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**MS 1249**

**Jane Herbst Rider Collection, 1889-1981**

**Personal Papers, ca. 1895-ca. 1980**

**DESCRIPTION**

This collection contains biographical materials and photographs of the Rider family and their activities. Among the photographs (which comprise the bulk of the collection) are early images of the University of Arizona; of Charles Lindbergh's plane landing, presumably in Tucson [Lindbergh flew into Davis-Monthan airport in Tucson four months after his 1927 transatlantic flight. He stayed the night at the Old Pueblo Club where Percy Rider was a prominent member.], signed "C.A. Lindbergh; and of the Bell Tower which was Tucson's first city hall/fire department before it was moved to the property eventually owned by the Riders.

4 boxes, 3.5 linear ft.

**ACQUISITION**

The collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Society by Eleanor B. Sloan in 1981.

**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

**COPYRIGHT**

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society-Tucson, Library and Archives Department.

**PROCESSING**

The collection was processed by Dena McDuffie in October 2003.

**ARRANGEMENT**

The collection is arranged topically.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

In 1882, Percy Sower Rider, a mining engineer, lived and worked in Prescott after moving from his native Canton, Ohio. In 1886, Percy moved to Pennsylvania and there he married Bessie Herbst of Sewickley (a suburb of Pittsburgh) in 1887. Two years later, Jane Herbst Rider was born in Sewickley on August 18; she was named after her maternal grandmother. Jane was the eldest of the three Rider children [one brother died in infancy; brother Percy Sower Rider Jr. was born around 1895. He is listed in the *Tucson City Directory* from 1920-1922 as a student at UofA; in 1923 he was as

a meterman for Tucson Gas Electric Light and Power Co. After 1923, there is no word of Percy Jr.. *Arizona Death Records* list his death in 1926].

Although Percy's profession was best suited to the West, Bessie's father, David Herbst, didn't want her to move so far away. The Riders lived in Pennsylvania until around 1895 when they moved to Colorado. Jane was six years old. The family lived in Rico and Durango for 10 years and Jane attended private high school in Denver.

In 1906, the Rider family moved to Tucson and Mr. Rider worked in the mines in Charleston (just south of Tombstone). They bought a house from Mrs. Satterwhite at 450 N. Main Street. On the property was the Bell Tower which Mrs. Satterwhite's father had had moved from the San Augustine Plaza. The tower originally housed the Tucson Fire Department on the lower floor; the first Tucson city hall on the second floor; and a bell in the dome to summon firefighters when needed. The Rider family lived in the house, which was called "Tres Palmas," until 1921. During that time, Percy Rider rented the tower to boarders [the tower burned in 1934].

Beginning in 1907, Jane attended the University of Arizona, for a year as a prep school student before beginning the regular university course of studies. She graduated in 1911 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering (she was Arizona's first woman graduate in civil engineering). During her time at the University, Jane was among a group of chemistry students who, as a practical joke meant for a fellow student, cooked up the "worst candy every created." Unfortunately, the candy, which looked like a delicious piece of fudge, was sampled instead by Dr. Babcock, then president of the school. Babcock was not amused and Jane became known on campus as a cut-up.

After graduation, Jane's first job was as a bacteriologist for Arizona State Laboratories at the University. During the 1915 strike in Clifton [When approximately 5,000 Mexican-Americans in Clifton-Morenci and Metcalf participated in a miners' strike against low wages and racial discrimination.], she handled the domestic water problems that resulted. In 1916, Jane was named director of Arizona State Laboratories at the University. During World War I, she took a year's leave of absence from the Laboratory to work with the American Red Cross in Britain and France, returning to the Laboratory in 1919.

Beginning around 1914, Jane's father's profession as listed in city directories changes from "mining engineer" to "secretary/assistant secretary of the Old Pueblo Club." Mr. Rider was a Mason and a charter member of the Old Pueblo Club [The Old Pueblo Club was formed in Tucson in 1907. Dr. Mark Rogers, who built the Arizona Hospital and Sanitorium at 123 S. Stone Avenue, is credited as its founder. The club was an off-shoot of The Owl's Club, the organization where Tucson's eligible bachelors lived and entertained. As the members married, their needs changed and the Old Pueblo Club was formed with 69 charter members. It was called "a gentleman's club for social purposes." The club disbanded in 1992 after filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy.]. Jane's mother, Bessie, was active in the Woman's Club, the Saturday Morning Musical Club and the Episcopal Church; in the 1930s, she was a Grey Lady for Tucson hospitals.

Jane and her parents moved to 459 North Granada in 1921; Percy and Bessie remained there until 1944 when they moved to Phoenix to live with Jane.

Jane was elected president of UA alumni association in 1931. In 1935, she resigned from her position at the Laboratory to become Arizona administrator of the National Youth Administration. The same year, she vacationed in the northwestern U.S.

In 1935, Jane became coordinator of women's projects for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) for the state of Arizona [The WPA was a massive employment relief program launched by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the spring of 1935]. She moved to Phoenix where she lived for the rest of her life.

Percy and Bessie Rider celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1937. Percy Rider died in Phoenix in July 1944; he was 84. Bessie died in Phoenix in January 1956.

In 1948, Jane became State Director of hospital surveys and construction, a position she held until 1961 when she retired at age 71. In 1950, she attended the annual convention of the American Public Health Association in Fort Worth where she presented a paper "Sanitation Features of Irrigation Projects."

Upon her retirement, Jane commented "There's so much yet to be done." She remained active in numerous projects and organizations. She was a consultant for hospital projects in Arizona; and a member of the Arizona Hospital Association, the Arizona Sewage and Water Works Association and the Arizona Public Health Association.

In 1963, Jane (along with State Senator Benjamin Arnold, Judge Evo De Concini and Ambassador to Venezuela C. Allen Stewart) was honored by University of Arizona President Richard Harvill during Honors Convocation at the University of Arizona for her public service. Then, in 1964, she came out of retirement to head the Arizona Health Department's Hospital and Nursing Home Licensing Division; then-Governor Paul Fannin signed waivers permitting her to work beyond the department's retirement age. In 1970, Jane was named Phoenix Woman of the Year by the Phoenix Advertising Club. She is one of the honorees in the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame.

On March 4, 1981, Jane Herbst Rider died in Phoenix; she was 91. She once said, "It is very human, this thing of helping people, and I love it." She had spent her life doing just that.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The papers of Jane Herbt Rider, the first woman engineer to graduate from the University of Arizona, span the years ca. 1895 to ca. 1980. The largest portion of the collection is comprised of photographs, many of them taken in Tucson and the surrounding area. Among them are images of the University of Arizona buildings and a circus presented by students, the Rider home in Tucson, San Xavier, Roosevelt Dam, ranches and cowboys.

## **SERIES NOTES**

Although the bulk of this collection is made up of photographs, there is a small amount of biographical material. As a result, two series have been designated as follows: Series 1 contains biographical materials and Series 2 contains photographs.

## **BOX & FOLDER LIST**

### **Box 1**

#### **Series 1: Biographical Materials**

- F. Diary-David Herbst, 1907 [David Herbst was born December 21, 1826 in New York. He and his wife Jane were the parents of Bessie Herbst Rider, Jane's mother. When Herbst arrived in Tucson on February 18, 1907, he was already a widow. At the time of his arrival, he was suffering from a stomach ailment. Many of his subsequent entries note "Tucson-sick" or "vomited." On April 11th, he wrote of plans to go to Los Angeles on April 17. On the 12th, he wrote that he was feeling better. Sadly, this is his last entry. According to the Arizona State Genealogy Society *Death Records*, David Herbst died in Tucson on June 8, 1907; his body was shipped to Sewickley, Pennsylvania for burial.]
- F. Newspaper Clippings

#### **Series 2: Photographs**

##### **People**

- F. 3 Herbst Family-Pennsylvania
- F. 4 Mayhew Family-Tucson [Henry Mayhew Sr. was a University of Arizona graduate and a member of the Old Pueblo Club. He and wife Ruth had one son, Henry Jr.]
- F. 5-6 Rider Family-Ohio
- F. 7 Bessie and Percy S. Herbst Rider
- F. 8 Jane Herbst Rider [see also Box 3, F. 30]
- F. 9 Percy S. Rider Jr.
- F. 10 Mr. And Mrs. Garry Schuller
- F. 11 William L. Stevenson
- F. 12 Unidentified-Children
- F. 13 Unidentified-Groups

##### **Box 2**

- F. 14 Unidentified-Men
- F. 15 Unidentified-Women

##### **Places**

- F. 16-17 Arizona [Includes images of the Grand Canyon]
- F. 18 Miscellaneous
- F. 19 San Xavier Mission
- F. 20 Washington, D.C.

##### **Subjects**

- F. 21 Cactus
- F. 22 Celebrations
- F. 23 Horses
- F. 24 Houses [Includes image of the Bell Tower, Tucson's first city hall and fire department; David Herbst's home in Sewickley, Pennsylvania; the Rider home in Rico, Colorado; and a panorama of the Manning House in Tucson]
- F. 25 Landscapes
- F. 26-27 National Youth Administration (NYA) [The NYA was a U.S. government agency established in 1935 within the Works Progress Administration; it was transferred in 1939 to the Federal Security Agency and was placed in 1942 under the War Manpower Commission. Created as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program, the NYA at first worked to obtain part-time work for unemployed youths; as unemployment decreased and war

approached, emphasis shifted to training youths for war work until, early in 1942, all NYA activities not contributing to the war effort were dropped. In all, more than 700,000 students took part in this program. Its activities ceased late in 1943.]

F. 28 Native Americans

F. 29 Transportation

### **Box 3 Oversize**

F. 30 Photos of Jane Rider [see also Box 1, F. 8]

### **Box 4**

**Album 1:** 7¼ x 10¾, ca. 1908 [Album contains mostly black and white images as well as a number of

cyanotypes. Includes images of Rico, Colorado; Miss Wolcott's School in Denver; University of Arizona Old Main, West Cottage, South Hall, Library; University of Arizona circus 1909; Percy Rider Jr. and Sr.; the Rider home in Tucson, dubbed "Tres Palmas"; San Xavier; fishing trip Percy Rider took in Montana; Old Orchard, Ohio; and Mexico.]

**Album 2:** 11 x 14½, ca. 1910 [Album contains mostly outdoors photographs depicting outings presumably taken by Jane and friends. Among the images are San Xavier; horse ranches; camping/hiking/boating; herds of sheep; building with adobe; Indian homes, baskets and pottery; threshing machines; and Roosevelt Dam. Many of the images show young men and women clowning for the camera, hanging out and just plain goofing around.]