Guide to
MS 81

Phoenix Bicentennial Celebration Records
1974 - 1976

7 Boxes

1977.11

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Donated by the Phoenix Bicentennial Commission to the Arizona Historical Society in 1977

Library and Archives
Arizona Historical Society
Central Arizona Division
HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1973 Phoenix Mayor John Driggs and the City Council to coordinate events and activities associated with the approaching bicentennial period established a committee. This committee became known as the Phoenix Bicentennial Commission. More than 260 events and activities were coordinated, staged, or sponsored by this organization. With few public funds available to the Commission most support for activities came from local churches, organizations, businesses, private groups, and schools. Three themes were identified early for organizational planning. The themes initially planned entailed “Heritage 76” a re-examination of American origins, values, and accomplishments; “Festival USA,” a sharing of American traditions, culture, and hospitality; and “Horizon 76,” a project devoted to human welfare, happiness and freedom.

Mayor Driggs selected William R. Shover as chairman for the Phoenix committee and to coordinate the bicentennial efforts. Shover was the public relations and personnel director of the Phoenix Newspapers, Inc. Under Shover’s direction the Phoenix committee worked with other Arizona community groups, various levels of state and local government agencies, and private groups on planning and execution of various events.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of the Phoenix Bicentennial Celebration entail administrative correspondence from the chairman William Shover, committee minutes, pamphlets, and financial materials. The majority of the materials cover the period from 1973 when Shover was appointed to coordinate the events for the city of Phoenix and 1976 the culmination of many of the activities in the community. A few documents date into 1977. Major events and activities planned by the committee included various festival events in communities, the Governor’s presentation at the Arizona State University and University of Arizona football game, planning for the U.S.S. Arizona Anchor Memorial, historic Rosson House restoration, parades, city park performances, and Up the People Concert. A large number of activities, parades, and performances highlighted the July 4th holiday and 4 folders contain materials related to this holiday. Sixty-five photographs are contained in the collection of various events and committee personnel. One folder contains newspaper clippings with an additional folder containing press releases and newsletters of events during the bicentennial period. The collection has been organized into three series: Administration and Correspondence, Events, and Publicity.

PROVENANCE

The Phoenix Bicentennial Celebration Records were received from the Phoenix Commission in 1977.

RESTRICTIONS
There are no restrictions to the use of this collection with the exception of any photographs with copyright or photographer restrictions.

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Permission to publish materials from the *Phoenix Bicentennial Celebration Records* must be obtained from the Library and Archives Department at the Central Arizona Division of the Arizona Historical Society.

**NOTES TO RESEARCHERS**

None
Box and Folder Listing

Series I: Administration and Correspondence

Box 1

Folder 1-10 Administration and Meetings 1974 – 1976
f.11-13 Administration and Committees
f.14-17 Correspondence 1974

Box 2

f.18-22 Correspondence 1974 – 1977
f.23-24 Finances 1975

Box 3

f.25-26 Finances
f.27-32 Activities and Projects
  Rosson House
  OIC Bicentennial
  Freedom Pass
  Civic Plaza
  Valley Bank Flagpole

Box 4

f.33-37 Activities and Projects
  Festivals
  Arizona Bicentennial Commission

Series 2: Bicentennial Events

f.38  Governor’s Bicentennial Football Presentation
f.39  Horizons on Display

Box 5

f.40  Lafayette Statue
f.41  U.S.S. Arizona Anchor Memorial
f.42-45 July 4th Activities

Box 6

f.46  Veterans Day Parade
f.47  Speech by John W. Warner
f.48-49 Events Listings and Application Forms
f.50 American Freedom Train
f.51 Heritage Days in the Park
f.52 Armed Forces Caravan
f.53 Up the People Concert
f.54 ROSO 76
f.55 Old Army Fife and Drum Corps

Series 3: Publicity Materials

f.56 Publicity Planning Kit

Box 7

f.57 Press Releases and Newsletters
f.58 Copies of Declaration of Independence and Constitution
f.59 The Rosson House
f.60 Misc. Pamphlets and Folders
f.61 Newspaper Clippings