
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1035
Merrit H. and Lilly E. Starkweather Papers
1918 - 1982

DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of Merrit H. Starkweather's architectural drawings/blueprints personal and business correspondence, and folders of his personal history. Lilly E. Starkweather's papers reflect her involvement in nature conservation and garden club associations especially the Desert Garden Club which she started in 1940. The collections also contains her diaries and both personal & professional correspondence.

10 Box, 6 linear ft.

RELATED NOTE

Starkweather Photograph Collection PC 130.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Naomi Bear in 1984.

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 Colleen M. Tracy and Rose Byrne in February 1996.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Merrit Howard Starkweather was born Nov. 10, 1891 in Chicago, IL. While working for his father's cabinet factory in Oshkosh, WI he developed an early interest in draftsmanship. His father's death in 1909 prevented him from continuing his education. He worked as a draftsman in a woodworking factory and later moved to Spokane, WA seeking a job with Cutter and Malgren Architects. In 1915 Starkweather moved to Tucson and worked as an architect with William Bray. Shortly after this date he started his own business, Tucson Blueprint Company. During World War II he served with the Army 23rd Engineers with service in France.

In 1919 Starkweather returned to Tucson and continued with Tucson Blueprint Company while performing architectural work. He designed the Arizona Inn, the American Legion Club, El Encanto Estate Residences, Catalina Junior High School, and Carillo School. Starkweather founded the Arizona chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1938 and in 1968 he was named a fellow of the AIA for his public service. After 1945 he sold the Blueprint Company and devoted fulltime to architecture. He died September 15, 1972.

Lilly E. Starkweather (Ottilla Jettinghoff) was born January 14, 1886 at Delphos, OH. She studied business administration. She worked as a bookkeeper for Ricker Bros. Lumber Company and as a cost accountant for Road Machinery Manufacturing Co. and bookkeeper for Jettinghoff and Beckman Furniture Store. Later she managed the family grocery store. In 1916 she moved to Tucson to work for the Reiniger-Freeman Mining Company where she remained until 1921. In 1921 Lilly Jettinghoff married Merrit Starkweather and became active in the Tucson community.

Lilly Starkweather was an active member of the Tucson Fine Arts Association, was on the Board of Directors for the Saturday Morning Music Club, and the Arizona Chapter of the American Planning and Civic Association. Her most treasured activities and participation centered around gardening. She was a member of the Garden Club of America, the American Rose Society, the National Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Arizona Cactus and Native Flora Society, and a charter member of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. She founded the Desert Garden Club in 1940 and was a life member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs where she served as a National Conservation Chairperson and as the Pacific Regional Director. Lilly Starkweather died August 20, 1983.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Starkweather Collection consists of materials associated with both Merrit and Lilly Starkweather's respective interests. Merrit Starkweather's career as an architect is reflected in the collection with business and personal correspondence, certificates, newspaper clippings, and nine folders of architectural drawings & sketches. The bulk of the collection reflects the many interests and activities associated with Lilly Starkweather in her associations with garden club organizations, conservation issues, and general personal interest topics associated with Arizona. The collection has been organized into six series and nine folders housing the drawings.

Series one and the outside architectural drawings highlight the career activities and personal history of Merrit Starkweather. Business and personal records contain correspondence, financial records, newspaper clippings, achievement certificates, and biographical materials. The architectural drawings and sketches are associated with personal residences, hospitals, school buildings, and private organizations. Noteworthy structures or organizations include the Starkweather home at 1803 E. 5th Street, Tucson, AZ, Scottish Rite Temple, various additions for Myerson Stores, Inc., the Arizona Pioneer Historical Society, St. Joseph's Academy additions, and the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind. Personal correspondence between Merrit and Lilly Starkweather is present between 1952 and 1959.

Series two through six are associated with the activities of Lilly Starkweather in conjunction with garden club activities, conservation issues and personal interest topics. Lilly Starkweather was a prolific letter writer, lecturer, and writer contributing articles to newspapers and publications relating to desert plants and garden club activities. Series two contains lecture program notes promoting conservation and manuscripts written or

delivered from the late 1930s to the end of the 1970s. Additional articles printed in the *Arizona Daily Star* highlight her "Tucson Gardens" column published from 1948 to 1949. One folder contains autobiographical materials.

Series three contains Lilly Starkweather's notebooks and diaries consisting of her flower notebook and personal diaries where she recorded daily interactions and events from 1949 to 1976. Series four locates her correspondence consisting of both incoming and outgoing letters from 1918 to 1980. The heart of the collection is located in Series five containing materials associated with the various flower and garden clubs she was involved with. Some of the more prominent organizations include the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, the Arizona Roadside Council, the Desert Garden Club, La Madera Garden Club, National Federation of State Garden Clubs, Rose Society of Tucson, and the Old Pueblo Garden Club. In addition to general membership in these organizations Lilly Starkweather served in various positions of leadership and wrote both letters and articles in support of their activities. The last series in the collection contains various printed materials, scrapbooks, and papers of personal and financial matters associated with Lilly Starkweather. Four scrapbooks consist of clippings, brochures, and printed materials highlighting conservation issues, desert plants, and club activities. All the scrapbooks are in poor condition with broken bindings and many loose items between pages.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Series 1: Merrit Starkweather Business & Personal Papers, 1918 - 1976

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Folder 12: Biographical Materials | 1963 – 1975 |
| f.13 Correspondence with Lilly E. Starkweather | 1952 – 1959 |
| f.14 National Federation of State Garden Clubs Headquarters | 1955 – 1958 |
| f.15 City of Tucson Board of Adjustment Case 65-86 (Pace) | 1966 |
| f.16 Social Security | 1939 – 1958 |
| f.17 Stock Investments | 1952 – 1960 |
| f.18 U.S. Securities – Valley National Bank | 1961 |
| f.19 MISC Financial Records | 1962 – 1976 |
| f.20 Certificates | 1937 – 1968 |
| f.21 Military Service Records | 1918 – 1919 |
| f.22 Marriage Announcements | 1921 |
| f.23 Certificates [IN OVERSIZE BOX] | 1927-1953 |
| f.24 Newspaper Clippings | 1927 – 1973 |
| f.25 MISC Printed Materials | 1929 – 1976 |
| f.28 Specifications – Arizona Elks Hospital Alterations | 1966 |
| f.29 Partial Sets of Specifications | Undated |

Series 2: Lilly Starkweather's Lectures & Manuscripts, 1938 - 1975

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| f.30 Lectures | 1938 - 1949 |
| f.31 Lectures | 1951 – 1955 |
| f.32 Lectures | 1956 – 1957 |
| f.33 Lectures | 1961 – 1963 |
| f.34 Lectures | 1964 – 1965 |
| f.35 Lectures | 1971 |
| f.36 Lectures | Undated |
| f.37 Manuscripts | 1938 |

Box 2

| | |
|---|-------------|
| f.38 Manuscripts | 1940 – 1943 |
| f.39 Manuscripts | 1946 – 1949 |
| f.40 Manuscripts | 1951 – 1959 |
| f.41 Manuscripts | 1962 – 1969 |
| f.42 Manuscripts | 1970 – 1975 |
| f.43 Manuscripts | Undated |
| f.44-45 "Tucson Gardens" in <i>Arizona Daily Star</i> | 1948 - 1949 |
| f.46 Audubon Nature Club | 1949 |
| f.47 Autobiographical Materials | 1955 – 1975 |
| f.48 MISC Notes | |
| f.49 Prayers | 1953 – 1971 |

Box 3

Series 3: Notebooks and Diaries, 1949/1966 - 1976

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| f.50 | Flower Show School Notebook | 1949 |
| f.51-53 | Diaries | 1966 – 1976 |

Series 4: Lilly Starkweather's Correspondence, 1918 - 1980

| | | |
|---------|---|-------------|
| f.54-59 | Personal Correspondence | 1940 – 1980 |
| f.60 | Correspondence - Amerind Foundation <i>Arizona Daily Star</i> Arizona Historical Society | 1947 – 1975 |
| f.61 | Correspondence – Sonora Desert Museum | 1953 – 1971 |
| f.62 | Correspondence – Lena F. Dalton Paul Fannin Daniel J. Gercke Carl Hayden Lyndon B. Johnson John F. Kennedy | 1941 – 1968 |
| f.63 | Correspondence – Lucile Mauntel | 1961 – 1977 |
| f.64 | Correspondence – <i>New York Times</i> | 1940 – 1975 |
| f.65 | Correspondence – Howard Pyle Charles P. Reininger | 1918 – 1954 |
| f.66 | Correspondence – A. F. Seward | 1929 – 1973 |
| f.67 | Correspondence – Shrine of the Ages | 1955 – 1959 |
| f.68 | Correspondence – Harry S. Truman | 1948 – 1952 |
| f.69 | Correspondence – City of Tucson | 1950 – 1974 |
| f.70 | Correspondence – University of Arizona | 1945 – 1966 |
| f.71 | Correspondence – “Voice of the People” and Letters to Editors | 1953 – 1966 |
| f.72 | Correspondence – Jack Williams | 1968 – 1969 |

Box 4

| | | |
|------|---|-------------|
| f.73 | Forest Fires | 1949 – 1964 |
| f.74 | Hydroponics | 1938 – 1948 |
| f.75 | National Council of State Garden Clubs (“Permanent Home”) | 1953 – 1966 |
| f.76 | Estate Probate | 1972 – 1973 |
| f.77 | Social Security | 1958 |
| f.78 | Sotols Plants | 1939 – 1967 |
| f.79 | M. H. Starkweather Estate/Widow's Pension | 1974 |
| f.80 | Valley Garden Center Lectern | 1963 |
| f.81 | National Council of State Garden Clubs Articles | 1954 – 1969 |

Series 5: Garden Club Materials, 1941 - 1979

| | | |
|------|---|-------------|
| f.82 | Bird Chairman | 1945 – 1947 |
| f.83 | By-Laws of Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs | 1964 |

| | | |
|------|---|---------------------|
| f.84 | Conservation Chairman (Grace McFall) | 1949 – 1952 |
| f.85 | Convention Materials | 1955 – 1966 |
| f.86 | Legislative and Resolution Chairman | 1953 – 1957 |
| f.87 | MISC Programs, Reports, and Announcements | 1948 – 1970 |
| f.88 | Newspaper Clippings | 1951 – 1966 |
| f.89 | Arizona Roadside Council | 1965 |
| f.90 | Desert Garden Club of Tucson Annual Reports | 1941-1942/1953-1957 |
| f.91 | Garden Club Billboards | 1956 – 1958 |

Box 5

| | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| f.92 | Carrillo School Project | 1947 – 1948/1960 |
| f.93 | Civic Chairman and Projects | 1945 – 1957 |
| f.94 | Garden Desert Club of Tucson Committee Reports | 1949 – 1967 |
| f.95 | Conservation Address to Desert Garden Club | 1951 – 1954 |
| f.96 | Conservation Chairman | 1943 – 1969 |
| f.97 | Constitution, By-Laws | 1941 – 1973 |
| f.98 | Correspondence | 1940 – 1971 |
| f.99 | Garden Club of America – Proposed Affiliation | 1963 – 1970 |
| f.100 | Garden Tours | 1951 – 1959 |
| f.101 | History | 1948 – 1965 |
| f.102 | Legislative Chairman | 1959 |
| f.103 | Membership Directories | 1973 – 1979 |
| f.104 | MISC | 1943 – 1975 |
| f.105 | <i>National Gardener</i> – Chairman | 1963 – 1970 |
| f.106-107 | Newspaper Clippings | 1944 – 1965 |
| f.108 | President Address and Messages | 1941 – 1942 |

Box 6

| | | |
|-----------|---|------------------|
| f.109 | Publicity Chairman | 1970 – 1971 |
| f.110 | Resolutions | 1953 – 1954 |
| f.111 | Teacher Conservation Workshops | 1954 |
| f.112 | Treasurer's Reports | 1948 – 1956 |
| f.113 | Wishing Shrine Project | 1946/1954 – 1956 |
| f.114 | YMCA Project – Award Application | 1954 |
| f.115 | Installation Ceremonies | 1972 – 1974 |
| f.116 | Membership Directories | 1974 – 1977 |
| f.117-118 | Bulletins of National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. | 1949 - 1953 |
| f.119 | Correspondence | 1951 – 1953 |
| f.120 | Conservation Chairman – Annual Reports | 1950 – 1951 |
| f.121-123 | Conservation Chairman – Correspondence | 1949 – 1954 |
| f.124-125 | Convention Programs | 1947 – 1963 |
| f.126 | Convention Affiliates | 1948 – 1959 |

Box 7

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| f.127 | Convention Programs – Regional | 1949 – 1957 |
| f.128 | Dams and Flooding | 1946 – 1951 |
| f.129 | Flash Letters | 1955 – 1957 |
| f.130 | Forest Management Tour | 1949 |

| | | |
|-------|---|----------------|
| f.131 | Life Membership | 1959 – 1965 |
| f.132 | Manzanita | 1950 |
| f.133 | National Gardener Articles | 1956 |
| f.134 | Pacific Regional Director | 1954 – 1957 |
| f.135 | Permanent Home | 1957 – 1958 |
| f.136 | Regional Chairmen Issue | 1955 – 1956 |
| f.137 | State Garden Publication Articles | 1955 – 1957 |
| f.138 | Teacher Conservation Workshops | 1949 – 1955 |
| f.139 | Water | 1946 – 1968 |
| f.140 | Installation of Officers | 1970/1974 |
| f.141 | Tucson Rose Club – By-Laws and Correspondence | 1949/1960 |
| f.142 | Tucson Garden Clubs – Constitution, By-Laws and Directory | 1965/1978-1979 |
| f.143 | <i>National Gardener</i> Chairman | 1964 – 1969 |
| f.144 | Tucson Garden Club Newsletters | 1968 – 1970 |
| f.145 | Baptism Certificate for Otilia Jettighoff | 1957 |

Series 6: Printed Materials, Scrapbooks, MISC, 1921 – 1982

| | | |
|-------|---|-------------|
| f.146 | Central Arizona Project | 1949 – 1963 |
| f.147 | Certificates | 1953 – 1982 |
| f.148 | Conservation Literature | 1938 – 1964 |
| f.149 | MISC Convention Programs | 1949 – 1959 |
| f.150 | Sotols | 1939 – 1974 |
| f.151 | Lilly E. Starkweather | 1931 – 1974 |
| f.152 | Newspaper Clipping of “Tucson Gardens” Column | 1948 |
| f.153 | Poisonous Plants | 1963 – 1971 |
| f.154 | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | 1949 – 1952 |
| f.155 | Scrapbook of Loose Personal, Financial, & Real Estate Matters | 1921 – 1971 |

Box 9

| | | |
|----------|---|-------------|
| f.156 | Scrapbook with Printed Articles Addressing Theatre Programs and Costumes (Many Loose Items) | 1932 – 1938 |
| f.157 | Scrapbook with Clippings and Personal Interest Items | 1939 – 1942 |
| f.158 | Scrapbook of Printed Items and Clippings Dealing with Sotols | 1939 – 1942 |
| f.159 | Dried Flower Arrangements | |
| f.160 | Listing of Flower Image Recipients | 1968 – 1965 |
| Item 161 | Video reel: National Council of Garden Clubs annual convention, Ashville, NC | May 1941 |

Box 10

| | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| | Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings Relating to Tucson and Arizona Events and Activities | 1951 – 1965 |
|--|---|-------------|

Outside Items (Architectural Drawings and Sketches of Merrit Starkweather)

LOCATION
Oversized Shelves on 2nd Floor, Range 3, Tier 2, Shelves 2 & 3

Folio 1:

Folio 2:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Morehead | No Date |
| Starkweather | |
| 1809 E. 5 th Street | |
| El Encanto | |
| 2111 E. Adams | |
| Swift | |
| Thode | |
| Unknown Interiors | |

Folio 3:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| ACME Printing Building | No Date |
| Arizona State Elks Association | 1964 |
| Assembly of God Church | No Date |
| Hal Burns | No Date |
| Hamilton Bock | 1946 |
| Marshall Store Building | 1934 |
| Myerson Stores Inc. | No Date |

Folio 4:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Myerson Stores Inc. | 1953 |
| Peterson | No Date |
| Phi Gamma Delta | 1939 |
| Reynolds | 1941 |
| Tucson City Hall | 1916 |
| Tucson Assoc. for the Blind | No Date |
| Valley National Bank | No Date |
| Vassey Rubber Co. | 1939 |

Folio 5:

| | |
|--|------|
| Arizona State Elks Assoc. (Hospital Addition) | 1966 |
| Casa Grande Valley Community Hospital Addition | 1962 |

Folio 6:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Arizona Boys Ranch | No Date |
| Arizona School for Deaf and Blind | 1935 |
| Bonillas School | No Date |
| Catalina Jr. High School | 1941circ. |
| Florence High School | No Date |
| St. Joseph's Academy Chapel, Music Building, and Sister's Bldg. | No Date |

Folio 7:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Heinman Residence | No Date |
| Arizona Elks Assoc. Hospital Remodel | 1964 |
| School at Pima Arizona | No Date |
| St. Joseph's Academy Classroom | No Date |

Folio 8:

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Hunt Residence | 1954 |
| Lovejoy Residence | 1956 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Arizona Pioneer Historical Society | 1956 |
| Hal Burns | 1958 |
| Starkweather, Jack & Scholer Martin Drug | 1951circ. |

Folio 9:

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| American Legion | 1966 |
| DeConcini Store | No Date |
| Marshall Store | No Date |
| St. John's Church | 1950 |

Outside Items:

Oversize Box:

Folder 1 (series 1):

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Fulton Residence – Tile Panels, Sketches, and Paintings | No Date |
| Museum at Dragoon, AZ | 1939 |
| Starkweather Residence | 1951 |
| Scottish Rite Temple (Addition Sketch) | 1950/1951 |
| University of Arizona president's home | No Date |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Folder 23 (series 2) Certificates | 1927-1953 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|

Wrapped Items:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Scottish Rite | |
| Starkweather Residence (2) | |

Stacked plans:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Florence city planning prospectus (shelf 5) | No Date |
|---|---------|