
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

949 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Library and Archives
(520) 617-1157

ahsref@azhs.gov

PC 182
IRWIN BROTHERS STUDIO
Photographs, 1907-1929 (bulk: 1925-1929)

DESCRIPTION

Photographs taken by Irwin Brothers Studio primarily in Arizona and New Mexico. Photographs taken around Arizona include Roosevelt Dam, Kaibab Forest, Lee's Ferry, the Petrified Forest, Southern Arizona and the Wonderland of Rocks. Also included are many ranching and hunting photographs. Also includes photographs taken around New Mexico, primarily around Silver City.

6 boxes, 4.75 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Harold Love in 1977.

RELATED MATERIAL

AHS also holds the negatives of portraits taken by the Irwin Brothers Studio in Douglas. To access that collection, AHS has the index of names taken by the studio, though no prints have been made. In addition, the University of Oklahoma, Western History Archives has a collection (1147) of original Irwin Brothers Studio prints primarily taken in Texas and Oklahoma.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this 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 by Riva Dean in February 2000.

ARRANGEMENT

Five series: 1/Portraits, 2/Places (Arizona), 3/Places (Not Arizona), 4/Subjects
5/New Mexico, 6/Oversize

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The Irwin Brothers were William Edward Irwin (ca. 1871-1935), John and Marvin E. (ca. 1881-1961). William and John operated a studio in Bisbee from 1904-1922 after operating studios in Texas, Oklahoma City and New Mexico. After selling the studio in Bisbee in 1922, William operated a series of photographic studios in Morenci, Tucson and Silver City, New Mexico. He died in Douglas in 1935. Marvin acted as an assistant to his older brothers John and William before operating his own studio in Douglas from 1912-1945. Marvin wrote travel stories illustrated with his and William's photographs.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The views taken around Arizona document places in Arizona and New Mexico in the 1920s. Arizona towns included are Bisbee, Clifton, Lee's Ferry, Morenci, Salome, Springerville and Tombstone, including the Schieffelin Monument. New Mexico towns include Santa Rita, Silver City and Tyrone. Scenic views include many desert scenes and cactus in Southern Arizona as well as Lakes (primarily Mormon Lake), the Gila and Salt Rivers, and the Yuma Sand Dunes. Other subjects (Series four) included are dams (Roosevelt, Horse Mesa and Coolidge), Cliff Dwellings and Mining. Natural Bridges (including Rainbow Bridge) are also represented. Of particular interest are photographs of ranching scenes, many hunting photographs and Missions (Tumacacori and San Xavier).

Series three consists of photographs taken outside of Arizona. Mexico, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas are represented with the same kind of scenic views as taken around Arizona. Many photographs taken on a hunting trip to Alaska are also included. Series five, which is all New Mexico, was created after the collection was originally processed. Included in Series five are the Hunting scenes, which includes one folder of hunting with the Lee Brothers in New Mexico. Photographs of streets scenes, buildings, schools in and around Silver City as well as mining scenes of Santa Rita and Tyrone are of particular significance.

AHS owns the original negatives and some original prints (including several hand colored prints), but most of the prints in the collection are prints made from the original negatives. Due to the size of the collection, many negatives were not printed, particularly negatives from Alaska and redundant photographs of cactus. For patrons that are interested in viewing the original negatives, special appointments must be made with an Archivist.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Series 1 : Portraits

Box 1

- f. 1 Portraits - Unidentified
- f. 2 C. C. Cleveland
- f. 3 Hall, Dick Wick
- f. 3A Irwin, Marvin
- f. 4 McPherson, Aimee Semple

Series 2 : Arizona Places

- f. 5 Bisbee
- f. 5A Casa Grande Ruins
- f. 6 Clifton
- f. 7 Colorado River
- f. 8 Fort Lowell
- f. 9 Gila River
- f. 9A Grand Canyon
- f. 10 Horse Mesa Dam
- f. 11 Kaibab Forest
- f. 12 Lee's Ferry
- f. 12A Montezuma's Castle
- f. 13 Morenci
- f. 14 Mormon Lake
- f. 15 Needles Eye
- f. 15A Painted Desert
- f. 15B Petrified Forest
- f. 16 Prescott
- f. 17 Roosevelt Dam

Box 2

- f. 18 Salome
- f. 19 Salt River
- f. 20 Southern Arizona Scenery
- f. 21 Springerville
- f. 22 Superstition Mountains
- f. 23 Tombstone (including Schieffelin Monument)
- f. 24 Tonto Creek
- f. 25 Unknown places
- f. 26 Wonderland of Rocks
- f. 27 Yuma Sand Dunes & Wickenburg

Series 3: Places - Not Arizona

- f. 28 Alaska--Scenery
- f. 29 Alaska--Hunting & Fishing
- f. 30 Alaska--Miscellaneous
- f. 30A California
- f. 31 Mexico
- f. 32 New Mexico
- f. 33 Oklahoma
- f. 34 Texas
- f. 35 Yellowstone

Series 4 : Subjects

Box 3

- f. 35A Antelope
- f. 36 Arizona Highways
- f. 37 Bisbee Deportation Postcards
- f. 38 Cactus
- f. 38A Cliff Dwellings (Tonto National Monument, Montezuma Castle)
- f. 39 Coolidge Dam
- f. 39A Deer
- f. 40 Desert Scenes
- f. 41 Geronimo Highway Monument
- f. 41A Hopi House, Fred Harvey store, Grand Canyon
- f. 42 Hunting Scenes
- f. 43 Lakes
- f. 44 Mining
- f. 45 Missions--San Xavier
- f. 46 Missions--Tumacacori

Box 4

- f. 47 Natural Rock Bridges
- f. 47A Pack Mules
- f. 48 Ranching
- f. 49 Ranching
- f. 49A Ranching
- f. 50 Slaughter Document

Series 5 : New Mexico

- f. 51 Cherry Creek
- f. 52 City of Rocks
- f. 53 Cloudrock
- f. 54 Fort Bayard
- f. 55 Gila River
- f. 56 Highways
- f. 57 Kneeling Nun
- f. 58 New Mexico--Hunting
- f. 59 New Mexico--Hunting--Lee's Lion Hunt

Box 5

- f. 60 Mimbres River
- f. 61 Mogollon Creek
- f. 62 Petroglyphs
- f. 63 Pinos Altos
- f. 64 New Mexico--Ranching
- f. 65 Santa Rita
- f. 66 Silver City--Bird's Eye Views
- f. 67 Silver City--Buildings
- f. 68 Silver City--Mining
- f. 69 Silver City--Parade

- f. 70 Silver City--Sanatorium
- f. 71 Silver City--Schools
- f. 72 Silver City--Street Scenes
- f. 73 Silver City--Vicinity
- f. 74 Sylvanite
- f. 75 Tyrone

Series 6 : Oversize

Box 6

- A-C Ranching Scenes
- D Portrait - Johnnie Irwin
- E Portrait - "Era"
- F Portrait - Unidentified Woman
- G Portrait - Jennie Irwin
- H Portrait - Harry Ladd
- I Unidentified baby