DESCRIPTION

Primarily aerial photographs taken of Tucson from the 1930s into the 1980s. Photographs include views of the entire city, as well as views of individual buildings including many Tucson landmarks and schools. Buildings include the University of Arizona, San Xavier del Bac Mission, El Conquistador Hotel, Saint Mary’s Hospital and Guest Ranches. Also includes many photographs of the Tucson, Gas, Electric, Light and Power Company and a small group of portraits.

12 Boxes, 9 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The Tucson-Pima Public Library donated the collection in March 1999.

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

Riva Dean processed the collection in April 1999.

ARRANGEMENT


BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

A. E. “Gene” Magee arrived in Tucson with his family in 1924. After graduating from Tucson High School in 1925, he attended the University of Arizona where he received a degree in electrical engineering. He began working for the Tucson, Gas, Electric, Light and Power Company while still attending the University and began working there full-time in
1930 and began photographing at that time. In 1938, he began working for Tucson Rapid Transit Company and also photographed for them. He became partners with Charles Herbert in Western Ways after the war. Though Herbert continued on with Western Ways, Magee left to form his own engineering company. For all his engineering jobs, he took photographs, often photographing other buildings as well.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Magee photographic collection offers a unique view of Tucson, primarily from the late 1930s though the 1970s. Largely aerial views, the collection documents Tucson post-war growth. The photographs show the entire view of Tucson from high altitudes as well as oblique views of individual buildings. Also represented are some ground-level views of the Tucson Rodeo and downtown street scenes. Of particular interest will be the many views of downtown Tucson, including the barrio before and after Urban Renewal. Other buildings and locations that are heavily documented include St. Mary’s Hospital, El Conquistador Hotel, the Arizona Inn, San Xavier del Bac Mission, La Reforma (a housing project) and the Rodeo Grounds and the University of Arizona. Also present are many guest ranches and trailer parks from the 1940s. Photographs of many of Tucson’s airports are represented including trainees at Gilpin airport during World War II.

Gene Magee provided documentation of the photographs at the time that they were acquired by the Tucson Pima Public Library in 1988. Though the descriptions are sometimes inaccurate or incomplete, they often provide very useful information as to the location and date, as well as the perspective, e.g. “looking Northeast from Country Club and Grant Roads.” This documentation is available in a separate binder in the AHS Library.

Using Magee’s identification, the photographs have been arranged into series, based on geographic location, which put back together photographs that were taken of the same location and at the same time. Though this arrangement should make the collection more useful to researchers looking for views of particular areas or buildings, it should be noted that there is a certain arbitrariness to these designations. For example, though some photographs may have been put in the “Downtown” series, they also show some of the “Southside” or “Westside” because they are aerials and show a larger perspective than just an ordinary street scene. Serious researchers will need to be aware of this and keep in mind the entire area, checking other series as necessary.

**BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

**Series 1** Overall Views

**Box 1**
- f. 1 Mapping Aerials
- f. 2-3 Entire Valley, 1940s-60s

**Series 2** Downtown

- f. 4 Downtown – Historic photos, n.d.
- f. 5-13 Downtown, 1920s-1940s
Box 2
f. 14-15 Downtown, 1940s
f. 16 Downtown, 1940s – Fire
f. 17 Downtown – Rodeo Parade (Aerials), 1940s
f. 18 Downtown – Rodeo Parade (Street Level), 1940s
f. 19-20 Downtown, 1940s – Street Level
f. 21-23 Downtown, 1950s
f. 24 Downtown, 1960s
f. 25 Downtown – City Hall, 1968

Box 3
f. 26 Downtown, 1970s-80s
f. 27 Downtown, 1970s – Community Center

Series 3 Central Tucson
f. 28-33 Central – 1940s
f. 34 Central – 1950s
f. 35 Central – 1960s-70s

Box 4
f. 36 Central – Arizona Inn
f. 37 Central – Barfield Sanatorium
f. 38-39 Central – Baseball Fields - Himmel Park, Santa Rita Park
f. 40 Central – Benedictine Sanctuary
f. 41 Central – Blenman Addition
f. 42 Central – Broadway Village
f. 43 Central – Catalina Theater
f. 44 Central – Drive-In Theaters
f. 45 Central – El Conquistador Hotel & Mall
f. 46 Central – Frontier Village
f. 47 Central – Hi Corbett Field
f. 48 Central – James A. Dick Co.
f. 49 Central – Mansfield Ford Co.
f. 50 Central – Saint Ambrose Church
f. 51 Central – St. Peter & Paul’s Church
f. 52 Central – Schools – Davidson
f. 53 Central – Schools – Doolen Middle School
f. 54 Central – Schools – Gump Handicapped

Box 5
f. 55 Central – Schools – Howell Elementary
f. 56 Central – Schools – Potter School
f. 57 Central – Schools – Robinson
f. 58 Central – Schools – St. Andrew’s Catholic
f. 59 Central – Schools – Salpointe
f. 60 Central – Schools – Tucson High School
Series 4  Eastside

Box 6
f. 68-69  Eastside – 1940s

f. 70  Eastside – 1950s
f. 71  Eastside – 1950s – Residences
f. 72  Eastside – 1970s
f. 73  Eastside – Colossal Cave, 1930s
f. 74  Eastside – Fort Lowell, 1940s
f. 75  Eastside – Fowler Ranch
f. 76  Eastside – Moltaqua Turf Club
f. 77  Eastside – Mt. Lemmon Road
f. 78  Eastside – Old Soldiers’ Trail
f. 79  Eastside – Pond Mansion, 1949
f. 80  Eastside – Schools – Fort Lowell, 1940s
f. 81  Eastside – Schools – Gale Elementary, 1971
f. 82  Eastside – Schools – Saguaro High School, 1971
f. 83  Eastside – Schools – Southern Arizona School for Boys
f. 84  Eastside – Tucson Rock & Sand, 1940s
f. 85  Eastside – Wagon Wheels Airport, 1940s

Series 5  Northside

Box 7
f. 86  Northside, 1930s
f. 87-88  Northside, 1940s
f. 89  Northside, 1940s – Foothills
f. 90  Northside, 1940s – Foothills Homes
f. 91  Northside, 1950s-70s
f. 92  Northside – Crescent Manor Trail Park, 1948
f. 93  Northside – Desert Treasures, 1940s
f. 94  Northside – Ferguson Ranch
f. 95  Northside – Flying V Ranch
f. 96  Northside – Griffin Ranch
f. 97  Northside – Gilpin Airport – Aerials
f. 98  Northside – Gilpin Airport – Ground Level
f. 99  Northside – Gilpin Airport – Interiors

Box 8
f. 100  Northside – Miracle Mile, 1940s
f. 101  Northside – Rillito Race Track, 1940s
f. 102  Northside – St. Philips in the Hills, 1948
f. 103  Northside – Schools, 1950s
f. 104  Northside – Schools – Canyon del Oro, 1976
f. 105  Northside – Schools – Cross Junior High
f. 106  Northside – Schools – Keeling Elementary
f. 107  Northside – Schools – Roosevelt
f. 108  Northside – Schools – Wetmore, 1950s
f. 109  Northside – Sunset Dairy, 1941
f. 110  Northside – Tucson Airpark, 1930s

Series 6  Southside

f. 111  Southside, 1930s
f. 112  Southside, 1940s
f. 113  Southside, 1950s
f. 114  Southside, 1960s

Box 9

f. 115  Southside – Airports – Downtown Airport
f. 116  Southside – Airports – Downtown Airport – Desert Sky Lodge
f. 117  Southside – Airports – Tucson International Airport, 1930s-50s
f. 118  Southside – Airports – Tucson International Airport, 1960s-70s
f. 119  Southside – Davis Monthan Air Force Base
f. 120  Southside – El Paso Natural Gas
f. 121  Southside – Emery Park Trailer Court
f. 122  Southside – Hotels/Motels
f. 123  Southside – Infilco
f. 124  Southside – La Reforma
f. 125  Southside – Pueblo Gardens
f. 126  Southside – Rodeo Grounds (Aerials), 1940s
f. 127  Southside – Rodeo Grounds (Aerials – Close-in), 1940s
f. 128-29  Southside – Rodeo Grounds (Ground Level), 1940s

Box 10

f. 130  Southside – San Xavier del Bac Mission
f. 131  Southside – Santa Rita Mine
f. 132  Southside – Schools
f. 133  Southside – Schools – Chapparal Jr. High
f. 134  Southside – Southern Pacific Stockyards
f. 135  Southside – Turkey Farm
f. 136  Southside – Veterans’ Hospital

Series 7  Westside

f. 137-39  Westside, 1940s
f. 140  Westside – Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, 1941
f. 141  Westside – Baseball Field
f. 142  Westside – El Rio Golf Course
f. 143-44  Westside – Old Tucson, 1946
f. 145  Westside – St. Mary’s Hospital, 1940s-50s

Box 11
f. 146  Westside – Schools
f. 147  Westside – Schools – Arizona School for the Deaf & Blind,
f. 148  Westside – Schools – Manza School
f. 149  Westside – Schools – Menlo Park, 1951
f. 150  Westside – Schools – Pima Community College, 1971
f. 151  Westside – Tucson Rock and Sand
f. 152  Westside – U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, 1946

Series 8  Tucson Gas, Electric, Light & Power Co.

f. 153  Tucson Gas, Electric, Light & Power Co. – Historic Prints (not Magee)
f. 154  Tucson Gas, Electric, Light & Power Co., 1920s
f. 155  Tucson Gas, Electric, Light & Power Co., 1930s - Exteriors
f. 156  Tucson Gas, Electric, Light & Power Co., 1930s – Interiors
f. 157  Tucson Gas, Electric, Light & Power Co., - Cortaro Road Site
f. 158  Tucson Gas, Electric, Light & Power Co., - Downtown Site, 1940s
f. 159-60  Tucson Gas, Electric, Light & Power Co., - Grant Road Site

Series 9  Miscellaneous

Box 12
f. 161  Tucson Rapid Transit Co.
f. 162  Guest Ranches & Hotels
f. 163  Marana
f. 164  Marana – Airport
f. 165  Marana – Portland Cement Company
f. 166  Portraits – Civil Air Patrol, 1943
f. 167  Portraits – Douglas, Walter & Family
f. 168  Portraits – Tucson Boys Chorus
f. 169  Portraits – Harvill, Richard
f. 170  Portraits – Manor, Fred Emery
f. 171  Portraits – Martin, Phillip
f. 172  Portraits – Schmidt, Bob
f. 173  Unidentified Desert Areas
f. 174  Unidentified Homes
f. 175  Unidentified Subdivisions
f. 176  Unidentified Washes
f. 177  Unidentified