

BRENDA WEISBERG MECKLER COLLECTION-MSS 58

Papers: 1938-1988
5 Boxes, 2.5 cu. ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Brenda Weisberg Meckler, Phoenix writer, was born in Russia in 1900 and emigrated to the U.S. with her parents in 1904. The family left their Ohio farm and relocated to Arizona in 1918. A high school graduate, Brenda Weisberg was already an accomplished writer. She wrote articles for local Phoenix publications, and started the city's first Jewish newspaper, the Southwestern Jewish Star. From Phoenix she moved to Hollywood, and spent 15 years writing television and movie scripts for Universal, RKO and Columbia Pictures. She continued to write short stories and articles as well, which appeared in Collier's and other national publications.

In 1952 Brenda Weisberg returned to Phoenix and married Morris Meckler. After her marriage, she became very active in support of the arts in Phoenix, and was involved with the Phoenix Little Theater as a writer, director and actor.

In 1988, Heckler published her first and only book, an autobiographical account of her youth entitled Papa Was A Farmer.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Brenda Weisberg Heckler Collection consists of four series: Screenplays (including preliminary story treatments); Phoenix Little Theater materials; Papa Was A Farmer manuscripts (originally titled A Bend in the Road) and Miscellaneous writings. Each series is arranged chronologically. The collection was a gift of Brenda Weisberg Meckler in 1988.

DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1 SCREENPLAYS, 1938-1953

Box 1

- Folder 1 Little Tough Guy (initial story treatment), 1938
- Folder 2 Little Tough Guy, 1938
- Folder 3 Saints in Training, 1938
- Folder 4 Mob Town, 1941
- Folder 5 Moonlight in Hawaii, 1941
- Folder 6 Dead End Kids, 1942
- Folder 7 Mug Town, 1942
- Folder 8 The Mad Ghoul, 1943
- Folder 9 The Black Widow, 1944
- Folder 10 China Sky, 1944

Box 2

- Folder 11 Happy Birthday to You (initial treatment), 1944
- Folder 12 Strictly Ding-Dong (initial treatment), 1944
- Folder 13 Happy Birthday to You, 1945
- Folder 14 Strictly Ding-Dong, 1945
- Folder 15 Alias Mr. Twilight (I Don't Like to Die), 1946
- Folder 16 Alias Mr. Twilight - revisions, 1946
- Folder 17 King of the Wild Horses, 1946
- Folder 18 Shadowed, 1946
- Folder 19 My Dog Rusty, 1947
- Folder 20 Port Said, 1947

Box 3

- Folder 21 Woman Hunt (initial treatment), 1947
- Folder 22 Rusty Pays a Debt, 1948
- Folder 23 Girls' School, 1949
- Folder 24 Rusty's Birthday, 1949
- Folder 25 The Substance of his House, 1950
- Folder 26 Reunion in Reno (based on original story, "Heaven's a Little Place"; see folder 32), 1951
- Folder 27 Desert Answer, 1953
- Folder 28 Beyond the Sunset, c. 1945
- Folder 29 Four Aces, c. 1945
- Folder 30 Dearest Treasure, c. 1945
- Folder 31 A Hair Divides, c. 1945

Box 4

- Folder 32 Heaven's a Little Place (later re-titled "Heaven's Where You Find It"), c. 1945
- Folder 33 Little Girl Lost (story treatment), c. 1945
- Folder 34 The Long Years Passing, c. 1945
- Folder 35 Magna Cum Laude (story treatment), c. 1945
- Folder 36 Nowhere to Go, c. 1945
- Folder 37 The Party Dress, c. 1945
- Folder 38 Peon in the U.S.A. (story treatment), c. 1945
- Folder 39 Shadow on the Sun, c. 1945
- Folder 40 The Sheriff Runs, c. 1945
- Folder 41 The Sword in the Heart, c. 1945
- Folder 42 Weird Woman, c. 1945
- Folder 43 A Winter's Tale (story treatment), c. 1940

SERIES 2 PHOENIX LITTLE THEATER, 1960s

Box 5

- Folder 1 Original script - Rhode Island Refugee, c. 1960
- Folder 2 Original Script - Schechter, c. 1960
- Folder 3 Original Script - To Be Free, c. 1960
- Folder 4 Phoenix Little Theater program notes - incomplete draft, c. 1960

SERIES 3 PAPA WAS A FARMER, 1985-1988

- Folder 1 A Bend in the Road “explorations” (preliminary writing exercise), c. 1985
- Folder 2 A Bend in the Road manuscript, ch. 1-16, c. 1987
- Folder 3 A Bend in the Road manuscript, ch. 17-epilogue
- Folder 4 Papa Was A Farmer galley proof, 1988

SERIES 4 MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS, 1951

- Folder 1 Short story, “Civilized People”. Collier's, 1951

Kris Darnall
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