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.

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 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. Startweather (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 1

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f.12</td>
<td>Biographical Materials</td>
<td>1963 – 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.13</td>
<td>Correspondence with Lilly E. Starkweather</td>
<td>1952 – 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.15</td>
<td>City of Tucson Board of Adjustment Case 65-86 (Pace)</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.16</td>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>1939 – 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.17</td>
<td>Stock Investments</td>
<td>1952 – 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.18</td>
<td>U.S. Securities – Valley National Bank</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.20</td>
<td>Certificates</td>
<td>1937 – 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.21</td>
<td>Military Service Records</td>
<td>1918 – 1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.22</td>
<td>Marriage Announcements</td>
<td>1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.23</td>
<td>Certificates [IN OVERSIZE BOX]</td>
<td>1927-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.24</td>
<td>Newspaper Clippings</td>
<td>1927 – 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.25</td>
<td>MISC Printed Materials</td>
<td>1929 – 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.26</td>
<td>Specifications – Arizona Elks Hospital Alterations</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.27</td>
<td>Partial Sets of Specifications</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f.30</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>1938 - 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.31</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>1951 – 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.32</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>1956 – 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.33</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>1961 – 1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.34</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>1964 – 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.35</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.36</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.37</td>
<td>Manuscripts</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Box 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f.38</td>
<td>Manuscripts</td>
<td>1940 – 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.39</td>
<td>Manuscripts</td>
<td>1946 – 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.40</td>
<td>Manuscripts</td>
<td>1951 – 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.41</td>
<td>Manuscripts</td>
<td>1962 – 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.42</td>
<td>Manuscripts</td>
<td>1970 – 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.43</td>
<td>Manuscripts</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.44</td>
<td>“Tucson Gardens” in <em>Arizona Daily Star</em></td>
<td>1948 - 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.45</td>
<td>Audubon Nature Club</td>
<td>1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.46</td>
<td>Autobiographical Materials</td>
<td>1955 – 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.47</td>
<td>MISC Notes</td>
<td>1953 – 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.48</td>
<td>Prayers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 3


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 1947 – 1975
  Arizona Daily Star
  Arizona Historical Society
f.61 Correspondence – Sonora Desert Museum 1953 – 1971
f.62 Correspondence – Lena F. Dalton 1941 – 1968
  Paul Fannin
  Daniel J. Gercke
  Carl Hayden
  Lyndon B. Johnson
  John F. Kennedy
f.63 Correspondence – Lucile Mauntel 1961 – 1977
f.64 Correspondence – New York Times 1940 – 1975
f.65 Correspondence – Howard Pyle 1918 – 1954
  Charles P. Reininger
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.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.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 National Gardener – 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.143  National Gardener Chairman  1964 – 1969
f.144  Tucson Garden Club Newsletters  1968 – 1970
f.145  Baptism Certificate for Otilia Jettighoff  1957


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
Starkweather
1809 E. 5th Street
El Encanto
2111 E. Adams
Swift
Thode
Unknown Interiors

Folio 3:
ACME Printing Building
Arizona State Elks Association 1964
Assembly of God Church
Hal Burns
Hamilton Bock 1946
Marshall Store Building
Myerson Stores Inc.

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
Florence High School 1941 circ.
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