
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

949 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Library and Archives
(520) 617-1157

ahsref@azhs.gov

MS 1310
Leo Sonderegger Collection
1925 - 1989

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

Collection arranged into the following series: Leo Sonderegger and Family, 1953 – 1967; American Civil Liberties Union (National), 1956 – 1970; American Civil Liberties Union (Southern Arizona Chapter), 1940 – 1989; The Alburn Bureau, 1925 – 1980; The Tucson Civic Ballet, 1955 – 1989; Tucson Cultural Organizations and MISC., 1929 – 1984.

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 and Folder Listing

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	
f.11 Manual of Organization	1968
f.12 Policy Guide	1966
f.13 Board of Directors	1966 – 1967
f.14 Position Papers	1966 – 1970
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.38 By-Laws	1963/1965/1968
--------------	----------------

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.53	Memberships and Affiliates	1964/1967/1968
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.59	Issues (A.C.L.U. Changes)	1940.1966-1968
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	

Series 5: The Tucson Civic Ballet, 1955 - 1989

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
f.88	Ballet Exploration Group & Proposal	1982 - 1983

f.89	Board of Directors	1972
f.90-96	Board of Directors Meetings	1970 – 1979
f.97	Executive Board Member Listings	1970 – 1974
f.98	Executive Board Meetings	1970 – 1972/1978
f.99	Long Range Planning Committee	1970
f.100	Artistic Affairs Committee	1973
f.101	Ad Hoc Planning Committee	1978
f.102	Advisory Board Records	1988 – 1989
f.103	Proposals/Reports to Board	
f.104	Director Patrick Frantz	
f.105	Director Richard France	1971
f.106	Artistic Director Richard Holden	1971
f.107	Stephen P. Wagner (General Manager)	1977
f.108	Employees & Staff	

Box 8

f.109-113	Correspondence	1955/1970 - 1984
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.124-125	Press Releases	1973 – 1977
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.134-136	Specific Ballet Program Announcements	1966 – 1977
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.141-145	Fund Drives and Grants	1970 – 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.158	Arizona Civic Theatre	1970 – 1976
f.159	Tucson Metropolitan Ballet	1982 – 1983
f.160	Tucson Council of the Arts (Conference Report & Correspondence)	1973
f.161	Tucson Council of the Arts (Member Lists, By-Laws, Financial)	1969 – 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.182	Labor Account Book	1942 – 1947/1966
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	

Unidentified Basketball Team
Unidentified Baseball Team (Paper Image)

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