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Register of the Bill Williams Mountain Men/Thomas Way Collection

860



Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Way, Thomas
Collection Name	Bill Williams Mountain Men/Thomas Way,
Inclusive Dates:	1953-1985
Physical Description	1 linear ft.
Description	Photographs, correspondence, scrape books, published articles, and organizational flyers
Collection Number	860
Language	English.
Repository	Arizona Historical Society/Flagstaff Archives 2340 North Fort Valley Rd. Flagstaff, AZ 86001-1200 Phone: 520 774 6272 Fax: 520 774 1596 Email: ahsnad@infomagic.net

Biographical Note

The Bill Williams Mountain Men organization was started by a group of Williams, Arizona professionals/businessmen who wanted to recapture the spirit of the early American Southwest fur trade industry. The namesake of the organization, and the man that Williams, Arizona, as well as a nearby volcanic cone and river were named after, was a fur trapper named William Sherley Williams. Bill Williams was born January 3, 1787 in Rutherford County, North Carolina. He moved to St. Louis, Missouri as a young man where he worked in the fur trade industry and was an interpreter for army in its dealings with the Osage Indians. As the fur trade industry moved west, Williams trapped in the area north of Taos, New Mexico. He died March 14, 1849, killed by Ute Indians while camping north of Taos New Mexico. The modern day Bill Williams Mountain Men reenact the lifestyle of the original fur trappers by dressing in period clothing, taking horseback trips, and participating in modern

day rendezvous held throughout the country.

Scope and Content Note

The collection is (1) linear ft. in volume. Included are 131 photographs depicting group activities; one film reel from the KOOL Television company; (2) folders of scrape book materials; and magazines and other published materials related to the organizations activities. This collection would be of primary interest to researchers studying the activities of historical reenactment groups.

Organization

3 Series. I. Photographs. II. Scrapebooks (w/written material) III. Publications.

Restrictions

Restrictions

None.

Copyright

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Related Material

Controlled Access Terms

Personal Name(s)

Way, Thomas
Williams, Bill

Administrative Information

Credit Line

Series Description/Container List

Series 1, folders 1-8; photographs, ca. 1917-1985 8 folders (5 inches)

Photographs of Bill Williams Mountain Men activities and also Thomas E. Ways 50th class reunion (1.2); including early photograph of Methodist Church in Williams, Arizona

Box-
folder

- 1.1 Photographs (#1-32) of Bill Williams Mountain Men activities taken by Curtis M. Whitaker and Thomas E. Way, January 1961

Box-
folder

- 1.2 Williams, Arizona 50th class reuninon; Methodist Church, ca. 1919; Williams, Arizona 7th grade class photo, 1922; Williams, Arizona High School class photo and signatures (photocopy), 1927; 50th reunion in 1977 with, Miles H. Cureton, Dr. Dermont W. Melick, Edward M Hoffmeyer, Doris Duffield (Smith), Zella Hudson (Cox), and Stanton Carr, 1977

Box-
folder

- 1.3 Photographs (#40-69) of Bill Williams Mountain Men activities taken by either Curtis M. Whitaker or Robert Ziri ax and Thomas E. Way. The subjects, dressed as "Mountain Men," include: Hurley Wright, Durward Reed, Jerry Payne, George McNelly, Jerry Duffield, Martin Flohr, Bill Lilly, John Girvin, Louis Landry, Everett Coffee, Wayne Purcella, Denton Dean, and Thomas E. Way, 1955-1956

Box-
folder

- 1.4 Bill Williams Mountain Men photographs (#70-92), 1954-1959

Box-
folder

- 1.5 Bill Williams Mountain Men photographs (#93-106), ca. 1960

Box-
folder

- 1.6 Bill Williams Mountain Men photographs (#107-119). Including: John F. Monroe, Fred Theroux, Hurley Wright, Paul Tissaw, Denton Dean, Bill Fillmore, Everett Coffee, Louis Landry, Cecil Graham, Louie Peters, Bill Nixon, Gordon McDowell and Thomas E. Way. Photographs are presumed to be from rendezvous rides, ca. 1954-1959

Box-
folder

- 1.7 Bill Williams Mountain Men photographs (#120-131). Including: Ben Fillmore, Bill Lilly, Louis Landry, Denton Dean, Jake January, Verne Carothers, Fred Theroux, Paul Tissaw, Ray V. Stewart, Thurman Mayes, Rod Graves, and Thomas E. Way, ca. 1954-1961

Box-
folder

1.8 Reel of 8mm film from KOOL Television, ca. 1960

Series 2, folders 1.9 and 2.1, scrapbooks, ca. 1960 2 folders

Scrapbooks of Bill Williams Mountain Men activities, including correspondence between Stewart L. Udall and Thomas E. Way

Box-
folder

1.9 Scrapbook. Approximately (12) articles written about Bill Williams Mountain Men activities (table of contents included); typed copy of essay "Early Day Medical Practice in Williams, Arizona" by Dermont W. Melick, M.D.; Dermont W. Melick obituary; letter from John F. Monroe to Tomas Way, April 13, 1959; letter from Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall, February 9, 1961; handwritten notes by Thomas E. Way (?); sign-up list and signatures of participants in ride from Williams, Arizona to Washington, D.C., ca. 1960

Box-
folder

2.1 Articles regarding Bill Williams Mountain Men activities, including a typewritten essay "The Beginning of the Bill Williams Mountain Men" by Thomas E. Way, ca. 1977-1987

Series 3, folders 2.2 to 2.5, publications, ca. 1944-1992 4 folders

Publications. Bill Williams Mountain Men activities recounted in magazine and newspaper articles

Box-
folder

2.2 Magazines including: National Geographic article with photo of Bill Williams Mountain Men (p. 459), April 1961; Mountain Men, Arizona Rendezvous, 1955 (2 copies); Sante Fe Magazine, October 1960; Arizona Highways, February 1961; Town Tatler, January 14, 1961; A Summary of Travel to Brand Canyon, by Tomas E. Way, 1980; Scenic Southwest, Fall 1944; VFW, June/July 1992; , 1944-1992 (not inclusive)

Box-
folder

2.3 Magazines including: Arizona Highways, "Rendezvous: West from Flagstaff", May 1985; Mountain Men, 1804-1956, vol.3, 1956 (2 copies); Sportswear and Accessories, clothing catalogue, 1963-1964; Western Gateways, Winter 1965. , ca. 1963-1985

Box-
folder

2.4 Magazines including: Arizona Mountain Men, January 1961; Bill Williams Mountain Men, Labor Day Rodeo, 1973 program; 1956 Jaycee World's Championship Rodeo: Celebrating Phoenix' Diamond Jubilee, souvenir program; World Championship Rodeo, program, 1955; Bill Williams Mountain Men, Labor Day Rodeo, 1985 program; Bill Williams Mountain Men, Labor Day Rodeo, 1978 program; "1804-1954 Mountain Men, Arizona Rendezvous" program (2 copies, one is autographed),

1956-1985

Box-
folder

2.5

Bill Williams Mountain Men related newspaper articles, 1961-1991
