

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **LITERARY RIGHTS STATEMENT**

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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