
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1132
TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Records, 1894-1973

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

Donated by Al Bret in 1984 and 1985.

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