

**TITLE:** Charles L. Gilliland Photograph Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1906-1960s

**CALL NUMBER:** FP FPC #9

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 5 linear feet (10 boxes)

**PROVENANCE:** The collection was donated by Neil C. Mortensen, the brother of John Mortensen, business partner, friend, and sole heir to Charles Gilliland Jr.'s family estate after Charles's death in 1976. After John Mortensen's death in 1982 the collection was gifted to Neil Mortensen and donated in 1985.

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**RESTRICTIONS:** This collection has no restrictions.

**CREDIT LINE:** Charles L. Gilliland Photograph Collection, Arizona Historical Foundation, FP FPC #9

**PROCESSED BY:** Rebekah Tabah, April, 2008

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Charles Leslie Gilliland was born in Portland, Oregon, October 20, 1874, the son of Lyle Willis and Martha Elizabeth Groomes Gilliland. He was educated at private schools in Portland and as a young man worked as a rancher. Charles made annual trips to Arizona starting around 1901. On one of his first trips to Oracle, Arizona he met Helen Galey. The two were married April 16, 1908 and moved to Helen's home in Philadelphia, but continued to visit Arizona each winter. Helen's father, William Thomas Galey was the founder of the textile company Aberfoyle Manufacturing Company in Chester, Pennsylvania. Charles worked for his father-in-law as treasurer of Aberfoyle Manufacturing Company. He later founded the Cotton Products Company in Philadelphia, was director of the Chester-Cambridge Bank & Trust Company, and the Commercial National Bank & Trust Company, Philadelphia. The couple had a daughter, Helen Fairrie in Philadelphia in 1909, but there is no record of her after 1910. It is believed she died as a child. Their son Charles Jr. ("Charlie") was born in Philadelphia about 1911. Charles Jr. learned to trick ride horses on his visits to Oracle, Arizona and later was part of the rodeo circuit.

Charles Gilliland was a member of the Union League, Philadelphia Country Club, Multnomah Athletic Club, and Portland Hunt club. In 1923 Charles purchased Phoenix Date and Citrus Properties, which later became Gilliland Groves. The 108-acre date palm and citrus ranch backed-up to the canal on 45<sup>th</sup> Street and Hazelwood, near present day Arcadia High School in Phoenix. The dates from the ranch were sold commercially under the trade name "Arawan."

In addition to a ranch in Phoenix, the couple built a palatial residence in Oracle, called El Rancho Robles (The Oak Ranch). The Gillilands also built St. Helen's Church in Oracle in 1927. They provided the building costs, all the furnishings and vestments as well as endowed the church with a trust fund.

Helen Galey Gilliland died in 1930. Charles remarried Lorraine Peaslee McArther in Phoenix on February 8, 1932. By 1936, Charles resigned from the Cotton Products Company in Philadelphia and made his permanent home in Arizona. He collected Navajo blankets and Apache baskets, bred wire-haired fox terriers, and was an avid hunter, enjoying many outdoor activities. Charles died in Phoenix on October 23, 1941.

Sources: *The Cyclopedia of American Biography, Volume XXXI, 1944.*  
[www.sthelensmission.com](http://www.sthelensmission.com)

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

This collection contains over 1250 original images. Originally the mounted photographs were organized in 6 albums. Later the photographs were removed. Original album and page numbers are noted on some photographs. Most are not captioned. Some retain the original black paper backings. Some were glued back-to-back. The photographs range in condition from fair to very good. All photographs are individually encapsulated and sleeved. This collection documents the Gilliland family, their homes, farms, and daily ranch life in southern Arizona. The collection is organized by subject then chronologically within.

For more information see the AHF Ephemera Biography file on Charles L. Gilliland (Call # FB BIO GILL, CHA)

### CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Title	Date
<b>1</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Adobe Buildings	1908-1925
	2	<b>Photographs:</b> Apache Trail (and Roosevelt Dam)	1925
	3	<b>Photographs:</b> Automobiles (1 of 2)	1916-1922
	4	<b>Photographs:</b> Automobiles (2 of 2)	1922-1925
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> Camping Trips (1 of 3)	1908-1916
	6	<b>Photographs:</b> Camping Trips (2 of 3)	1920-1925
	7	<b>Photographs:</b> Camping Trips (3 of 3)	1925-1926
	8	<b>Photographs:</b> Cattle Ranching	1908-1920
<b>2</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Charlie Gilliland in Tucson Rodeo and Parade	1928,1930
	2	<b>Photographs:</b> El Rancho Robles (1 of 4)	1923-1924
	3	<b>Photographs:</b> El Rancho Robles (2 of 4)	1923-1925
	4	<b>Photographs:</b> El Rancho Robles (3 of 4)	1925
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> El Rancho Robles (4 of 4)	1923-1928
<b>3</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Cameron , Nella (cousin?)	1913
	2	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Charles Leslie	1906-1925

	3	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Charles “Charlie” Jr. (1 of 4)	1913-1920
	4	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Charles “Charlie” Jr. (2 of 4)	1921-1928
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Charles “Charlie” Jr. (3 of 4)	ND
	6	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Charles “Charlie” Jr. (4 of 4)	ND
	7	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Charles, Charlie, and Helen (1 of 2)	1908-1916
<b>4</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Charles, Charlie, and Helen (2 of 2)	1918-1928
	2	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Helen Galey (1 of 2)	
	3	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Helen Galey (2 of 2)	
	4	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Helen “Nelly” Fairrie (1 of 2) (daughter who died as a baby)	ND
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, Gilliland, Helen “Nelly” Fairrie (2 of 2) (daughter who died as a baby)	ND
<b>5</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Family, “Uncle Bob”	1914
	2	<b>Photographs:</b> Family and Friends (1 of 4)	1908-1923
	3	<b>Photographs:</b> Family and Friends (2 of 4)	1923-1925
	4	<b>Photographs:</b> Family and Friends (3 of 4)	ND
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> Family and Friends (4 of 4)	ND
<b>6</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Family House, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1 of 2)	1908-1918
	2	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Family House, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2 of 2)	1908
	3	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Family in, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1908-1926
	4	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Family in, Tucson, Arizona (1 of 3)	1912-1913
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Family in, Tucson, Arizona (2 of 3)	1914
	6	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Family in, Tucson, Arizona (3 of 3)	1914-1925
<b>7</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Groves, Phoenix, Arizona (1 of 3) (date and citrus farm)	1960s
	2	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Groves, Phoenix, Arizona (2 of 3) (date and citrus farm)	1960s
	3	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Groves, Phoenix, Arizona (3 of 3) (date and citrus farm)	1967,1969

	4	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Ranch, Oracle, Arizona (1 of 2)	1916-1922
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Ranch, Oracle, Arizona (2 of 2)	1922-1928
<b>8</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Gilliland Residences (various)	ND
	2	<b>Photographs:</b> Hiking and Family Outings	1908-1926
	3	<b>Photographs:</b> Horse Corrals and Stables	1908-1924
	4	<b>Photographs:</b> Horse-drawn Vehicles (includes The Oracle and Mammoth Stageline)	1908-1925
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> Horseback Riding (1 of 4)	1906-1920
	6	<b>Photographs:</b> Horseback Riding (2 of 4)	1921-1922
<b>9</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Horseback Riding (3 of 4)	1922-1923
	2	<b>Photographs:</b> Horseback Riding (4 of 4)	1925
	3	<b>Photographs:</b> Hunting and Shooting	1908-1926
	4	<b>Photographs:</b> Indians (various)	1916-1923
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> Ingleside Club, Phoenix, Arizona	1922
	6	<b>Photographs:</b> Landscapes	1908-1925
	7	<b>Photographs:</b> Missions (various)	1914-1920
	8	<b>Photographs:</b> Oracle, Arizona	1908-1925
	9	<b>Photographs:</b> Papago Indian Village	1908-1925
	10	<b>Photographs:</b> Picnics and Cookouts	1908-1925
<b>10</b>	1	<b>Photographs:</b> Ranch Hands and Workers	1908-1925
		<b>Photographs:</b> St. Helen's Church, Oracle, Arizona	1928
		<b>Photographs:</b> San Xavier del Bac Mission	1914-1923
		<b>Photographs:</b> Sheep Farming	1922
		<b>Photographs:</b> Tent House	1914,1920
		<b>Photographs:</b> Tucson, Arizona	1908-1925
		<b>Photographs:</b> Vacations (1 of 2)	1908-1926
		<b>Photographs:</b> Vacations (2 of 2) (Gulf of California)	1922
		<b>Photographs:</b> Yaqui Indian Village	1914-1925