



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

Title: Boyd Tenney Papers

Creator: Boyd Tenney

Dates: 1965-2006; **Bulk Dates:** 1965-1973

Quantity: .25 linear feet (1 ½ size box)

System of Arrangement:

- Series 1: Articles about Boyd Tenney
- Series 2: Tenney Genealogical Information
- Series 3: News Clippings Scrapbooks, 1 and 2, 1965
- Series 4: San Carlos Apache Mineral Strip Hearing 1973
- Series 5: Photographs
- Series 6: Campaign Memorabilia
- Series 7: Video History Interview
- Series 8: Recollections

Abstract:

Nathan Boyd Tenney served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 1962 to 1964, and as Arizona State Senator from 1964 to 1982. His many accomplishments during his time in office include, establishing community colleges in Mohave and Yavapai counties, aiding in the creation of five state parks, securing funding for transportation and rural roads, and initiating legislation that helped restore the Governor's Mansion at the Sharlot Hall Museum. He served as the Vice Chairman and then the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Chairman of the Joint Budget Committee, and Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. The collection includes newspaper articles, genealogical information, Senator Tenney's scrapbooks of news clippings from 1965, the meeting minutes from the 1973 San Carlos Apache Mineral Strip hearing, photographs, and campaign memorabilia.

Identification: SHM MS-33

Language and Scripts of the Materials: English



Biographical History

Nathan Boyd Tenney was born in the Gila Valley in Stanley, Arizona on June 22, 1915. His family made its living through angora goat ranching and then cattle ranching. He came to Prescott in 1925, and grew up on a ranch on Senator Highway where he lived almost all of his life. He began his education at the Washington School in Prescott and began selling papers on the corner of Cortez and Gurley Street to make money for lunches and clothes, then got a paper route. He was one of ten children and had a hardscrabble childhood. He and his siblings would help around the ranch and herd goats when they were not attending school. Boyd's family joined together with others in building the first Mormon Church in Prescott on North Marina Street.

He learned to speak Spanish at Prescott High School which aided him during his church missions to Texas, New Mexico and Spain. It was in the Spanish-American Mission, headquartered in El Paso, Texas that he met his future wife, Rachel Teeples. They were married in 1939, and raised eight children during their 57 years of marriage. She passed away in December, 1996 and in July 1997 he married Madge Moline Haines.

He bought and sold cattle for 40 years, owned 6 ranches, and had feed stores in Prescott and Cottonwood. His political career began when he became president of the Washington School PTA. He eventually served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 1962-1964, and as Arizona State Senator from 1964-1982. His accomplishments during his political career were many; some of which were, helping to establish community colleges in Mohave and Yavapai counties, being instrumental in funding transportation and rural roads, initiating legislation to help restore the Governor's Mansion in Prescott and providing funding for the Prescott Historical Society. He helped to create five state parks and was instrumental in the development of Lake Havasu Park. He introduced 13 bills, of which 11 passed; and worked on the bill to keep Arizona on Standard Time.

In gratitude for Tenney's work in establishing Yavapai Community College, the Yavapai College Board renamed the college library the Boyd Tenney Library. He served on the Boards of Yavapai College and the Sharlot Hall Museum, and received the first Sharlot Hall Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the Museum.

Boyd Tenney believed that "a legislator must deal from a position of integrity and honesty", and that "there should be a limit to the amount of money a candidate can raise so he can be free of influence". He was a Republican but believed that it was most important that both parties work together for the benefit of the people of Arizona. After he resigned from the Legislature he and his wife went on a mission to Barcelona, Spain. The last year and a half of his life was spent at the Arizona Pioneers' Home in Prescott, Arizona. Boyd Tenney passed away on December 8, 2005, at the age of 90; upon his death the Arizona House of Representatives introduced a resolution to honor him.



Scope and Content Note

This collection includes Boyd Tenney's personal scrapbooks of news clippings from 1965, minutes from the San Carlos Apache Mineral Strip Hearing of 1973, Tenney family genealogical information, newspaper articles dated 1975 through 2006, photographs from the 1960's through 1990's, and campaign memorabilia.

Restrictions

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Related Archival Materials & Subjects

Personal Name(s)

Tenney, Boyd
Tenney, Rachel Teeples
Tenney, Madge Moline Haines
Wear, William Green

Subject(s)

[Angora Goat Seminar](#)

[Mormon Church--Missions](#)

[Pioneers--Arizona--Prescott Region—Biography](#)

[Ranching—Arizona—History](#)

[Ranch life--Arizona--Prescott Region--Anecdotes](#)

[Ranching Heritage Oral History Project \(U.S.\)](#)

[San Carlos Apache Tribe of the San Carlos Reservation, Arizona](#)

[United States. Act to Provide for the Settlement of the Water Rights Claims of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe in Yavapai County, Arizona, and for Other Purposes](#)



Geographic Name(s)

Arizona. Legislature

Arizona. Legislature. Senate

Arizona. Legislature. Senate. Committee on Appropriations

Arizona. Legislature. Joint Legislative Budget Committee

Public document (Arizona. Legislature. Senate)

Arizona House of Representatives Death Resolution; Senator Boyd Tenney

Dead Horse Ranch State Park

Fort Verde State Historic Park

Governor's Mansion, Prescott Arizona

Jerome State Historic Park

Lake Havasu Park, Mohave County, AZ

Prescott, Arizona

Sharlot Hall Museum of Arizona History (Prescott, Ariz.)

Yavapai College

Please also see the following related materials in Sharlot Hall Museum Library & Archives:

Boyd Tenney Surname File

Boyd Tenney Oral History, Tape #'s 870, 871, 872, 1109

Administrative Information

Accession Numbers

1991.065

2014.087

2014.094

2014.113

Custodial History

Materials found within this collection were donated by Boyd Tenney, members of his family and others, over a period of time spanning 1965 through 2014.

Accruals: There may possibly be more accruals to this collection as other items are discovered or donated.

Description Control

This collection was processed by Cynthia Vaughn using *Describing Archives: a Content Standard (DACs)* in 2014.



Container List

Title: Boyd Tenney Papers - SHM MS-33

Dates: 1975-2006

Series Scope & Content: This series consists of newspaper articles about Boyd Tenney.

Series 1: Newspaper Articles		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.1	Newspaper articles	1975-2006

Title: Boyd Tenney Papers - SHM MS-33

Dates: 1975, 2000

Series Scope & Content: This series consists of genealogical information for the years spanning 1856-1951, specifically regarding William Green Wear, Boyd Tenney's grandfather. This information was retyped in 1975. It also contains information from Diane Tenney Timothy and Boyd Tenney.

Series 2: Genealogical Information		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.2	Tenney Genealogical Information	1975, 2000

Title: Boyd Tenney Papers - SHM MS-33

Dates: 1965

Series Scope & Content: This series consists of scrapbook pages from Boyd Tenney's personal collection, with news clippings from 1965.

Series 3: Scrapbooks		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.3	News Clippings, Folder 1	1965
1.4	News Clippings, Folder 2	1965
1.5	News Clippings, Folder 3	1965
1.6	News Clippings, Folder 4	1965
1.7	News Clippings, Folder 5	1965
1.8	News Clippings, Folder 6	1965



Title: Boyd Tenney Papers - SHM MS-33

Dates: 1973

Series Scope & Content: This collection consists of the Minutes of the San Carlos Apache Mineral Strip Hearing in 1973

Series 4: San Carlos Apache Mineral Strip Hearing		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.9	San Carlos Apache Mineral Strip Hearing Minutes	1973

Title: Boyd Tenney Papers - SHM MS-33

Dates: c. 1960's-1991

Series Scope & Content: This series consists of photographs of Boyd Tenney and family.

Series 5: Photographs		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.10	Photographs	c. 1960's-1991

Title: Boyd Tenney Papers - SHM MS-33

Dates: c. 1970's

Series Scope & Content: This series consists of campaign items.

Series 6: Campaign Memorabilia		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.11	Campaign Items	c. 1970's

Title: Boyd Tenney Papers - SHM MS-33

Dates: 1992

Series Scope & Content: This series consists of a video history interview of Boyd Tenney conducted by his daughter Diane Tenney Timothy.

Series 7: Video History Interview		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.12	VHS Interview by Diane Timothy	1992



Title: Boyd Tenney Papers - SHM MS-33

Dates: 1994-2005

Series Scope & Content: This series consists of recollections by Boyd Tenney and his daughter regarding his life, and Diane Tenney Timothy's eulogy of her father .

Series 8: Recollections		
Box/Folder	File/Item Description	Date(s)
1.13	Recollections	1994-2006