
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1125

RHODES, ROSA RONQUILLO, 1894-1982

DESCRIPTION

Handwritten diaries kept by Rosa Ronquillo Rhodes between 1946 and 1980 (one for every year). The diaries were kept by a ranchwoman in Arizona and the brief entries are primarily concerned with family life and a woman's work on the ranch. Small collection of postcards addressed to Rosa Ronquillo Rhodes. The correspondence is written in English & Spanish. The postcards were kept for their pictorial value. This is a collection of greeting card postcards. They were used for birthday, Christmas, Valentine and other holiday greetings, rather than to show distant places. Many of the cards were not postmarked. The correspondence is mainly of the "wishing you well" sort.

6 Boxes, 3 linear feet

ACQUISITION

Donated by Morenci C. Williams-Rhodes in November 1998 and May 2002. *Includes former MS 1233.*

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 Riva Dean in February 1999. Former MS 1233 was integrated into this collection in January 2015.

ARRANGEMENT

Diaries arranged chronologically; postcards arranged chronologically after diaries.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Rosa Ronquillo Rhodes was the daughter of Jesus and Angela Ronquillo, who came from California in 1880 and settled in Redington, Arizona. The family homesteaded in Redington where Rosa was born in 1894. She was the youngest of twelve brothers and sisters. She had dreams of becoming a writer and though she never published, she maintained a diary for decades. She became Redington's postmistress in the late 1920s and retained the post for about fourteen years. She was also a school trustee and member of the election board. She

married William Robert Rhodes, also a member of a pioneer family and together they owned the Diamond R Ranch. They had four children, Fidel, Berta, Ruben and Frank Lee. She died in 1982.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The diaries of Rosa Ronquillo Rhodes document a ranchwoman's life in a very personal way. She does not describe life on the ranch in any detailed way, but describes family interactions and her own feelings about "woman's work." She describes a woman's work on a ranch with brief entries that convey the tedium and loneliness of her days. The diaries were begun when her children were mostly grown. She sometimes comments on outside events, but the entries primarily concern her family, friends, illnesses and prayer. There is sometimes mention of going into town to visit or shop, but much of the diaries cover being at the ranch without seeing anyone else.

The span of time is of interest because the diaries begin in 1946, while she was still waiting for her son, Fidel, to return from the war. She continues on into ill health and old age. The entries become shorter and shorter as she ages. Also of interest is her use of her own shorthand. After a couple of years begun in 1946, she started using a little bit of shorthand on many days, but it seems to be her own method. It may be that she saved that for particular kinds of entries, but it is unclear.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

f. 1-6 Diaries, 1946-1953

Box 2

f. 7-11 Diaries, 1954-1958

Box 3

f. 12-18 Diaries, 1959-1965

Box 4

f. 19-25 Diaries, 1966-1972

Box 5

f. 26-30 Diaries, 1973-1980

Box 6

f. 1-7 Postcards, 1909-1924