MS 1196
Rillito Race Track,
Papers, 1982-1990

DESCRIPTION
Documents and correspondence concerning the effort to preserve the Rillito Race Track, 1982-1990. Includes newspaper clippings, oral histories, correspondence and documents of the Committee to Preserve Historic Rillito Racetrack, the Rillito Race Track Historic Review Committee, the JNC Corp., Pima County government and the state government. Also contains documents from the Rillito Race Track after it 1988 reopening and documents concerning the 1984 Proposition 400 to preserve the Race Track. Other miscellaneous documents and correspondence are included, along with undated color photographs of the Track before its reopening.

2 Boxes, .75 linear ft.

HISTORICAL NOTE
Originally built in 1943, the Rillito Racetrack Chute became an important center for amateur Quarter Horse racing, which is done on a straight 3/8 mile track. In 1953, an oval track was built incorporating the chute to allow for the additional racing of trotters and thoroughbred horses. Many innovations began here, such as the standardization of track length and the use of the photo electric timer, as well as the chute system itself. The first legalized pari-mutuel Quarter Horse Racing started at the Rillito. The last race took place in May of 1982. Shortly after that, an effort began to preserve the Race Track as a National Historic Site. The Committee to Preserve Historic Rillito Racetrack was formed, placing on the 1984 ballot for an initiative to make the Track the official Pima Count Race Track for the next 25 years. This initiative passed. Their ultimate goal was achieved in June of 1986 with the Track's inclusion in the National Register of Historic Sites. A second committee was then formed, the Rillito Race Track Historical Review Committee, to take the necessary measures to preserve and eventually reopen the Race Track to horse racing and other community activities. On Jan. 17, 1988, the Rillito Race Track was dedicated as an Historic Site. On Jan. 23, 1988, horses were once again racing at the Rillito Race Track.

ACQUISITION
Donated by Joanne Hamilton Vinik.

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 Mike Speelman, intern, in May, 2001.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Newspaper clippings 1984-1990
f.1   Newspaper Clippings 1984-1990

Series 2: Oral Histories 1983
f.2   Oral Histories of Mary M. DeWeese, Nelson C. Nye, William K. Richey, and Bill
       Cook 1983

Series 3: Rillito Race Track Documents 1988
f.3   Rillito Race Track Documents 1988

Series 4: Proposition 400 Documents 1984
F.4   Proposition 400 Documents 400 1984

Series 5: Pima County and Arizona State Documents 1983-1989
f.5   Pima County and Arizona State Documents 1983-1989
f.6   Pima County Correspondence 1985-1988

**Series 6: The Committee to Preserve Historic Rillito Racetrack Documents and
       Correspondence 1982-1988**
f.7   The Committee to Preserve Historic Rillito Racetrack Documents 1983-1988
f.8   The Committee to Preserve Historic Rillito Racetrack Documents Undated
f.9   The Committee to Preserve Historic Rillito Racetrack Correspondence 1982-1988

Box 2

**Series 7: Rillito Race Track Historical Review Committee Documents and
       Correspondence 1986-1988**
f.10   Rillito Race Track Historical Review Committee Minutes to Meetings 1986-1989
f.11   Rillito Race Track Historical Review Committee Documents 1986-1988
f.12   Rillito Race Track Historical Review Committee Correspondence 1986-1989

Series 8: JNC Corporation Documents and Correspondence 1986-1988
f.13   JNC Corporation Documents and Correspondence 1986-1988

Series 9: Miscellaneous Documents and Correspondence 1979-1988
f.14   Miscellaneous Documents 1979-1986
f.15   Miscellaneous Correspondence 1983-1988

Series 10: Photographs

f.16   Photographs Undated