

MS 1100
Rodriguez, Jose, 1891-1991
Papers, 1905-1953 (bulk 1915-1920)

DESCRIPTION

Chiefly photographs taken by Jose Rodriguez in Tucson between 1915 and 1920; images include parades, buildings, family and friends, actresses and businessmen and the San Xavier Mission. There are also photographs of coal miners and mining from an unidentified location. A small amount of personal material is present including a midwife's permit and safety rules, and citizenship papers.

1 box, .5 linear ft.

RELATED MATERIAL

Related oral history interviews of Jose Rodriguez's descendants is located at AV 0596.

TRANSFERS

Cameras and equipment belonging to Jose Rodriguez were donated to the Museum Dept.

ACQUISITION

Donated by the Rodriguez family in 1995 and 1996.

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 Kim Frontz, June 1998.

ARRANGEMENT

Arranged in four series: Personal and printed material, 1907-1952. Photographs – People, 1905-1920. Photographs – Mining and railroad, 1914-1917. Photographs – Buildings and misc., 1915-1920.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Jose Rodriguez was born in 1891 in Abasolo, Guanajuato, Mexico. He came to Tucson in 1907 with his mother and stepfather, Francisco and Luz Rodriguez. Julia Keen, a teacher at Safford Elementary School, helped him learn English. Soon he left school, to work as a dishwasher and cook at Rossi's Restaurant and then as a photographer's assistant. Photography became his hobby and he built a darkroom in his home.

Jose married Rita Erique on November 9, 1910; her parents were Jesus and Jesusita Erique. Rita's mother was a midwife in Tucson. In 1917, Jose began work at the Southern Pacific Railroad where he was employed for forty years. Jose enjoyed traveling around Southern Arizona taking photographs, he packed his props in the car and took the family along for picnics. He died on May 8, 1991 at the age of 100.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Citizenship papers, a midwife's permit and safety rules, and photographs taken by Jose Rodriguez. These photographs were taken between 1908 and 1920 and include images of family, local buildings, a World War I patriotic parade, Southern Pacific Railroad workers, and coal mines and miners. Within these photographs, there are many elements including automobiles, fire trucks, miners' candle lamps, and an example of deshilado, an open-weave embroidery style.

Family photographs consist of wedding groups, family gatherings, and individuals. There are photographs of family and friends at celebrations, hunting, and picnicking and photographs he was hired to take of businessmen, actresses, and a Chinese family.

Photographs were taken of area buildings such as the San Xavier Mission, Santa Rita Hotel, University of Arizona buildings, St. Mary's Sanatorium, and the Marist School for Boys. There is a series of interior and exterior views of San Xavier Mission taken about 1917. Another series taken at the United Coal Mining Company, Christopher Mine, at an unidentified location, depicts buildings, machinery, miners and interior shots of mines.

Photographs are present of the American Sunday Parade during World War I and a Fourth of July parade, probably in 1918.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Personal and printed material, 1907-1952

f.1	Personal material (citizenship, etc.)	1952-1953
f.2	Printed material (photography books)	1907
f.3	Printed material (midwife)	1920
f.4	Printed material (photo mats)	n.d.

Series 2: Photographs – People, 1905-1920

f.5	Jose and Rita Rodriguez	1905-1915
f.6	Family	1912-1917
f.7	Friends	1910-1920
f.8	Wedding groups	1910-1920
f.9	Children	1910-1920
f.10	Individuals, unidentified	1915
f.11	Businessmen, unidentified	1917
f.12	Chinese-Americans, unidentified	1900-1915
f.13	Actors and actresses	1915-1920

Series 3: Photographs – Mining and railroad, 1914-1917

f.14	Miners (groups)	1915-1917
f.15	United Coal Mine buildings (exterior)	1914
f.16	United Coal Miners and mine interiors	1914
f.17	Southern Pacific Railroad employee group	1917-1920

Series 4: Photographs – Buildings and misc., 1915-1920

f.18	San Xavier Mission	1915-1920
f.19	Other buildings	1915-1920
f.20	Parades and celebrations	1917-1918
f.21	Fire trucks	1915-1920
f.22	Documents and misc.	1915-1920