
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MS 1407
Valley National Bank Collection
1938 - 1988

DESCRIPTION

The Valley National Bank Collection contains bank publications, newsletters, directories, and annual statements on the condition of the bank primarily between 1958 and 1975. Of special note are copies of the President's Annual Reports between 1955 and 1975 to stockholders reflecting conditions and changes with the bank. In addition there are directories of bank offices and officers between 1959 and 1984. A 1962 pamphlet also traces the early history, formation, and changes of the banking corporation.

2 Boxes, 1 linear ft.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The history of Valley National Bank in Arizona can be traced back to 1899 and the founding of Gila Valley Bank in Solomonville by Isidore Elkin Solomon a pioneer trader. Branch banks were established in neighboring communities and the name was changed to Gila Valley Bank and Trust Company. The bank continued to grow and by 1914 it became the largest bank in Arizona with nearly \$2,500,000 in deposits with its headquarters moved to Globe, AZ. With the failure of the Valley Bank of Phoenix in 1914 officials of the Gila Valley Bank provided funds to reopen the Phoenix facility. In 1922 the two institutions were officially merged to the Valley Bank and Trust Company of Phoenix and fourteen years later the name was again altered to national bank. With many bank failures in the early 1930s Walter Bimson came to Arizona to become Vice-President of Valley Bank. Walter Bimson was president for 20 years and his brother Carl Bimson succeeded him. In 1992 Valley Bank became Bank One and later became Chase Bank.

ACQUISITION

Donated by George Steele in 2010.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Dave Tackenberg in July 2010.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Folder 1-3 Statements of Conditions for Valley National Bank	1938/1958 – 1966 1968 - 1973
f.4-10 President's Annual Report	1941/1955 – 1956 1958 - 1969 1971 – 1972 1974 – 1975
f.11 Bank Newsletter "Round-Up"	1960/1964/1969
f.12 Informational Flyers	1988
f.13 Valley National Corporation Documents	1987

Box 2

f.14 Guide for Officers of the Valley National Bank	
f.15-16 Directories of Offices and Officers	1959 – 1966
f.17-20 Officers of Valley National Bank	1968 – 1971
f.21-23 Officers' Directories	1972/1974/1976/1984
f.24 Bank Employee Motivational Cards	
f.25 "Louis D. Ricketts" by Walter R. Bimson	1949
f.26 "Remarks by W. R. Bimson"	1968
f.27 "Transformation in the Desert: The Story of Arizona's Valley National Bank" by Carl A. Bimson	1962
f.28 "Arizona Soliloquies" by Herbert A. Leggett (Vol. II and III)	1956/1961
f.29 Program: Commissioning of the U.S.S. Douglas (PG-100)	1971
f.30 Pamphlet: "Arizona! Seeing Is Believing"	1962