

The Doris Sturges Harger Papers 1963-1972
"Ten for the Tonto"
Manuscript 1

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Provenance:

The "Ten for the Tonto" papers were given to the Northern Gila County Historical Society, Inc. by Doren Kime, the daughter of Doris Sturges.

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Name

The Doris Sturges Papers 1963-1972, "Ten for the Tonto"

Collection Number

2009.37

Creator

Doris Sturges

A note on the spelling of Doris Sturges' name: Doris's first husband was Joe Sturgis. He died in an automobile accident in 1962. In 1969 Doris married John Sturges. John died of cancer in 1974 and Doris married Andy Harger in 1978.

Historical Note

The Tonto Apache Indian Reservation near Payson, Arizona was created in 1972 after a 10 year concentrated effort by the Apache Community, led by Melton Campbell, known as "Chief", and the greater Payson community led by Doris Sturges, then manager of the Payson-Pine Chamber of Commerce.

The group that would become know as the Tonto Apache Tribe had at one time called a vast region of Central Arizona home; but after the Indian Wars most were forced onto the San Carlos Reservation. After they were allowed to leave the San Carlos Reservation many returned to the East Verde and Payson area. During this early period, the Apaches returned to their old way of life, especially those living along the East Verde and moved

camps during summer and winter seasons and gathered food and hunted. Those returning to the town of Payson took on odd jobs or worked in the sawmill. It is unclear when they returned to Payson, but probably during the 1890's and early 1900's, before the dedication of much forestland to the Tonto National Forest in 1905. The government issued special use permits for permanent camps in the Forest. The first permit was issued in 1909 and the last permit in use was cancelled in 1965 with the death of the holder. In 1930 Henry Irving bought property just north of Main Street, which became known as Indian Hill, but failed to pay taxes from 1938-1944 and unknown to the Apache community, the land had been bought in 1945 for the back taxes owed. It wasn't until 1954 that some Indian families were evicted and the move to what became known as "the Camp" began.

In 1973 Doris Sturges, after having been widowed, focused all of her abundant energy on making contacts with government officials and such groups as Save the Children Foundation and the National Council of Indian Opportunity to improve the living conditions of the Apache community. Henry Keneally, Chief, Area Health Education Branch of the Indian Health Service was as steadfast supporter of Mrs. Sturges's efforts.

Scope and Content Note

The "Ten for the Tonto" papers are comprised of correspondence, notes, House and Senate Bills, newsclippings, and other miscellaneous items relating to the effort by Doris Sturges and others who worked towards the establishment of the Tonto Apache Reservation near Payson, Arizona. Mrs. Sturges's daughter, Doreen Kime, had intended these documents to be published and had spent some time in organizing them by year. This organization has been kept.

The correspondence includes copies of letters Doris Sturges sent to individuals such as Senators Barry Goldwater and Carl Hayden, Representative Sam Steiger, Governor Jack Williams and their original replies. Mrs. Sturges corresponded with Sam Steiger and Henry Keneally frequently.

Access Terms

Agnew, Spiro, 1918-1996
Aspinall, Wayne, 1896-1983
Campbell, Melton
Fannin, Paul, 1907-2002
Goldwater, Barry M. (Barry Morris), 1909-1998
Hayden, Carl Trumbull, 1877-1972
Houser, Nicholas P.
Nixon, Richard, 1913-1994
Payson, Arizona
Payson Tonto-Apache Reservation, Arizona
Rhodes, John, 1943

Shriver, Sargent, 1915
Steiger, Representative Sam, 1929
Tonto Apache Tribe
Udall, Morris, 1922-1998
U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare
U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Apache Indians --Politics and government
Williams, Jack, 1909-1998

Container List

Box 1	Folder 1	Brief history of the Tonto Apaches and introductory information
	Folder 2	Correspondence 1963
	Folder 3	Correspondence 1966
	Folder 4	Correspondence and miscellaneous documents 1967
	Folder 5	Correspondence and miscellaneous documents 1968
	Folder 6	Correspondence and miscellaneous documents 1969
	Folder 7	Correspondence January –September 1970
	Folder 8	Correspondence October-December & miscellaneous documents 1970
	Folder 9	Correspondence January- July 1971
	Folder 10	Correspondence August-December 1971
	Folder 11	Miscellaneous documents 1971
	Folder 12	Correspondence and miscellaneous documents 1972