

## OTIS JAMES BAUGHN COLLECTION-MSS 55

Papers: 1916-1948, 1983  
Items: 1 box, .5 cu. ft.

### HISTORICAL SKETCH

Otis J. Baughn was born in Hanly, Kentucky on April 23, 1877. He attended high school in Lexington and entered Kentucky University (later re-named Transylvania College) where he graduated with a liberal arts degree in 1903. After a brief residence in South Dakota he returned to Kentucky and married Mary Holman Fairhurst on June 27, 1906. In June, 1909, Baughn was awarded a Bachelor of Law degree from Transylvania College of Law, and later that year relocated to Florence, Arizona with his family. Upon admission to the Territory of Arizona Bar in January, 1910, he established a private law practice.

After Baughn moved to Arizona, he became interested in promoting reclamation projects and bringing irrigation to the desert. He was also instrumental in forming the town of Coolidge, on the west side of the Southern Pacific Railroad, on land which Baughn and others secured for the railroad's right of way. From 1914-1922, Baughn served as a Superior Court judge in Pinal County. After completing his second term, he moved to Phoenix and opened a law office in 1923. A prominent Republican, he was that party's nominee for Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court in 1916, 1922, and 1946. He was also a Republican candidate for the U.S. Congress in 1926, and sought the office of Arizona Attorney General in 1934. On February 11, 1948, Baughn and his wife died in an auto accident near Wittman, Arizona.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Otis J. Baughn collection consists of one box of manuscript material and spans the period 1916-1948 (plus a brief biography written by his son in 1983). Arrangement is in five series: (1) Biographical; (2) Correspondence; (3) San Carlos Project; (4) Speeches; (5) Miscellany. Series Three, San Carlos Project, addresses various issues related to this reclamation project and the building of the San Carlos Dam. Series Four, Speeches, consists of the text of speeches delivered to civic groups and other organizations by Judge Baughn. The fifth series, Miscellany, includes information regarding Baughn's membership in the Masonic Lodge. A photo portrait of Baughn (c. 1912) is cataloged separately as B-835.

The collection was donated by Baughn's son, Alfred F. Baughn, in 1975.

### DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE	BIOGRAPHICAL
Folder 1	Biographical Information
SERIES TWO	CORRESPONDENCE
Folder 1	Correspondence, 1916-1931

SERIES THREE

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5

SAN CARLOS PROJECT

San Carlos Association Committee, 1919-1921

Box Canyon Controversy, 1917

Speeches, 1918-1921

San Carlos Project and Colorado Compact, 1923

Documents, Newspaper articles, 1917-1926

SERIES FOUR

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Folder 4

SPEECHES - GENERAL TOPICS

Speeches, 1916-1928

Speeches, 1930-1938

Speeches, 1940-1943

Speeches, N.D.

SERIES FIVE

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5

MISCELLANY

Appreciation certificate and news-clipping, 1923; Baughn's business envelope

Casa GrandeValley historical information, N.D.

Masonic Lodge, 1922-1940

Miscellany: Indian Welfare League pamphlet, 1922; Senator Cameron's campaign card and newsclipping; San Carlos Day celebration broadside (flyer), N.D.

Newsclippings, 1916—1930

Pam Marini  
May 29, 1992