
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PC 125

Maria Soza de Gonzales, 1890-1987
Soza Family Photographs, 1900s-1970s

DESCRIPTION

Family portraits and snapshots of the Soza family; one of Arizona's oldest pioneer families.

1 Box, 0.5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

Most materials were donated by Maria Soza de Gonzales, in 1972.

RELATED MATERIAL

MS 0750 Soza Family Papers

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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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 Aubrey Carrier, intern, in April 2001.

ARRANGEMENT

By family

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in 1890, Maria Soza de Gonzales was the great-great-granddaughter of Jose Maria Sosa, the patriarch of the Soza clan who arrived in Tucson in 1776. Maria was raised on her family's ranch on the banks of the San Pedro River. At the age of 19 she married Nazario Gonzales and moved to Tucson with him. Their marriage yielded five children; sons Nazario, Jr., Lisandro, and Ernest; and daughters Armida and Elsa. Maria was active at St. Augustine's Cathedral, St. Margaret's parishes and the Third Order of St. Louis, and was a member of the Arizona Historical Society. She died in 1987 at the age of 90.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of both color and black-and-white photographs, some of which are professional, but most are amateur family snapshots. Photographs of the Soza-Gonzales family date from the turn of the 20th century to the 1970's. Family divisions include the Ernest Gonzales family, Nazario Gonzales family and the McWilliams family. Some recurring family members are Carlos and Ben Soza, Lieutenant-Colonel Louis R. Gonzales, Nazario and Lisandro Gonzales, , and the McWilliams children, Ilsa, Philip, Ian, and Catherine Marie.

In addition to portraits, there is one image of an interior view and another of students at Pool School, a Cochise County school that was attended by numerous Sozas circa 1907. Portraits include Elsa Gonzales (daughter of Nazario) at her first holy communion; military photographs of Louis Gonzales, Lisandro Gonzales, and Philip McWilliams; wedding photographs; family members visiting the Soza family ranch and cemetery; Rosaura Soza Vigil on her 90th birthday in 1971; and Maria Soza Gonzales' 81st birthday celebration, also in 1971.

Included in the collection is a scrapbook containing more family pictures (mostly from the Carlos M. Soza branch of the family), related news clippings, correspondence, and funeral notices, circa 1915-1981. These items have been pasted into a datebook, which also documents various birth dates and marriage dates of family members.