. In addition, there are examples of wanted posters sent to Tombstone from other jurisdictions. The Police Dept. and License Tax Collector were often headed by the same person so these records may be found in either place over time.

Sam and Theda Medigovich also gathered an eclectic collection of original documents that provide information about some of Tombstone’s residents, businesses and organizations. These include invoices and receipts of J. Goldwater & Co. Merchants and documents of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Tombstone Chapter.

The Restoration Commission documents include financial reports, plans of the Arizona State Parks Board, brochures, correspondence and printed material. Some of the
commission members also have correspondence and writings in the collection including Edna Landin who was President of the Commission and also served as President of the Tombstone Chamber of Commerce. Correspondence, invoices and printed material, written mostly in Chinese, are present from Yee Wee, a grocer in Elfrida, Arizona. There are also personal materials of Sam and Theda Medigovich. Photographs include portraits taken by C.S. Fly, an early Tombstone photographer and more recent scenes from Tombstone’s annual Helldorado celebrations.

Researchers interested in the OK Corral shoot out will not find any specific information relating to that event. There are a few reports signed by Virgil Earp in the course of his police duties and the Earps’ names appear in business license lists. However, the collection is rich in information concerning the frontier environment and the business of the town in later years.

SERIES LIST

Record Group 1: City of Tombstone, 1881-1954
   Administrative, 1881-1954
   Financial, 1881-1920
   Public Safety, 1881-1915
   Public Works, 1883-1936
   Land, 1881-1917

Record Group 2: Other Collections
   Cochise County Records, 1882, 1897-1936
   Tombstone Restoration Commission, 1959-1974
   Tombstone Individuals - Business and Personal Correspondence, 1881-1968
   Medigovich family materials, 1908-1974
   Photographs, ca. 1885-1970

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Record Group 1: City of Tombstone, 1881-1954

Series: Administrative, 1881-1954

Box 1
   Mayor and Council - Administrative

   1   Correspondence—General, 1884-1916
   2   Annual Messages of the Mayor, 1882-1884 (John Carr)
   3   Rules of the City Council
   4   Appointments to City Offices, 1881-1889, 1910, 1921
   5   Resignations, City Officials, 1882-1906
   6   Oaths of Office, City Officials, 1894-1911
   7   Officials’ Bonds
   8   Special Committees, 1883-1903
   9   Draft of minutes and tax levy resolution, 1890, 1911
10-18 Petitions (Bldg. Permits, Property appraisals, Streets, Taxes, Salaries, Public Safety, Cemetery)
19 Financial reports, 1882-1896
20 Payment for lost warrants, 1888-1889

Box 2

Mayor and Council - Legal

21 Code of Ordinances
38 Resolutions and drafts, 1881-1890
39 Legal Cases: CofT vs. William Richie, 1883
40 CofT vs. W.L. Gaston, 1885
41 William Staehle vs. Council, 1890
42 George Bravin vs. CofT, 1893
43 CofT vs. G.H. Fitts, 1897
44 CofT vs. Intervener Mining Co., 1898
45 James Reilly vs. CofT, 1896
46 W.A. Nash vs. Mayor Carr, 1883-1884
47 Misc., 1884-1886

City Attorney

48-62 Monthly and annual reports, agreements, contracts, delinquent taxes, 1881-1893 (Summary reports that do not mention individuals.)

Box 3

Justice of the Peace

63 Monthly report of delinquent taxes, 1883
(Summary reports that do not mention individuals)

City Clerk

64-87 Annual and monthly reports, correspondence, 1891-1916
(Summary financial reports) Elections material, 1881-1908
88 Poll list, Ward 3, 1881
89-91 Tally sheets and Poll lists, 1882
92-94 Request for vote recount, Poll lists, Tally sheets, 1884

Box 4

95-97 Poll lists, Tally sheets, Protest of Outcome, 1886
98 Protest of outcome, 1888
99 Special Election resolution and tally, 1890
100-101 List of nominees, receipt for ballots, 1894
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Special Election judges and polling places, J.C. Wiser campaign contributions, 1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Resolutions for elections, 1881-1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Expenses, 1881-1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Expenses, 1900-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Miscellaneous, 1900-1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Nominating petitions, 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Nominating petitions, 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Candidate’s Affidavit of Expenses, 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Certificates of election of George Bravin, 1910, 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Voters on County Registers, 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113-118</td>
<td>Nominating petitions, Tally sheets, Rejected ballots, Expenses, Voting lists, 1914 (Some in Oversize)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series: Financial, 1881-1920**

**City Auditor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>123-139</td>
<td>Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1881-1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Journal of licenses issued by class of licenses, 1881-1897 (summary financial list, no individuals or businesses named)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**City Treasurer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>141-149</td>
<td>Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1881-1889</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Box 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150-159</td>
<td>Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1890-1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160-162</td>
<td>Treasurer’s receipts, 1885-1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163-168</td>
<td>Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1900-1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>169-172</td>
<td>Treasurer’s receipts, 1900-1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>173</td>
<td>Passbook, First National Bank, 1910s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>174</td>
<td>Letter re: interest due on funded debt, 1902</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Box 7**

**License Tax Collector**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>175-200</td>
<td>Monthly and annual reports (financial summaries), 1881-1916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some License Tax Collector reports will be found with the Police Annual and Monthly reports from 1891 on.

201 Business licenses listed – monthly ledger, 1898-1906
   (Lists name of business and amount paid)

Box 8

202-223 Business licenses/affidavits, 1881-1910
   (Includes Stage Co., Merchants, Bakers, Restaurants, Gambling, Saloons, Prostitutes, Blacksmiths, Tinsmiths, and more. A few doctors’ certificates in Prostitutes file.)
   * Also oversize Ledger – City License Book, v.1, 1881-1187 Box 19

Expenditures

224 Revenue Bond, 1936
225-233 Expenditures – Auditor’s Warrants, 1895-1909

Box 9

234-243 Expenditures – Auditor’s Warrants, 1910-1914
244-248 Expenditures – Tombstone newspapers – Contracts, bids, bills for public records notices, 1881-1890
249 Scrapbook of news clippings, Bisbee and Tombstone, 1881
   (topics include Gov. Fremont and the death of Pres. Garfield)

Box 10

250-262 Expenditures, 1881-1895

Box 11

263-282 Expenditures, 1896-1920

Series: Public Safety, 1881-1915

Box 12

Health Officer/City Physician

283-286 Establishment of office, reports, correspondence, 1881—1884, 1915

City Recorder

287-293 Annual and monthly reports, 1882-1888
   (Reports totals of arrests, trials, number guilty, types of crimes, just a few individuals named.)
294 Fines, 1886-1887 (Lists of amounts only)
Police Dept.

295  Police reports (mostly photocopies), 1881
     (Summary totals and docket list of prisoners names)
296  Bills, claims, warrants, etc., 1881
297-321 Police reports, expenses, claims, warrants, etc., 1882-1896, 1912

Box 13

324  Bills, warrants, vouchers, 1912
325  Misc., 1907-1915
326  Wanted posters and wanted postcards (Non-Arizona)
     (sent to Tombstone from other jurisdictions)
327  Police blotter, 1888-1890
     (date, name, offense, officer, disposition)

Fire Dept.

328-360  Fire Dept. reports, correspondence, membership lists, contracts,
         handbook, election results for Fire Dept. officials, 1881-1890

Box 14

361-372  Fire Dept. reports, correspondence, membership lists, contracts,
         election results for Fire Dept. officials, 1891-1915

Series:  Public Works, 1883-1936

Public Buildings and Streets

373-375  City Hall building
376-381  Leases, sales of buildings
382  Public Streets – Finances, reports, taxes

Public Utilities

383-387  Utilities, gas and electric correspondence, legal documents, 1884-1936

Box 15

388-389  Water and electric correspondence, legal documents, 1883-1926

Series:  Land, 1881-1917

Assessor's Office

390-396  Reports, correspondence, bills, claims, warrants, etc., 1882-1917
Statements of City Tax Collector incl. delinquent lists, 1884-1893

Board of Equalization

Correspondence, minutes of meetings, notices, 1882-1914

City Surveyor

Reports regarding surveys, 1881-1883

Land Transactions

Deeds, claims, etc., 1881-1888
Deeds, claims, etc., 1900-1914
Bowman Addition – Rockfellow Survey, 1904-1909
Bowman Addition – Land claims

Box 16-18

Ledgers: Assessment Roll, 1881, 1884, 1886 (3) (Oversize)

Box 19

Ledger: City License Book, v. 1, 1881-1887 (1) (Oversize)
(Includes name, location, type of business, amount of license)

Record Group 2: Other collections

Series: Cochise County Materials

Box 20

Cochise County Records, 1882, 1897-1936

Voter registration information, 1882, 1924-1930
Abstract of election returns, 1932
Poll list, voting precincts, certificate of election, 1924-1936
Voters’ lists, undated (post-1912)
Nomination papers, 1924-1950
Publicity pamphlet, 1933
Justice Court documents, 1897-1898, 1908-1911
Property tax receipts, live stock statement, 1902-1917
Expenditures, 1905-1912
Petition to the 13th Arizona Legislature for support for U.S. Public Health Service and Children’s Bureau, undated

Box 21

Businesses, School, Organizations, People – Cochise County, 1882-1929
Ledger: Machomich Mercantile Co. sales ledger, 1914-1918 (Oversize)

**Box 22**

435  Schools – Cochise County  
436-438  Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) – Correspondence, handbooks, medical exam reports for rejected memberships, 1884-1901  
439  Junta Patriotica Mexicana – Tucson, Ariz. Invitation, 1885  
440  Tombstone Miners’ Union – Response to Star article on miner strike, 1884  
441  Freemasons including materials of C.D. Gage, 1882-1913  
442  International Order of Odd Fellows, letterhead, undated  
443  Lion’s Club – Proposed Health Resort – Tombstone, 1928-1929  
444-446  J. Goldwater & Co. General Merchandise receipts and invoices, 1888-1889  
447-450  John F. Ross, Attorney – Lutley and Cummings Estates, Correspondence, and membership certificates, 1941-1952  
451  Dr. G.H. Fitzgerald – Speech for Rotary Club, 1928  
452  John Slaughter – Deeds, 1883, 1917, Cattle tally 1930  
453-454  James Wolf – Correspondence and legal papers, 1891-1916

**Box 23**

**Series:** Tombstone Restoration Commission, 1959-1974  
455-456  Restoration Commission correspondence, 1959-1972  
457  Commission financial reports, 1972-1973  
458  Commission brochure drafts, 1974  
460  Ariz. State Parks Board Printed material, 1968-1972  
461  Master plan draft and notes, 1971-1972  
462  Floor plan of Cochise County Courthouse  
463  Misc. Commission materials  

**Series:** Tombstone Individuals, Business and Personal Correspondence, 1881-1968  
465-468  Edna Landin: correspondence, writings, and photographs, 1952-1965

**Box 24**

469  Helena Ragsdale correspondence, 1909-1928  
470  Mrs. F.L. Larrieu Conyers correspondence, 1956-1968  
471  John L. Larrieu correspondence, 1935-1937  
472  E.N. Thompson correspondence, 1894-1895  
473  Charles Helms statement, 1882  
474-475  Yee Wee correspondence and printed material (in Chinese), 1950-1965  
476  Martin Costello legal and personal documents, 1886-1893  
477  James D. Blair, misc. documents, 1881-1912
Series: Medigovich Family Materials, 1908-1974

481 General correspondence, 1940-1950
482 Correspondence re: Herron/Jeffrey families, 1972-1974
483 Business files, 1947-1958
484 Legal files, 1908-1910
485 Personal misc.
486 Research notes – Photocopies of early documents, 1880s
487 Research notes – 1881 City Directory notes (notes for creation of historic Tombstone map in Oversize)
488 Research notes – Tombstone/Cochise County elections, 1912-1914
489 Research notes – paper “Hanging of Eva Dugan”
490 Research notes – Prostitution
491 Research notes – Misc. notes
492-497 Deeds, receipts, indentures from Eastern states for various people, 1826-1899

Box 25

498 Printed material re: Tombstone, 1960-1970s
499 Printed material – General topics, 1960-1970s
500 Reproductions of advertising posters, 1960s

Series: Photographs, ca. 1885-1970

501 Photograph – Sam Medigovich
502 Individuals and groups – Identified – Pre-1945
503 C.S. Fly Photos – Tombstone Individuals
504 James F. Duncan
505 Individuals and groups – Identified – Post-1945
506 Individuals and groups – Unidentified – Chiefly pre-1945
507 Tombstone and Bisbee scenes – Pre-1945
508 Tombstone’s Helldorado Days (Also 4 photos in Oversize)
509 Postcards – Arizona
510 Photographs – Non-Arizona subjects

Box 26

Oversize printed materials, maps, election materials and photographs noted previously in this Box and Folder List.