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**MS 789
Elsie Toles Collection
1850 – 1956/1963****DESCRIPTION**

This collection consists of three scrapbooks and three folders containing materials related to Arizona education issues and the career of Elsie Toles primarily from 1903 to 1923 in Arizona. The three folders consist of sample election ballots for 1956 with Toles represented as an Arizona Presidential Elector, Toles' birth certificate for 1890, and election papers associated with the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1922. The scrapbooks feature memorable activities associated with Toles and Arizona education. Initially she posted clippings from the *Tombstone Epitaph* featuring Tombstone and southern Arizona history from 1850 to 1895. Starting in 1903 much of the remaining content of the scrapbooks center around Toles' activities in education and politics in Arizona until 1923. Present are small pamphlets associated with history of education in Cochise County, graduation announcement from Bisbee High School in 1903, and papers associated with Toles' participation in the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Personal information consists of school reports and graduation certificates from the University of California, University of Michigan, and San Jose Teachers College in California. Election materials including clippings, posters, and correspondence associated with 1922 and the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction are present. Many newspaper clippings and letters highlight Toles' association with Arizona education and her position as superintendent.

3 Boxes, 1.5 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Margaret Elsie Toles was born September 19, 1888 in Bisbee, Arizona to George and Elsie Toles. She attended school in Bisbee and was a member of the first high school graduating class from that city. Toles attended San Jose Teacher College in California and became certified in 1908. Returning to Bisbee she taught elementary school until 1914 when she moved to teach school in Douglas, Arizona. In 1916 she was elected as Cochise County Superintendent of Schools. In 1922 she was the first woman elected to the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In addition to the top educational position in the state the job also entailed work with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. After one year Toles left Arizona but continued to teach first in Hawaii, San Jose Teacher College, the Demonstration School at Berkley, California, and South San Francisco schools until her retirement in 1945. After returning to Arizona she lived with her sister Myriam Toles on their ranch in the Chiricahua Mountains. In 1956 she was elected as a presidential delegate for the Republican Party in that year's elections. She died August 7, 1957 at age 69.

RELATED NOTE

"That D.... Woman on the Parole Board!" in *True West* April 1965.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Myriam Toles in 1964.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Dave Tackenberg in February 2008.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Folder 1 Birth Certificate for Margaret Elsie Toles	1890
f.2 Election for Superintendent of Instruction for State of Arizona	1922
f.3 Sample Election Ballots (Elsie Toles as Elector)	1956
Scrapbook #1 – Events and Activities	1850 – 1920
Elsie Toles' 6 th Grade Report Card	1900
Bisbee Graduation Notice	1903
Grade Sheet and Completion Certificate from San Jose State Teachers College	1908
Clippings from <i>Tombstone Epitaph</i>	1850's – 1895

Box 2

Scrapbook #2 – Events and Activities	1920 – 1922
Pamphlet: "Rural and Small Town Schools of Cochise County"	N.D.
Pamphlet: "Arizona Educational Directory: 1922-1923"	1922
Letters and Event Clippings	

Box 3

Scrapbook #3 – Events and Activities	1922 – 1956/1963
Election Materials for Superintendent of Public Instruction	1922
Work on State Board of Pardons and Paroles	1922
Academic Records from University of Michigan and University of California	1925 – 1927
Selection as Presidential Elector for Arizona Elections	1956