DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of materials primarily associated with Leo Sonderegger’s work with the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Tucson Civic Ballet with the bulk of the records from 1965 to the mid 1970s. Items include organization records of board meetings, newsletters, financial summaries, by-laws, and correspondence. Photo images of ballet performers and directors are also present. A small quantity of materials feature Sonderegger’s work with the Alburn Bureau both in Minnesota and Tucson.

15 Boxes, 10 linear ft.

RELATED NOTE

Other Collections Donated by Leo Sonderegger:
MS 1311 Cananea Papers
MS 1314 Athletic Mining Company Papers

ACQUISITION

Donated by Leo Sonderegger in 2005.

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, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Alicia Thomas under the direction of Dave Tackenberg in March 2007.

ARRANGEMENT

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Leo Sonderegger came to Arizona from Minnesota and worked with the Alburn Bureau in providing editorial essays to newspapers. In 1956 Sonderegger purchased the Bureau from its founders W. H. Alburn and his wife, Miriam. Prior to work with the Bureau he worked on the editorial staff from the Minneapolis Tribune and other newspapers. He graduated in 1935 from the University of Nebraska.

Arriving in Arizona in 1966 Sonderegger became active in the southern chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (A.C.L.U.). He became head of the Due Process Committee in 1968 and later became President of the Chapter. In addition to work with the Alburn Bureau and A.C.L.U. he became active in many local cultural organizations. As a member of the Tucson Council of Arts he became involved with the Tucson Civic Ballet in 1972. Within a few years Sanderegger became its president and remained active in many of these local organizations through the 1980s.

In 1989 Sonderegger closed the Alburn Bureau and retired to write fiction. His first book was published by Iuniverse.com and is titled Blumdalchitch and is the follow-up story to Jonathan Swift’s classic, Gulliver’s Travels. Sonderegger continues to live and write in Tucson.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Leo Sonderegger Collection contains organizational materials associated with his occupational work primarily with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Tucson Civic Ballet. Materials of both organizations include board of director meeting notes, committee communications, financial information, newsletters, by-laws, and correspondence. A small series contains materials associated with Minnesota prior to Sonderegger’s relocation to Tucson. Five short stories written by Sonderegger are in draft form and do not appear to have been published. Photographs in the collection depict ballet performances, individual performers, and some old basketball & baseball teams. Most images have no identifications. Additional materials in the collection include items donated with the collection but appear to have no relationship to Sonderegger or his family. Some of these items include a scrapbook featuring travel items and postcards of southern Arizona with the name of Joyce C. Buchanan in the front, a listing of certificates of property sales in Douglas, AZ in 1929, and agricultural and labor account books which may have been used on a southern Arizona farm. The collection has been organized into six series.

Series one contains information on Leo Sonderegger and his work with the Alburn Bureau. In addition five short story manuscripts written by Sonderegger are present. One folder holding correspondence and miscellaneous items associated with his work in Minnesota prior to coming to Arizona.

Series two houses materials from the national level organization of the American Civil Liberties Union collected by Sonderegger in his work with the local chapter. Materials date from 1956 to 1970 and include history of the organization, manual for organization & policies, position papers, goals, and newsletters. Eight folders of correspondence from the national level to subordinate chapters provide an overview of issues and concerns of the times. News releases, bulletins, along with advertisements and brochures are also present.

Series three has materials associated with the Southern Chapter of the A.C.L.U. of which Sonderegger became president for. Items present include by-laws, newsletters, committee
materials, board meeting notes, newspaper clippings, and correspondence. Bulk of the records date from 1961 – 1970. Additional folders contain prominent issues or activities engaged in by the A.C.L.U. Southern Arizona Chapter including a School Resource Officer Program (1966), freedom of religion challenge (1966), Cochise Junior College incident (1965), and A.C.L.U. reorganization proposals.

Series four contains a small quantity of materials dealing with Sonderegger and the Alburn Bureau. Although Sonderegger worked with the Bureau for many years there are only six folders reflecting this activity. Three folders deal with correspondence and one folder contains letterhead stationary.

Series five consists of items related to the Tucson Civic Ballet. Board of directors meeting notes, committee reports, biographical papers on the organization directors, membership listings, and publicity items are present. Various program announcements, publications, and correspondence for the years 1970 to 1980 are present along with budget statements and debt status reports.

Series six reflects many diverse items many of which do not related to other series in the collection and some that do not relate to Sanderegger himself. Other Tucson cultural committees and organizations that Sonderegger was a member of are reflected in this series including the Tucson Chamber of Commerce Arts and Crafts Committee, Arizona Opera Company, Tucson Art Center, Tucson Symphony Society, Arizona Civic Theatre, Tucson Council of the Arts, and many others. Student letters and drawings in appreciation for ballet performances for their schools are present along with various photographs reflecting ballet performances, dancers, and directors. Two boxes of oversized items are present including hand drawings of ballet sets and proposed backdrops and oversized photos of ballet dancers and directors. Items that do not appear to related to Sonderegger's activities include a scrapbook of southern Arizona by Joyce C. Buchanan, certificates on property sales for Douglas, AZ in 1929, agricultural and labor account books for the late 1930s and early 1940s, and photographs of various community basketball and baseball teams.
Box 1

Series 1: Leo Sonderegger and Family, 1953 - 1967

Folder 1: Sonderegger Personal and Family History
f.2 Leo Sonderegger Minnesota Correspondence and MISC 1962 – 1966
f.3 Personal Receipts 1965 – 1967
f.4 Sonderegger Manuscript: “The Red Balloon” 1953
f.5 Sonderegger Manuscript: “To Decide Whether…” 1955
f.6 Sonderegger Manuscript: “Deadline for Wendy”
f.7 Sonderegger Manuscript: “The Big One”
f.8 Sonderegger Manuscript: “The Fog”

Series 2: American Civil Liberties Union (National), 1956 - 1970

f.9 A.C.L.U. National History and Purpose 1961
f.10 Organizational History 1968
f.11 Manual of Organization 1966
f.12 Policy Guide 1966
f.13 Board of Directors 1966 – 1967
f.15 Organizational Goals 1960 – 1963
f.16 Organizational Statements 1959 – 1963
f.17 Annual Reports 1962-1963/1964
f.18 Proposals/Discussion on Reorganization 1963/1968
f.19 Membership Income Listings 1964 – 1970
f.20 Tucson Southern Division Stationary

Box 2

f.21 Newsletters 1964 – 1970
f.22 Press Service Bulletins 1965 – 1968
f.23 News Releases 1966 – 1970
f.24-30 Correspondence 1959 – 1969

Box 3

f.31 Correspondence 1970
f.32 Biennial Conference (Boulder, CO) 1964
f.33 Biennial Conference (Ann Arbor, MI) 1968
f.34 Key Year Fund Drive 1966
f.35 Organization Publication Listings 1964 – 1966
f.36 Information Brochures 1956 – 1966
f.37 Chapters Outside Arizona 1962 – 1967

Series 3: American Civil Liberties Union (Southern Arizona Chapter), 1940 - 1989

f.39 Newsletters 1963 – 1967
f.40 Legislative Bulletins 1964 – 1965/1968
f.41 News Releases 1966 – 1968
f.42 Advertisements 1962 – 1965
f.43 Chapter Committees 1965 – 1968
f.44 Due Process Committee 1967
f.45 Five Year Activities Report 1969

Box 4

f.46 Board of Directors and Executive Board Member Lists 1963 – 1968
f.47 Executive Board Meeting Notes 1961 – 1964
f.48-52 Board of Directors and Executive Board Meetings 1965 – 1968/1970
f.54 Issues (General) 1965 – 1970
f.55 Issues (Cochise Junior College) 1965
f.56-57 Issues (School Resource Officer Program) 1966
f.58 Issues (Freedom of Religion) 1966
f.60 MISC. – Court Statement (“Spree Crimes”) 1986

Box 5

f.61-68 Correspondence 1962 – 1970
f.69 Conferences 1964/1968
f.70 Awards Dinner 1964/1966
f.71 Newspaper Clippings 1965 – 1966

Box 6

f.72-73 Newspaper Clippings 1968 – 1989
f.74 Sonderegger’s Notes
f.75 Northern Arizona A.C.L.U. Chapter 1965 – 1966

Series 4: The Alburn Bureau, 1925 – 1980

f.76 Information Sheet
f.77 Manuscripts on the U.S. Courts 1971
f.78-80 Correspondence 1925 – 1980
f.81 Alburn Bureau Stationary


f.82 Organizational History 1965 – 1975
f.83 Articles of Incorporation 1965/1976
f.84-85 By-Laws and Revisions 1972/1976

Box 7

f.87 Organizational Agreement 1973/1977
Box 8

f.114 Creation of Academy of Ballet Arts 1972
f.115 Cultural Interchange with Guadalajara, MX 1972
f.116 Membership Meetings 1970 – 1973
f.117 Membership Communications 1971 – 1972
f.118 Dancer Agreements 1975
f.119 Organization Questionnaire 1976
f.120 Member & Donor Listings 1970 – 1975
f.121 Organization Donor Listing N.D.

Box 9

f.122 Publicity & Advertisement 1975 – 1978
f.123 Publicity and Mailing Lists
f.126-127 Publications and Announcements (General) 1973 – 1976
f.128-131 Publicity (Newspaper Clippings) 1969 – 1988
f.133 Tickets & Ticket Information 1971 – 1976
f.137 Ballet Performances (General) 1962 – 1976
f.138 Performance: “Legends of the Superstition Mountains” 1973
f.139 Performance: “Danceprobe 78” 1978
f.140 Finance Committee 1978

Box 10

f.141 Budget Statements & Debt Status 1969 – 1978
f.146-151 Receipts 1961/1971 - 1982
Box 11

Series 6: Tucson Cultural Organizations and MISC., 1929 - 1984

f.152 Tucson Chamber of Commerce (Arts & Crafts Committee) 1974 – 1975
f.153 Arizona Opera Company 1973 – 1977
f.154 Tucson Opera Company Production: “The Marriage of Figaro” 1974
f.155 Tucson Art Center
f.156 Tucson Symphony Society 1970 – 1977
f.157 Arizona Commission on the Arts and Humanities 1975
f.159 Tucson Metropolitan Ballet 1982 – 1983
f.160 Tucson Council of the Arts (Conference Report & Correspondence) 1973
f.162 Tucson Council of the Arts (Board and Executive Meetings) 1967 – 1973
f.163 MISC Arizona Organizations and Companies 1970 – 1977
f.164 MISC Organizations and Companies Outside Arizona 1970 – 1976

Box 12

f.165 MISC Sonderegger Notes 1971 – 1977
f.166 Student Appreciation Letters 1975
f.167 Thank You Notes from Children 1976
f.168 Ballet Slide Show Program Script (Draft) 1977
f.169 Tucson Civic Ballet Stationary and Forms
f.170 Organizational Self Study Handouts
f.171-176 Joyce C. Buchanan Scrapbook of Southern Arizona
f.177 Certificates of Property Sales in Douglas, AZ Jan. 23, 1929 – Feb. 9, 1929
f.178 Academic Papers (Not Related to Sanderegger)

Box 13

f.179 Agricultural Account Book 1939 – 1945
f.180 Agricultural Account Book 1939 – 1949
f.181 Labor Account Book 1940 – 1944
f.183 Labor Account Book 1949 – 1950
f.184 Corona de Tucson Volunteer Fire Department 1982 – 1984
f.185 Photographs – Portraits
    Richard France
    Richard Holden
    Ballet Dancers
f.186 Photographs – Ballet Performance Believed to be “Alice in Wonderland”
f.187 Photographs – Individual and Couple Ballet Performers
f.188-189 Photographs – Ballet Performances (Unidentified)
f.190 Photographs – Folklorico Ballet Social Event 1972
f.191 Photographs – Sports Team Members
    Glendale Grays Baseball Team (Digital Image) 1938
    “Caros” Baseball Team (State Champions) 1926
Box 14

**Oversized Images**

- Frank Ohman – N.Y.C. Ballet
- Frank Ohman in Various N.Y.C. Ballet Performances
- Unidentified Basketball Team – 1924
- Unidentified Baseball Team

Box 15

**Oversized Sketch Images**

- Ballet Sketches for Backdrops, Sets, and General Arrangements