



Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives
415 West Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ 86301
www.sharlot.org

Title: APS Childs-Irving Records

Creator: Arizona Power Company (APC), Arizona Public Service Co. (APS),

Dates: 1904-2004, predominantly 1906-1943

Quantity: 2.25 linear feet (5 boxes)

System of Arrangement:

- Series 1: Arizona Power Company Administrative Records
 - Sub-series 1.1: Stockholder Records
 - Sub-series 1.2: Construction of Childs-Irving Plant
 - Sub-series 1.3: Operation of Childs-Irving Plant
 - Sub-series 1.4: Photographs
- Series 2: APS Historical Childs-Irving Materials
- Series 3: Miscellaneous Records
- Series 4: Arizona Power Company Album (Accrual)

Abstract: The APS Childs-Irving hydroelectric power plant was located between Strawberry and Camp Verde, Arizona, and was constructed in 1908 at the base of the Mogollon Rim, harnessing water from Fossil Spring. It supplied power to Yavapai County and even Phoenix during the 1920's. The collection is organized into administrative records (including stockholder, construction, photographs and operations), historical materials, miscellaneous records and a photo album. Two oversized drawers contain maps, sketches, historical drawings, and notes. One is processed (see container list) and the other is not.

Identification: SHM MS-2

Language and Scripts of the Materials: English

Biographical History

The APS Childs-Irving hydroelectric power plant was located between Strawberry and Camp Verde, Arizona, and was constructed in 1908, and first went online 21 June 1909. The plant was designed to harness Fossil Creek, which receives abundant water supply from Fossil Springs at the base of the Mogollon Rim. The springs boasted rates of output of 43 cubic feet per second. In its early days, the Childs-



Irving plant was able to supply all of the power needs for Yavapai County. In fact, during the 1920s, the plant also supplied 70% of the electricity to Phoenix.

Water rights to Fossil Creek were originally purchased by rancher Lew Turner in 1900. Turner hoped to harness hydroelectric power to sell for mining purposes in Jerome, Clarkdale, Crown King, and other mining communities in Yavapai County. Soon, the Arizona Power Company (APC) made plans to construct a hydroelectric plant to harness the power of Fossil Creek.

The Arizona Power Company was presided over by F.S. Vielé of Vielé, Blackwell, and Buck. Vielé, Blackwell, and Buck served as consulting engineers on the project through the organizational name Electric Operating Construction Co. The William P. Bonbright & Co. Bankers and Brokers of Colorado Springs, Colorado sold investment bonds to raise funds for the project. The Childs Plant received its name from S.W. Childs, who worked as a bond broker for the Bonbright Company. The Irving Plant was named for Bonbright co-founder Irving Bonbright.

At the time of the plant's construction, Arizona was still four years from becoming a state, the closest railroad was in Mayer, and the area was largely undeveloped and lacking roads. Thus, the transportation of materials involved a two-day horseback trip through mountains and canyons. Crews of 450 primarily Mexican and Native American laborers (and horses) worked for over one year to construct 40 miles of roads for hauling concrete, a dam, a powerhouse, and almost 8,800 feet of concrete flumes for transporting water into the Childs Plant. The Childs Plant completed in 1909 and located near the Verde River, boasted three Pelton-wheel generators capable of producing 6,700 kilowatts. In 1916, the Irving Plant was completed, and possessed a single Allis-Chalmers' Francis turbine capable of generating 1,560 kilowatts.

In later years, as Phoenix grew and technology developed, the Childs-Irving Plant was outstripped by larger plants, and the engineering and equipment of the plant became outdated.

Scope and Content Note

The APS Childs-Irving collection contains founding documents and administrative records of the Arizona Power Company (APC), which later became Arizona Public Service Co. (APS). Such records include correspondence, legal correspondence, water rights records, agreements, and meeting minutes. It contains correspondence and records of F.S. Vielé, serving as President of the Arizona Power Company, as well as maps, plans, and drawings used in the construction and operation of the plant.



The collection also includes records related to the activities of William P. Bonbright & Co. Bankers and Brokers, who sold investment bonds to raise funds for the construction of the Childs-Irving Power Plant.

Restrictions

None

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Related Archival Materials & Subjects

Abner Doble Company

[Arizona Public Service Company](#) (APS)

Arizona Public Company (APC)

Bonbright, Irving

Childs, Arizona

Childs, S.W.

Childs Plant

Electric Operating Construction Co.

Fossil Springs

[Jerome \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Mogollon Rim \(Ariz.\)](#)

[Prescott \(Ariz.\)](#)

Prescott Gas and Electric Company

Stehr Lake

Turner, Lew

[Verde River \(Ariz.\)](#)

Viele`, Blackwell and Buck

Viele`, F.S.

William P. Bonbright & Co.

Please see the Claudette Simpson Collection for related photographs. These are photos by Claudette Simpson taken when she was a feature writer for the Courier. The Childs



Power Plant photos include interior and exterior shots of the plan, the road to Childs and Stehr Lake. They were taken in about the 1970's.

An additional related collection is the Florence M. Davis Collection (2006.055). This includes eleven photographs from Florence Gunn Patrick photo album of the Childs-Irving Power Plant showing the donor's grandfather who worked for the Arizona Water and Power Company. Photos were taken between 1916 and 1921.

Another related collection is from donor Stephen Monroe (2009.037). This collection consists of three large boxes of maps, books and other materials related to Fossil Creek and the decommissioning of the plant. There is also a video of a spot on Childs Irving (VT 1056)

Administrative Information

Accession Number – **2006.033**

Custodial History

A preliminary inventory listing was created by Ryan Flahive in 2006 and is available upon request.

Description Control

This collection was processed by Libby Coyner using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DAC5)* in 2010. Maps and drawings were processed with the assistance of Sandy McClintock.



Container List

Title: APS Childs-Irving Collection, SHM MS-2

Dates: 1900-1943, predominantly 1907-1913

Scope and Content: Series includes founding documents of the Arizona Power Company, legal agreements and contracts, water rights documentation, general correspondence, and minutes of APC meetings. The series contains general correspondence with a variety of individuals and companies regarding the Childs-Irving project and its operations.

Series 1: Arizona Power Company Administrative Records		
Location	Description	Date(s)
1.1	Abstract of Title (Water Rights)	1900-1943
1.2	Legal Correspondence	1907-1908
1.3	Organization of Arizona Power Company – Contracts and Agreements [1 of 2]	1908
1.4	Organization of Arizona Power Company – Contracts and Agreements [2 of 2]	1908
1.5	Certificate of Organization	1908
1.6	APC Minutes	1910, 1913
1.7	General Correspondence	1909
1.8	General Correspondence	1910
1.9	General Correspondence	1911
1.10	General Correspondence	1912
1.11	General Correspondence	1913
1.12	Electrical Operating Construction Company Report on Arizona Power Company	1908, undated



Title: APS Childs-Irving Collection, SHM MS-2

Dates: 1906-1913

Scope and Content: Series consists of records related to the activities of William P. Bonbright & Co. in selling investment bonds to raise money for the Childs-Irving Power Plant. Sub-series includes agreements identifying William P. Bonbright & Co. the task of selling stocks and bonds, correspondence between Bonbright representatives and Viele representatives, and correspondence between Bonbright representatives and investors.

Sub-series 1.1: Stockholder Records		
Location	Description	Date(s)
1.13	“Arizona Power Company, First Mortgage Bonds and Preferred and Common Stock, Purchase Agreement”	1907
1.14	Agreement between William P. Bonbright & Co. and Viele, Blackwell & Buck for sale of stock to stockholders	1908
1.15	Correspondence	1906
2.21	Correspondence	1907
2.1	Correspondence [1 of 2]	1908
2.2	Correspondence [2 of 2]	1908
2.3	Correspondence	1909
2.4	Correspondence	1910
2.5	Correspondence	1911
2.6	Correspondence	1912
2.7	Correspondence	1913
2.19	General Records	1908



Title: APS Childs-Irving Collection, SHM MS-2

Dates: 1905-1908

Scope and Content: Series contains records of contracts for specific jobs in the construction of the power plant, specifications, progress reports, and sketchbooks, blueprints, drawings, and maps used in the construction of the plant. 165 maps

Sub-series 1.2: Childs-Irving Plant Construction Materials		
Location	Description	Date(s)
2.8	General Accounting and Expense Records	undated
2.9	“Specifications for Concrete Work”	1908
2.10	Insulator Contract – The R. Thomas and Sons Company	1908
2.11	Tunnel Contract – N. Clemens	1908
2.12	Siphon Contract – William B. Pollock Company	1908
2.13	Pressure Pipe Contract – Pelton Water Wheel Company	1908
2.14	Water Wheel Contract – Abner Doble Company	1908
2.15	Copper Wire Contract – Waclark Wire Company	1908
2.16	Specifications for Electrical Apparatus	1908
2.17	Assorted Contract Records	1908
2.18	Specifications for the Construction of the Arizona Power Company’s Plant No. 1	undated
MS Oversized – Drawers 2,3	Miscellaneous Maps	1905-1926
2.20	Engineer’s Reports	1907-1909
3.1	Contract – Pacific Water Power Company	1909
3.2	Transmission Line Contract – Ed. Kurmeir and Wm. Neagle	1910



Title: APS Childs-Irving Collection, SHM MS-2

Dates: 1909-1993

Scope and Content: Collection contains operating reports, drawings, maps, sketches, note, and instructions on how to operate the various aspects of the Childs-Irving Plant. 31 maps.

Sub-series 1.3: Operation of Childs –Irving Plant		
Location	Description	Date(s)
3.3	Operating Reports and Related Correspondence	1910
3.4	Report on Hydroelectric Conduit	1914-1915
3.12	Stehr Lake Leakage Correspondence and Records	1923
3.5	Pressure Gauge and Volt Meter Recordings	1909-1910, 1925
3.6	Scrapbook – Drawings, Instructions, Notes	1925
3.7	Irving Turbine Scrapbook – Notes, Correspondence, Drawings	1925-1934
3.8	Childs Turbine – Drawings and Notes	1939
3.9	Irving Water System Sketches and Notes	1942
3.10	Irving Flume Sketches and Notes	1944
3.11	Irving and Childs Flume Sketches (Photocopies)	1950
3.13	Plant Operating Instructions	1992-1993
MS Oversized – Drawer 2,3	Miscellaneous Maps	1918-1955
MS Oversized – Drawer 2,3	Irving Power House and Childs Power House Daily Reports and Logs	1911, 1919, 1921, 1924



Title: APS Childs-Irving Collection, SHM MS-2

Dates: circa 1908-circa 1970s

Scope and Content: Collection contains assorted photographs of the plant. 366 photographic images (283 prints, 24 negatives, 78 slides), 1 booklet of prints, 10 pages of computer printouts

Sub-series 1.4: Photographs		
Location	Description	Date(s)
4.1	Photo Album 1 [1 of 2]	circa 1908
4.2	Photo Album 1 [2 of 2]	circa 1913-1925
4.3	Photo Album 2	circa 1907-1909
4.4	Photo Album 3	circa 1913
4.5, Freezer	Miscellaneous images	undated
4.8	Miscellaneous slides	undated
4.9/4.10	J. Hawley Collection Photos (originally PB122,f5,i1-35)	undated

Title: APS Childs-Irving Collection, SHM MS-2

Dates: 1957, 2004, undated

Scope and Content: Series contains images of the Childs-Irving Plant, a retrospective film, and general reference materials on the history of the plant. 7 CD's, 1 DVD, 1 video, 4-8x10's, and 35 negatives

Series 2: APS Historical Childs-Irving Materials		
Location	Description	Date(s)
Box 4.6	Historic Photographs (including J. Hawley Collection and PB122f5i1-35)	undated
Box 4.7	<i>The Last Generation of APS's "Century Plant" and "Childs-Irving Spot"</i>	2004
Box 4.11	Historic Reference Materials	1957, undated



Title: APS Childs-Irving Collection, SHM MS-2

Dates: 1910, 1967, 1976

Scope and Content: Series includes minutes from Prescott Gas and Electric, a Recreational Study, and a Bicentennial ASME Landmark study.

Series 3: Miscellaneous Records		
Location	Description	Date(s)
Box 4.14	Prescott Gas and Electric Minutes	1910
Box 4.10	Recreational Study	1967
Box 4.13	Bicentennial ASME Landmark	1976

Title: APS Childs-Irving Collection, SHM MS-2

Dates: c. 1930's

Scope and Content: This is a 62 page album of black and white 8x10 photographs showing dams, substations and power stations in Fossil Springs, Irving, Childs and Prescott.

Series 4: Arizona Power Company Album		
Location	Description	Date
Box 5	Arizona Power Company Album	c. 1930's