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MS 828**George P. Legler & The Valley of the Moon Collection
1932 - 1984, 1993 - 2000****DESCRIPTION**

The George P. Legler & The Valley of the Moon Collection consists of two boxes of manuscript materials, drawings, and a guest register covering the years 1932 to 1984. Materials feature personal documents and correspondence associated with Legler, The Valley of the Moon, The Valley of the Moon Restoration Association, and the George Phar Legler Memorial Society. Correspondence includes a letter from Arizona Governor Howard Pyle, various thank you letters from visitors, and correspondence regarding Legler's Bunnyland rabbit show. An abstract of title for the organization lists owners of the property and an index of individuals associated with the enterprise. Various flyers, pamphlets, news clippings, newsletters, and brochures describe the attractions. Correspondence, meeting minutes, financial and legal documents highlight the restoration attempts from 1972 to 1983.

In 2011, this collection was reorganized and some personal items related to George Legler were incorporated. A renumbering of the folders as well as some consolidation of materials was also performed. An original annotated finding guide is in the collection control file identifying the transfer of materials between folders. In 2015, former MS 1317 was integrated into this collection.

3 boxes, ledger, and oversize items; 1.5 linear feet

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Valley of the Moon was a Tucson amusement park, created by George Legler who first began construction on the project in the 1920s. The park opened in 1932 as a simulated fairyland for children, with the theme "kindness to all." The activities received national attention through feature articles in *Life Magazine* and *McCall's*.

George Phar Legler was born in Vanderburgh County, Indiana, on November 19, 1884. He moved to Colorado and worked as a newspaperman and as a musician. He was elected to a political office in Pueblo and is considered a founding member of that community. He later worked as an electrician for the railroad and this job brought him to Tucson in 1916. In 1923 while working as a postal clerk he purchased 2.5 acres of land on Allen Road. Tons of rocks and stones were hauled in and Legler constructed a series of extensive caves, tunnels, towers, rock villages, and waterfalls. Legler gave magic shows and fairy tours of the grounds. In the 1940s, he introduced Bunnyland, an eleven-act theater program that featured rabbits dressed to play various roles. Legler took this rabbit show to the Los Angeles County Fair in 1948.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Legler was still giving tours but due to failing health he had stopped giving tours by 1971. The Valley of the Moon Restoration Association was formed and the park was repaired. In 1975 the Valley of the Moon was placed on the

Arizona List of Historical Places. The property was deeded to the Association in 1981 and became known as the George Phar Legler Memorial Society. Legler spent the remainder of his life at the Posada Del Sol Health Care Center where he died on February 22, 1982. As of the mid-1980s the Valley of the Moon still served as a forum for annual spring play productions and an annual Halloween performance.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Fran Foster in July 1988, Joseph Prunte in 1992, and Shari Murphy in 2000. In 2015, former MS 1317 was integrated into this collection.

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 originally processed by Linda Skinner in 1989 and reorganized by Dave Tackenberg in March 2011. In 2015, all material from MS 1317 was added to this collection.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Folder 1: George P. Legler Personal Papers	1942/1944
f.2-3 Business Correspondence	1942 – 1956
f.4 Manuscript: “The Indian Ring of Magic” by George P. Legler N.D.	
f.5 Manuscript: “Mystery On An Underground River” by George P. Legler	1932
f.6 MISC Poems, Prose & Scripts for Program Events	1976 – 1980
f.7 Abstract of Property Title	1935
f.8-9 Flyers, Brochures, and Pamphlets	1938 – 1984
f.10 Valley of the Moon Restoration Association	1973 – 1982
f.11-12 Valley of the Moon Restoration Assoc. Correspondence	1975 – 1983

Box 2

f.13 Valley of the Moon Restoration Assoc. Correspondence	1977 – 1983
f.14 Valley of the Moon Restoration Assoc./George P. Legler Memorial Society By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation	1974/1982
f.15 Valley of the Moon Restoration Assoc./George P. Legler Memorial Society Meeting Minutes	1978 – 1982
f.16 Valley of the Moon Restoration Assoc./George P. Legler Memorial Society Membership Info/Memos/Notes	1980 – 1983
f.17-18 Valley of the Moon Restoration Assoc./George P. Legler Memorial Society Financial Reports/Statements/Receipts	1972 – 1983

f.19	Christmas Thoughts/Poems/Etc.	
f.20	Easter Prayers and MISC Prayers	
f.21	Valley of the Moon Stationary	
f.22	George Phar Legler Last Will and Testament	1975
f.23	Summons & Complaint Against Arizona ERA Initiative	1980
f.24	Valley of the Moon Activities Calendar	1981
f.25	MISC Items	

Box 3

Folder 1:	Valley of the Moon – Newspaper clippings (1995-2000)	(1993,
Folder 2:	Valley of the Moon – Newsletters / programs (1981,1992,2000)	
Folder 3:	Valley of the Moon – Correspondence / Certificate of Trademark (1993,1995)	
Folder 4:	Valley of the Moon – Flyers	(N/A)

Outside Items

Drawing of Valley of the Moon Grounds	N.D.
Drawing of Proposed Improvements for Valley of the Moon 1953	
Building Plan for Valley of the Moon Restoration Association N.D.	
Hotel Register	