DESCRIPTION

Collection consists primarily of ledgers of the Tucson Police Department. Most of the ledgers are Records of Arrest, which also show the final disposition of the case. Also included are one ledger of expense accounts (1930-31) and records of meals furnished to prisoners between 1922 and 1935. Includes one folder of crime scene photographs, ca. 1930.

16 Boxes, 16 linear ft.

ACQUISITION


ACCESS

There is no restriction to access to the collection. However, due to their fragile condition, the ledgers cannot be photocopied.

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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 Riva Dean in March 1999.

ARRANGEMENT

Chronological

HISTORICAL NOTE

Before Tucson was incorporated in 1871, it had no formal or organized law enforcement. The police department was founded in 1871. Between 1871 and 1921 Tucson had thirty different marshals or chiefs of police. The police department grew from one marshal in 1871 to thirty-three commissioned officers in 1921. In the 1920s, the police department became part of the civil service system. Up until 1930, the resident voters elected the chief of police. In 1930, the city council began appointing the chief of police. From 1909 until the late 1960s, the department was housed at City Hall on North Meyer. When the new city hall was completed in 1968, the old city hall building was turned over entirely to the police department. In 1972, headquarters on South Stone Avenue were completed and all functions of the department were consolidated there.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The police department ledgers provide a picture of crime in Tucson over an extended period of time. The record of misdemeanors from 1894 shows mainly arrests for drunkenness and that continues for many years in the arrest records. Though not a complete record, the ledgers do show arrests from 1904 through 1973, with some gaps, particularly in the 1930s. These will show a fairly thorough picture of the nature of crime and the outcome in the justice system for Tucson over a long period of time. The smaller series of ledgers showing expense accounts and meals furnished show some police department operations.

One folder of unidentified photographs was apparently left in a 1930s ledger, with pictures of criminal evidence.

BOX LIST

Box 1 : Record of Misdemeanors, 1894-1895
Box 2 : Record of Arrests, May 31, 1904-March 15, 1907
Box 3 : Record of Arrests, 1911-1915
Box 4 : Record of Arrests : 2 Vols.: February 1, 1910-December 1913 & 1914-1917
Box 5 : Record of Arrests, July -September 1915
Box 6 : Record of Arrests, July 1, 1923-September 30, 1927
Box 7 : Record of Arrests, December 1925-August 1928
Box 8 : Record of Arrests, October 1927-August 1929
Box 9 : Record of Arrests, November 24, 1939-May 29, 1942
Box 10 : Record of Arrests, May 24, 1942-May 9, 1944
Box 11 : Record of Arrests, May 9, 1944-December 26, 1945
Box 12 : Record of Arrests, 1955-1973
Box 13 : Record of Meals Furnished, June 1, 1922-November 30, 1928
Box 14 : Record of Meals Furnished, December 1, 1928-October 31, 1932
Box 15 : Record of Meals Furnished, November 1, 1932-September 30, 1935
Box 16 : Expense Accounts Ledger, 1930-31
    1 folder of photographs