

TITLE: The Helen Seargeant Diaries

DATE RANGE: 1934-1962

CALL NUMBER: PP-MS 49

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .75 linear ft.

PROVENANCE: Donated by niece, Dorothy Seargeant Nelson, 2010

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CREDIT LINE: The Helen Seargeant Diaries, PP-MS 49, Arizona Historical Society-Papago Park, Tempe, AZ

PROCESSED BY: Linda Whitaker, 2012

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE (courtesy of Lisa Reid Ricker, PhD): Born in Prescott, Arizona to Matthew Humphreys and Harriet Wright, Helen Humphreys (1878-1966) spent her formative years on a coffee plantation in Mexico. Around the turn of the century, her family relocated to Riverside, California, where Helen attended business school. She moved to Phoenix about 1911. Upon her marriage in 1913 to Jonathan Seargeant, Helen took on the extensive duties of a farm wife, co-managing an 160-acre parcel in Cashion, Arizona where she was also active in her community as a member of the Farm Union, Mineralogical Society, First Families Club as well as the Phoenix Branch of the National League of Pen Women and the Phoenix Writer's Club. During the 1950s and early 1960s Helen became a published writer. Her works include two memoirs, *San Antonio Nexapa* (1952) and *House by the Buckeye Road* (1960) as well as various poems and magazine articles.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection consists of 17 diaries ranging from fair to fragile condition. Much of the information documents the mundane i.e. weather, family activities and daily chores typical of agricultural life. They also reveal the character, intellect, and cultural engagement of a woman whose observations, reflections and humor greatly inform the daily entries. Helen Seargeant enjoyed writing and had a keen, personal sense of history. The diaries cover 30 critical years of change in Maricopa County from pre-WWII to the 1960s.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Diary	Date(s)
1	1	1934
	2	1935
	3	1936
	4	1937
	5	1938
	6	1939
	7	1940
	8	1941
	9	1942
	10	1943
	11	1944
	12	1945
2	13	1946
	14	1947-1951
	15	1952-1956
	16	1957-1961
	17	1962