

Guide to
MS 9
**Phoenix City Government Records,
1956-1966**

Bulk Dates 1959-1966

2.5 linear feet

Prepared by Judy A. Kirkham
February 1999

Reviewed and Edited by Lynne Rogers
September 2001

Donated by the City of Phoenix in 1977.

Citation: Phoenix City Government Records, 1956-1966, MS 9, Library and Archives,
Central Arizona Division, Arizona Historical Society.

Library and Archives
Arizona Historical Society
Central Arizona Division

HISTORICAL NOTE

The City of Phoenix Records is a compilation of documents collected during the mayoral terms of John Richard "Jack" Williams and Sam Maridian. Jack Williams was Governor of the State of Arizona, January 1967 to January 1975. He was born in Los Angeles, California, but was raised in Phoenix. In the early 1920's an eye was afflicted with a malignancy which was treated by the famed Madame Curie during a visit to the United States. The result was the eye was lost, but the malignancy was eradicated. After graduating from Phoenix Union High School, then known as Phoenix Junior College, Jack went to work for radio station KOY in the capital city. As director, commentator and well-known personality he also wrote a column for the *Phoenix Gazette*, for many years. Vice president of the Phoenix housing authority, 1944-1947, he served on the school board and was active in civic affairs. Williams was a member of the Phoenix city council, 1953-1954, and mayor of the city, 1956-1960. He first ran for governor on the Republican ticket and was elected in 1966; two years later he was reelected for a second two-year term. In 1970 he was elected to a four-year term, the first under a new constitutional amendment. Williams was a popular governor and a spokesman for the conservative wing of his party. He declined to run for office again in 1974. In 1942 he married the former Vera May and they have three children. Williams's successor as mayor of Phoenix was Sam Maridian, a Democrat.

(Taken from *Arizona Biographical Dictionary*, by John S. Goff)

Samuel (Sam) Mardian, Jr. was a graduate of Southwestern University and a veteran of World War II. He came to Arizona and worked as the Secretary-Treasurer for the Mardian Construction Company. He was active in civic activities including the YMCA, Phoenix Symphony Association, Boy Scouts, local Methodist Church, Kiwanis Club, and a member of the Madison School District. He was elected Mayor in 1960 and served till 1964.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

The City of Phoenix Government Records are arranged in two series:

Series 1. Manager, 1957-1960, 4 inches, 5 folders.

This series consists of All-America City documents, newspaper clippings, Salt River Project publications, and correspondence mail to and from Mayor Jack Williams. It also consists of telegrams of congratulations from Canada, mayors from across the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower and US Senator Barry Goldwater. There are samples of the All American City Award logo on stickers, uniform patches, decals, envelopes, placemats, and napkins, etc.

Series 2. Mayor and Council, 1956-1966, 20 inches, 28 folders.

This series consists of letters, speeches, memorabilia, magazines, newspaper articles, telegrams, books, and photos of the many projects in both Mayor Jack Williams and Sam Maridian's term. There are papers concerning the Commission on Civil Rights, LEAP, the Human Relations Commission, Downtown development, and Phoenix's Twin (Sister) City in France. There are numerous requests from the United States and around the world for information about Phoenix and its people.

COLLECTION LEVEL DESCRIPTION

The Phoenix City Government Records contain papers on the everyday duties of Mayor Jack Williams and Mayor Sam Mardian. Documents and letters on street developments throughout the Phoenix area are included, as well as, proposals to improve the city of Phoenix. Letters from US Senator Barry Goldwater and US Senator Carl Hayden are among the many those in this collection.

This collection documents the visits to Phoenix by the King and Queen of Nepal, as well as, Kalinin, President of the Soviet Depatat. Also included are documents and instructions on the city elections; gasoline price increase; downtown development; LEAP Commission on housing, health and juvenile delinquency; and the uniting of the twin cities, Phoenix and Orange, France as twin (Sister) cities. During the two-year relationship between Orange France and Phoenix letters in French and English on the development of the two cities were written. Letters from individuals from all over the world to the mayor requesting information on the Phoenix area, those living in the Phoenix area, as well as, the mayor's autograph are among the collection.

There are personal memorabilia in the collection as well as photos of the All-America City flag and logo, an award that was bestowed upon Phoenix during the years of 1958-1959.

PROVENANCE

These records were accumulated by Carl Craig. On 1977, The City of Phoenix donated the Phoenix City Government Records to the Arizona Historical Society, Central Arizona Division.

RESTRICTIONS

None

LITERARY RIGHTS STATEMENT

Permission to publish material from the *Phoenix City Government Records, 1956-1966*, must be obtained from the Library and Archives Department at the Central Arizona Division of the Arizona Historical Society.

Box and Folder List

SERIES 1: Manager, All-American City Award, 1957-1960

Box : Folder

1	: 1	All-America City Award	1957-1958
1	: 2	All-America City Award	1959-1960
1	: 3	All-America City Award	1959-1960
1	: 4	All-America City Award	1959-1960
1	: 5	All-America City Award	1959-1960

SERIES 2: Mayor and Council, 1956-1966

Box : Folder

1	: 6	Commission on Civil Rights	1962
1	: 7	Elections	1958-1959
1	: 8	Elections	1959-1960
1	: 9	Elections/General	1961
2	: 10	Elections/General	1961
2	: 11	Elections/General	1961-1962
2	: 12	Elections/Misc. City Reports	1963
2	: 13	Elections	1963-1964
2	: 14	Elections	1963-1964
3	: 15	Pending and Future Matters	1956-1958
3	: 16	Gasoline Price Increase	1957-1958
3	: 17	Downtown Development	1958-1959
3	: 18	General Correspondence	1958-1960
3	: 19	Human Relations Commission	1963-1964
3	: 20	LEAP (Leadership and Education for the Advancement of Phoenix)	1965
3	: 21	LEAP	1964-1965
4	: 22	Phoenix Progress Committee	1956-1958
4	: 23	Requests for Information	1961
4	: 24	Requests for Information	1962
4	: 25	Speeches	1959-1961
4	: 26	Speeches	1961
4	: 27	Speeches	1961
4	: 28	Speeches	1962
5	: 29	Speeches	1962
5	: 30	Speeches	1961-1962
5	: 31	Twin (Sister) Cities	1958-1959
5	: 32	Twin (Sister) Cities	1959-1962
5	: 33	Twin (Sister) Cities	1963-1965