
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PC 0013

BLEDSON, NELSON CHARLES, 1876-1974

PHOTOGRAPHS

DESCRIPTION

Photographs of Nelson Bledsoe and family, scenes of Bisbee, Arizona, mining, homes, and travel photographs.

4 Boxes, 3 linear feet

ACQUISITION

Donated by the estate of Nelson Bledsoe in 1976.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

RELATED MATERIALS

MS 79 Bledsoe Manuscript 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 at some earlier date; the finding aid was completed by Riva Dean in February 1998.

PC 13 BLEDSOE

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Nelson Bledsoe, physician, was born in California in 1876. He graduated from the California State Normal School along with his future wife, Harriet B. Gage in 1896. After teaching several years in the public schools, he entered the University of Southern California Medical School. After receiving his degree in 1903, he interned at L. A. County Hospital for a year and in 1904, moved to Bisbee, Arizona to work as the company doctor for the Calumet Mining Company. He married Harriet Gage on August 9, 1906. He became chief surgeon in 1910 and worked at oversaw the building of the Calumet Hospital. He was an active member of the community in Bisbee, joining the Masons, the Elks and was the first president of the Bisbee Boy Scout Council in 1922. When the mining companies merged in 1931, he moved to Tucson where he opened a new practice. He became more involved with his Masonic work and eventually achieved the highest office in Masonry in Arizona. He retired at the end of 1948, however he continued to practice out of his home until 1955. In 1949, he was elected President of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society and served until 1957. His wife died in 1962; Nelson died in 1974.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the collection consists of photographs of Bisbee, Arizona from the turn of the century to the 1930s. There are mining photographs as well as street scenes and views. The collection includes many photographs (both exterior and interior) of the Calumet and Arizona Hospital, built in Bisbee and supervised by Nelson Bledsoe. These would be of value to someone researching hospital construction and outfitting. The collection also includes portraits of Bledsoe and photographs of his homes in Bisbee and Tucson.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

- F. 1 Nelson Bledsoe Portraits, younger man, 1896-1920
- F. 2 Nelson Bledsoe Portraits, older man
- F. 3 Wedding Portraits: Harriet and Nelson Bledsoe, 1906
- F. 4 Bledsoe Family
- F. 5 Miscellaneous Portraits
- F. 6 Arizona Medical Society, Past Presidents' Annual Dinner, 1972
- F. 7 Boy Scout Masters, n.d.
- F. 8 Bisbee Streets, n.d.
- F. 9 Miscellaneous Postcards
- F. 10 Mines and Mining
- F. 11 Pima Indian Dwelling
- F. 12 El Paso-Phoenix Road Race, n.d.
- F. 13 Aviation – Douglas, n.d.
- F. 14 San Diego World's Fair, 1914
- F. 15 Bledsoe homes, n.d. (homes at 85 Camino Espanol and 1039 N. 6th Ave. in Tucson)

Box 2

- F. 16 Bisbee Fire and Miscellaneous views of Bisbee
- F. 17 Calumet and Arizona Hospital, Bisbee (Exterior)
- F. 18 Calumet and Arizona Hospital, Bisbee (Interior)
- F. 19 Bisbee Organizations (Knights Templar, Masons)
- F. 20 Roads (Bisbee-Douglas and others)
- F. 21 Bisbee street scenes
- F. 22 Roosevelt Dam
- F. 23 Architecture – Interiors (Unidentified waiting room)
- F. 24 Bledsoe's Tucson office, 1811 E. Speedway

Box 3

Album #59114 Travel photos and postcards from Alaska, Utah, Charleston (N.C.) and some from Arizona.

Box 4

Loose oversized photographs include:

Panorama Photos by Irwin:

- #44420 Dr. Bledsoe in his office at the Calumet & Arizona Mining Co., 1911
- #59048 Meeting of Grand Commandery of Arizona Knights Templar, 1897
- #59049 Grand Masonic Lodge of Arizona shot inside Copper Queen Mine, 1897
- #59065 Portrait of Bledsoe by Al Buehman, n.d.
- #59070 Portrait of Bledsoe in his Knights Templar uniform
- #59079 Birds' Eye View of Bisbee
- #59080 Birds' Eye View of Bisbee
- #59081 Scheiffelin Monument near Tombstone, Arizona
- #59082 U. S. Army Cavalry, probably from Ft. Huachuca, riding into Bisbee
- #59084 Unidentified desert scene
- #59085 Unidentified desert scene
- #59086 "Papago Indians selling ollas by the roadside", n.d.
- #59119 Group portrait in the lobby of AHS
- #59052 Class of 1903, U. S. C. Medical School
- #59078 California State Normal School, Class of 1896
- #59083 Bisbee Douglas Highway Meeting, September 6th 1920
- #59068 Portrait of Bledsoe, 1957
- #59071 Portrait of Bledsoe, 1957
- #59072 Portrait of Bledsoe, 1957
- #75968 Uncle Sam McCrery?, n.d.
- #79567 Unidentified scenic view of waterfall