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MS 872
Willson, Roscoe G. Manuscripts
1949 - 1960**DESCRIPTION**

This collection consists of correspondence between Roscoe G. Willson and Arizona Historical Society Secretary Eleanor Sloan, dating from 1949 – 1959, and her successor, Yndia Moore, dating from 1960 – 1964, as well as two, soft-cover, booklets authored by Willson entitled *Pioneer Cattleman of Arizona* and *Pioneer and Well Known Cattlemen of Arizona* respectively. Also enclosed in the collection are numerous newspaper clippings donated by Willson of his "Arizona Days and Ways" column dating back to 1948, which appeared in *The Arizona Republic* newspaper. There are two chronological indexes to the articles, one type-written and the other handwritten in pencil. The latter includes only the articles appearing in the newspaper during the year 1953.

1 Box, .25 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Roscoe G. Willson was born in Granite Falls, Minnesota and was the son of a newspaper publisher. After finishing high school at age 16, he worked as a journalist for *The Minneapolis Tribune*. As a young man, he traveled throughout Mexico and Central America working on coffee and rubber plantations. In 1902, Willson moved to Arizona. He worked at the mill at the Crown King Mine, south of Prescott, and spent sometime prospecting on his own. In 1906, he joined the U.S. Forest Service, working as a supervisor in Prescott forest region. He also worked in the Coronado and Tonto National Forests in Arizona, the Clearwater Forest in Idaho, and the Madison Forest in Montana as a supervisor and helped to organize the regional forest offices. On January 6, 1909, Willson married Maude Hodgin in Nogales, Arizona. Willson eventually quit the forest service and returned to Arizona in 1924, opening an advertising specialties business in Phoenix. He also renewed his prospecting endeavors. Willson retired in 1945 and, in November 1947, Willson, at the age of 68, began writing a weekly column for *The Arizona Republican* called "Arizona Days and Ways" and in 1958 published a collection of his stories called *No Place for Angels*. Roscoe G. Willson died on August 25, 1976 at the age of 97.

ACQUISITION – Donated by Roscoe Willson from 1956 - 1960.

ACCESS - There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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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 David Grasse in May 2010.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Folder 1: Typewritten index to the "Arizona Days and Ways" articles	1953 – 1958
Handwritten index to the "Arizona Days and Ways" articles	1953
F2: Correspondence between Roscoe G. Willson and Eleanor B. Sloan	1949 – 1959
F3: Correspondence between Roscoe G. Willson and Yndia S. Moore	1960 – 1964
F4: Pioneer cattlemen of Arizona Vol. I & II	1951 / 1956
F5: Famed Harquahala Gold Mine Yields Millions	June 6, 1948
Chinese Swear on Dead Hen	December 18, 1949
F6: Winter is Good Time for Desert Prowling	January 25, 1953
Harquahala Area has Long Mining History	February 1, 1953
Landmarks Preserve Memory of Humorist	February 8, 1953
Salome Survives Era of Boom-Bust Mining	February 15, 1953
Bouse Wash Area has Prospect for Future	February 22, 1953
Old Mines, Carvings are Trip's Features	March 1, 1953
Quartzsite is Center of Interesting Sights	March 15, 1953
Ehrenberg is Scene of Early River Tragedy	March 22, 1953
Brave Trooper Saves Comrades (John Teale)	March 29, 1953
Pioneers Will Renew Early-Day Friendship	April 5, 1953
Desert Land is Rich in Variety of Wildlife	April 12, 1953
Frail-looking Youth Beats Hard Teamster (George Pooler)	April 19, 1953
'Padre on Horseback' First Mission Builder	April 26, 1953
Ranch Owner Fools Buyer on Land Idea (Billy Bryant)	May 3, 1953
Old Pioneer's Career is Colorful History (William Fourr)	May 10, 1953
Vanished Camels series	May 17 – June 28, 1953
F7: Untitled "Arizona Days" article about Spnazuma Mining Swindle	January 3, 1954
Story of John A. Rockfellow Pioneer series	January 24 – February 14, 1954
F8: Old Camp's Saloon Men Live Again (Crown King Mine)	January 16, 1955
The Bleak, Barren Navajo Land	January 23, 1955
Untitled "Arizona Days" article about Dick Wick Hall	February 6, 1955
Verde Valley Pioneers Issue New Book	February 13, 1955
Pioneer Society Opens New Home	March 13, 1955
Untitled "Arizona Days" article about Pete Kitchen	March 20, 1955
Tommy Mulvaney and the Biscuit Shooter	March 27, 1955
Pioneers are Reminded of the 'Hairy Age'	April 3, 1955
Petroglyphs Hide Symbolism of Ancient Peoples	May 29, 1955
Pioneer Recalls Wagon Train Days (J. Manford Cartwright)	June 12, 1955
Untitled "Arizona Days" article about Phoenix	June 26, 1955
Old Stage Station Marks Scene of Brutal Murder (2 parts)	July 10 – July 17, 1955
Apache Boy, Mike Burns, Defends his Tribesmen	July 26, 1955
A Ranger Recalls Bloody Wikieup Battle (R. L. 'Rube' Neill)	July 31, 1955
Untitled "Arizona Days" article about Shootout in Flagstaff	September 25, 1955
F9: He 'Brought Home the Bacon' (Jeremiah W. Sullivan)	Undated 1956
The Old Commonwealth Mine series	December 16 – December 30, 1956
F10: A Gringo in Mexico Dance for Rebels (Dr. Campa)	February, 3 1957
Otero family Sets Record as Oldest Cattle Business	February 17, 1957
Noted Historian Led Eventful Life in Arizona (Will C. Barnes)	February 24, 1957
Oatman	April 7, 1957
Bouse Wash is Evidence of Record Land Swindle	May 5, 1957

Untitled "Arizona Days" article about Sarah Catherine Corder Pyle	May 19, 1957
Coronado Memorial Marks Search for Fabled Cities	May 26, 1957
A Prospector Finds a Fortune, Then Gives it Away (George Dillard)	June 9, 1957
The Governor had Keen Sense of Humor (Richard E. Sloan)	August 11, 1957
'Seldom Seen Slim' Knew all the Tricks (Slim Ludwick)	August 18, 1957
Charley's Best Friend (Charley Genung)	October 6, 1957
A 'Little Old Arizona Cowboy' Enjoys Excitement of Banditry	October 13, 1957
Tall Pines Set Scene for Pioneer's Reunion	October 27, 1957
He Spells Retirement in Half a Million Words (Roscoe G. Willson)	November 3, 1957
Isolation Dooms Studies at Mountain Observatory	November 10, 1957
Expedition for Seri Gold (parts 1 – 3 of 4 part series)	December 15 - December 29, 1957
F11: Expedition for Seri Gold (part 4)	January 5, 1958
The Judge Wastes his Eloquence	January 12, 1958
Scenic Byways are rewarding to Prospector, Photographer	February 2, 1958
Untitled "Arizona Days" article about Az. Pioneer Historical Society	April 6, 1958
Lost in the Mountains with a Herd of Cattle (Evan Coleman)	April 13, 1958
Don Pancho's Friendship Survives a Half Century (Don Pancho Monroy)	April 20, 1958
Long-Vanished Mill town Vied as Town site for the City of Phoenix	May 11, 1958
Proposed Bond Issue Gets 'Thumbs Down' Sign (Railroad)	May 25, 1958
Old Big Bug Area was Once a Lively Mining Center	September 7, 1958
Roscoe Recalls the Rough and Tough Days...	October 19, 1958
'The Reckless Kid' Loses Out...(P. F. Pius – 2 parts)	October 26 – November 2, 1958
The True Story of the Boston Tea Party (part 1 of 5)	November 16, 1958
F12: Historical Society Sponsors Pioneer's Museum in Tucson	January 4, 1959
Famed Indian Scout Dubbed 'Iron Man' by Apache (Al Seiber)	January 11, 1959
F13: A Report of Arizona's First Telegraph Lines	July 29, 1960
Old-time Drill Contests Required Plenty of Brawn	December 11, 1960