

**TITLE:** The Frank L. Snell [1899 – 1994] Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1946 – 1998

**CALL NUMBER:** MSS #92

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 10 linear feet (20 boxes)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by Mrs. Mary Jean Snell, 1995

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**CREDIT LINE:** The Frank L. Snell Collection, Arizona Historical Foundation

**PROCESSED BY:** Tara Summus, March 2005

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Frank L. Snell 1899 – 1994.

Frank L. Snell was born in Kansas City, Missouri on December 23, 1899. While working in his father's grocery store as a boy, young Frank attended the Kansas City public schools. In 1924 Mr. Snell received his law degree from the University of Kansas. Upon graduation Mr. Snell moved to Miami, Arizona where he established an independent practice upon the advice of his uncle. There in Miami Mr. Snell met and married Elizabeth Berlin. The couple had two children, daughter Kathryn and son Richard.

In 1927 Mr. and Mrs. Snell moved to Phoenix where Mr. Snell became a partner in the law firm of Elliot & Snell. In 1934 Mr. Elliot entered semi-retirement and Mr. Snell took over the practice. With the expansion of the law firm Mr. Snell decided it was time to seek an attorney with courtroom experience. Upon the recommendation of three Maricopa County Superior Court judges Mr. Snell formed a partnership with Mark Wilmer and established the law firm of Snell & Wilmer. Mr. Snell handled most of the business and commercial aspects of law while Mr. Wilmer was the firm's trial lawyer.

The Snell & Wilmer LLP Law Offices is still in existence today and includes offices in California, Utah, Colorado, and Nevada. During Mr. Snell's time with the law firm he led a group of citizens to secure the resignations of the Mayor and Chief of Police of Phoenix who were perceived as corrupt. The political situation threatened the growth of Phoenix which was increasing due to the influx of war veterans and their families. Mr. Snell also facilitated the merger of the state's two major utility companies to form the Arizona Public Service Company. He also acquired agreements for the firm's industrial clients outside Phoenix city limits. Finally, the firm handled one of the state's most important lawsuits, *Arizona v. California*, the United States Supreme Court, which secured Arizona rights to the waters of the Colorado River.

Mr. Snell's personal achievements are documented in the activities he participated in outside of Snell & Wilmer. It was soon after his move to Phoenix in 1927 that Mr. Snell became friends with Gene Pulliam (owner of *The Phoenix Gazette* and *The Arizona Republic*) and Walter Bimson, chief of Valley National Bank. These men would comprise the "Big Three" and would go on to found the Phoenix 40. With the establishment of these relationships Mr. Snell had a significant impact on Arizona's civic affairs. Some of his accomplishments include founding the American Graduate School of International Management and serving as chairman of the Civic Plaza Art Enrichment Committee. Mr. Snell also served as president, director, committee member and volunteer for many prominent Arizona organizations. His numerous awards include being one of the first inductees to the Arizona Business Hall of Fame in 1987. In 1992 Mr. Snell received the Arizona Heritage Award from the Arizona Chamber of Commerce.

While Mr. Snell reduced his role in Snell & Wilmer throughout the years he would still go to his office on a daily basis where he continued to participate in his organizational and volunteer work. In 1983 Mr. Snell lost his beloved wife, Betty, to cancer. He married Mary Jean Thompson in 1987 and welcomed her daughter Kirstin into the family. Mr. Snell passed away on September 5, 1994 at the age of 94. Mr. Snell was an active member of the community until two weeks before his death. He was survived by his wife Mary Jean, children Kathryn and Richard, step-daughter Kirstin, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

#### **SOURCES:**

Mr. Snell's biography is located in the collection. In addition, the following sources were used for the biographical note.

Snell & Wilmer LLP Law Offices. Snell & Wilmer. 18, March 2005.  
< <http://www.swlaw.com/aboutus/history.asp>>

Wagner, D. and Dricks, V. "Frank Snell Dies; Longtime Valley Leader: Civic Giant was Arizona's 'most powerful man ever.'" The Phoenix Gazette 7, Sep. 1994: A1+

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** This collection has 20 boxes of Mr. Snell's personal papers which include speeches, correspondence (professional and personal), photos, news clippings, programs, brochures and booklets, meeting minutes, agendas, stock certificates, and blueprints. Large blueprints, oversized material and three-dimensional objects are stored at an off site facility. The majority of the collection pertains to Mr. Snell's relationship with various organizations.

The collection is arranged in five series. Series I: Personal; Series II: Correspondence; Series III: Organizations; Series IV: Events; Series V: Media.

## CONTAINER LIST:

### Series I Personal

Description: Contains biographical information, blueprints, news clippings, photographs, home specifications, stock certificates and speeches that were generated from 1949-1964. These documents illustrate items of personal interest to Mr. Snell. Included within the series are documents regarding Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign which express Mr. Snell's political interests.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
1	1	Personal, Biographical Information (1 of 2)	1962 – 1987
	2	Personal, Biographical Information (2 of 2)	1989 – 1990
	3	Personal, Biography	1985 – 1992
	4	Personal, Biography – Matt Buckley's Report	1991 – 1992
	5	Personal, Entrance to Desert Fairways (contains blueprints)	1955
	6	Personal, Goldwater (contains copies of newspaper articles)	1964
	7	Personal, Goldwater for President (1 of 2) (contains news clippings)	March 1964 – August 1964
	8	Personal, Goldwater for President (2 of 2) (contains news clippings)	September 1964 – November 1964
	9	Personal, Interview – Nation's Business	1976
2	1	Personal, Lawyer's Professional Liability Questionnaire from Supreme Court of Arizona	1980 – 1989
	2	Personal, Legal Opinion – Petition for Writ of Certiorari and opinion of Chief Justice Underwood (Presbyterian Church)	1976
	3	Personal, Legal Services Corporation – Senators and Representatives	1981
	4	Personal, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Sanford – Easement, Etcetera	1981
	5	Personal, O.W. Cattle Company	1946 – 1968
	6	Personal, Paradise Valley Incorporated (contains blueprints)	1955 – 1957
	7	Personal, Photographs	1969 – 1987
	8	Personal, Phoenix History Project – John Driggs	1974
	9	Personal, Specifications for a Desert Home and New Guest House (contains one set of blueprints with additional blueprints located off property)	1955 – 1967
	10	Personal, Speeches – “Speech Material – Plan for Progress, Incorporated”	No Date
	11	Personal, Speeches – “Power for Arizona (Prescott)”	January 4, 1949

	12	Personal, Speeches – “The Permanent Revolution – United States of America”	1951
	13	Personal, Speeches – “The American Proposition – Revised”	December 10, 1951
	14	Personal, Speeches – “Government in Business – Snell”	May 1952
	15	Personal, Speeches – “Graduation – American Institute”	May 30, 1952
	16	Personal, Speeches – “Speech to Dairy Men”	December 5, 1952
	17	Personal, Speeches – “Speech regarding Kiwanis Objectives”	February 15, 1954
	18	Personal, Speeches – “Eulogy – Erle Banks”	1958
3	1	Personal, Speeches – “Young Women’s Christian Association Building Fund Drive”	March 23, 1959 – April 20, 1959
	2	Personal, Speeches – “Goodwill Industries Speech Regarding Fund Drive”	January 22, 1960 – February 18, 1960
	3	Personal, Speeches – “Regarding: Walter Reed Bimson Presentation”	April 6, 1960
	4	Personal, Speeches – “Phoenix Art Museum”	April 9, 1960
	5	Personal, Speeches – “Bannow, Rudolph F. Kiwanis”	1959 – May 12, 1960
	6	Personal, Speeches – “American and Foreign Power Company Incorporated – Phoenix Financial Analysts”	December 7, 1960
	7	Personal, Speeches – “The Importance of the Entrepreneurs – Arizona State University”	November 14, 1961 – 1962
	8	Personal, Speeches – “Introduction of Governor Fannin at Kiwanis”	August 28, 1962
	9	Personal, Speeches – “Lincoln Hospital Groundbreaking Ceremony”	May 14, 1963
	10	Personal, Speeches – “Phoenix Kiwanis Club – Information of Candidates for Mayor”	October 29, 1963
	11	Personal, Speeches – “Selling Life Insurance – A Job for Professionals”	1964
	12	Personal, Speeches – “Presentation to Jack Valenti President Johnson’s Advisor”	February 1964
	13	Personal, Speeches – “Taxpayers are Second Class Citizens as presented to Tucson Rotary Club”	April 1, 1964
	14	Personal, Speeches – “Flying from New York to Phoenix by Frank Snell”	May 18, 1964
	15	Personal, Proxy Statement Information Furnished	1968 – 1972
	16	Personal, Regarding Central and South American Trip	1960
	17	Personal, Sermons by Doctor Charles Ehrhardt	1972

	18	Personal, State Bar, Annual Trust Account Registration Statement and Questionnaire	1979
	19	Personal, Strategic Air Command Trip – Nebraska	1967
	20	Personal, Who's Who Information	1987 - 1990

## Series II Correspondence

Description: Contains letters and notes received and sent by Mr. Snell. Correspondence includes such enclosures as news clippings, programs, membership certificates, business cards, photographs, invitations, and brochures. The majority of the correspondences are of a professional nature with a few personal letters to family and friends. Also, within this series are Governor Lloyd C. Stark's correspondence regarding the Central Arizona Project, 1947. The series also contains a copy of Mr. Snell's resignation letter from Snell & Wilmer.

Arrangement: Reflects original chronological order.

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
4	1	Correspondence	August 3, 1965 – March 31, 1971
	2	Correspondence	April 1, 1971 – June 30, 1971
	3	Correspondence	July 7, 1971 – October 30, 1971
	4	Correspondence	November 1, 1971 – December 30, 1971
	5	Correspondence	January 3, 1972 – March 28, 1972
	6	Correspondence	April 3, 1972 – June 30, 1972
	7	Correspondence	July 3, 1972 – September 29, 1972
5	1	Correspondence	October 2, 1972 – December 29, 1972
	2	Correspondence	January 2, 1973 – March 29, 1973
	3	Correspondence	April 2, 1973 – June 29, 1973
	4	Correspondence	July 3, 1973 – September 28, 1973
	5	Correspondence	October 1, 1973 – December 31, 1973
	6	Correspondence	January 2, 1974 – March 29, 1974

	7	Correspondence (includes Governor Lloyd C. Stark's correspondence regarding the Central Arizona Project, 1947)	April 1, 1974 – June 28, 1974
6	1	Correspondence	July 8, 1974 – August 30, 1974
	2	Correspondence	September 3, 1974 – October 31, 1974
	3	Correspondence	November 2, 1974 – December 31, 1974
	4	Correspondence	January 2, 1975 – March 28, 1975
	5	Correspondence	April 1, 1975 – June 26, 1975
	6	Correspondence	July 1, 1975 – September 30, 1975
	7	Correspondence	October 6, 1975 – December 31, 1975
7	1	Correspondence, United States Secretary of State	1976
	2	Correspondence	January 2, 1976 – April 30, 1976
	3	Correspondence	May 3, 1976 – August 27, 1976
	4	Correspondence	September 1, 1976 – December 30, 1976
	5	Correspondence	January 1, 1977 – April 29, 1977
	6	Correspondence	May 3, 1977 – September 30, 1977
	7	Correspondence	October 3, 1977 – December 30, 1977
8	1	Correspondence, The Duncan Jennings Memorial Scholarships (includes packet of information on scholarship)	1978 – 1982
	2	Correspondence	January 3, 1978 – April 28, 1978
	3	Correspondence	May 3, 1978 – August 30, 1978
	4	Correspondence	September 1, 1978 – December 30, 1978
	5	Correspondence	January 2, 1979 – March 29, 1979
	6	Correspondence	April 1, 1979 – June 28, 1979
	7	Correspondence	July 11, 1979 – October 29, 1979

9	1	Correspondence	November 1, 1979 – December 31, 1979
	2	Correspondence	January 4, 1980 – March 31, 1980
	3	Correspondence	April 3, 1980 – July 30, 1980
	4	Correspondence	August 11, 1980 – November 26, 1980
	5	Correspondence	December 1, 1980 – December 31, 1980
	6	Correspondence	January 5, 1981 – April 30, 1981
	7	Correspondence	May 1, 1981 – August 26, 1981
10	1	Correspondence	September 2, 1981 – December 31, 1981
	2	Correspondence	January 4, 1982 – April 30, 1982
	3	Correspondence	May 3, 1982 – August 17, 1982
	4	Correspondence	September 1, 1982– December 31, 1982
	5	Correspondence	January 3, 1983 – October 20, 1983
	6	Correspondence	February 22, 1984 – December 28, 1984
	7	Correspondence	January 3, 1985 – May 21, 1985
11	1	Correspondence	June 6, 1985 – November 25, 1985
	2	Correspondence	January 2, 1986 – December 31, 1986
	3	Correspondence	January 5, 1987 – May 27, 1987
	4	Correspondence	June 2, 1987 – December 30, 1987
	5	Correspondence	January 4, 1988 – December 21, 1988
	6	Correspondence (Included speech to Snell and Wilmer law firm)	January 10, 1989 – December 27, 1989
	7	Correspondence (Includes Resignation letter from Snell and Wilmer law firm) (Includes map of Encanto – Palmcroft Walking Tour)	January 3, 1990 – December 28, 1990
	8	Correspondence	August 20, 1992 – August 21, 1992

### Series III Organizations

Description: Contains information regarding Mr. Snell's association with various organizations. This includes memberships to organizations, volunteer work and awards. Within the series are correspondence, meeting minutes, agendas, membership lists from organizations, budgets from various organizations, news clippings, programs, speeches, photographs, and invitations. Included within this series are documents pertaining to Mr. Snell's work with the Phoenix Civic Plaza.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
12	1	Organizations, Arizona Academy Town Hall	1963 – 1979
	2	Organizations, Arizona Academy Town Hall – Today and Tomorrow Research Report	1972
	3	Organizations, Arizona, Ecumenial Council	1971 – 1972
	4	Organizations, Arizona Historical Society	1972 – 1975
	5	Organizations, Arizona Public Service Board – Regarding Retirement	1975
	6	Organizations, Arizona State University – College of Business Administration Achievement Award	1977
	7	Organizations, Arizona State University – Dean's Advisory Committee	1963 – 1968
	8	Organizations, Arizona State University – Engineering School (1 of 3)	June 1979 – March 1980
	9	Organizations, Arizona State University – Engineering School (2 of 3)	April 1980 – December 1981
	10	Organizations, Arizona State University – Engineering School (3 of 3)	January 1982 – September 1982
	11	Organizations, Arizona State University – Financing, Bond Issues	1976
	12	Organizations, Arts and Humanities Council	1966
13	1	Organizations, Campaign fore Chuck Hyder – Solicitation for Contributions	1979
	2	Organizations, Bechtel Corporation (includes copy of legal brief)	1978
	3	Organizations, Brophy College Preparatory	1965 – 1967
	4	Organizations, Combined Metropolitan Phoenix Arts – Beneficiary Committee	1968 – 1982
	5	Organizations, Community Organization for Drug Abuse Control Fund Raising	1971
	6	Organizations, County Attorney, Board of Supervisors Regarding Budget	1979
	7	Organizations, Dedication Learning Center – American Graduate School (Thunderbird)	1981

	8	Organizations, “Dialogue” Session Phoenix, Arizona	1966
	9	Organizations, The Eye Foundations Doctor Barnet	1982
	10	Organizations, Fiesta Bowl (1 of 3)	May 1971 – December 1977
	11	Organizations, Fiesta Bowl (2 of 3)	February 1978 – June 1982
	12	Organizations, Fiesta Bowl (3 of 3)	September 1982 – January 1983
	13	Organizations, Foundations – General Information	1961 – 1965
	14	Organizations, Fund Raising – Building for State Bar	1974 – 1975
14	1	Organizations, Helen C. Lincoln Regarding Valley Presbyterian Church Contributions	1979 – 1981
	2	Organizations, John C. Lincoln Hospital Foundation	1978 – 1980
	3	Organizations, John Rhodes Commemorative Committee	1977 – 1978
	4	Organizations, Junior Achievement (Includes article with picture of Snell) ( 1 of 4)	March 1964 – July 1964
	5	Organizations, Junior Achievement (2 of 4)	August 1964 – May 1965
	6	Organizations, Junior Achievement ( 3of 4)	July 1965 – February 1966
	7	Organizations, Junior Achievement (4 of 4)	March 1966 – June 1975
	8	Organizations, Hospital Public Relations Institute	1967
	9	Organizations, Lawyers Committee for the Re-election of the President (Richard Nixon)	1972
	10	Organizations, Messinger Consultants Company – Board of directors	1964 – 1965
	11	Organizations, National Alliance of Businessmen (1 of 2)	March 1968 – December 1972
	12	Organizations, National Alliance of Businessmen (2 of 2)	July 1973 – November 1980
15	1	Organizations, National Conference of Christians and Jews	1959 – 1970
	2	Organizations, National Conference of Christians and Jews – Dinner (1 of 3)	February 1960 – April 1963
	3	Organizations, National Conference of Christians and Jews – Dinner (2 of 3)	May 1963 – December 1972
	4	Organizations, National Conference of Christians and Jews – Dinner (3 of 3)	January 1973 – October 1981

	5	Organizations, National Conference of Christians and Jews – Dinner Printed Materials (includes Invitations and Programs)	1960 – 1981
	6	Organizations, Naval War College	1969
	7	Organizations, Phoenix Advertising Club – Nomination of Herb Askins for Man of the Year (includes News Articles)	1978
	8	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza (1 of 3)	April 1972 – July 1972
	9	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza (contains Press Preview Speech and Opening Day Script) (2 of 3)	August 1972 – September 1972
	10	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza ( 3 of 3)	October 1972 – November 1972
16	1	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Dedication Ceremony Sketch	1972
	2	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Dedication Committee (1 of 2)	July 1971 – June 1972
	3	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Dedication Committee (2 of 2)	July 1972 – July 1973
	4	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Dedication Committee – Binder (1 of 2)	1971 – 1972
	5	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Dedication Committee – Binder (2 of 2)	1971 – 1972
	6	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Information Kits and News Articles Regarding Opening	1972
	7	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Enrichment Program (1 of 3)	June 1968 – September 1970
	8	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Enrichment Program (2 of 3)	October 1970 – May 1971
	9	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Enrichment Program (3 of 3)	June 1971 – November 1976
17	1	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Enrichment Program, Background Materials (1 of 2)	1969 – 1972
	2	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Enrichment Program, Background Materials (2 of 2)	1969 – 1972
	3	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Enrichment Program, Information Regarding Plaques for Donors	1971 – 1972
	4	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Enrichment Program, Tapestries Contract and Related Materials (1 of 2)	January 1971- November 1971
	5	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Enrichment Program, Tapestries Contract and Related Materials (2 of 2)	December 1971 – March 1973

	6	Organizations, Phoenix Civic Plaza – Fountain	1971 – 1986
	7	Organizations, Phoenix Opportunities Industrialization Center	1968 – 1970
	8	Organizations, Phoenix Symphony Association Advisory Board	1962 – 1965
	9	Organizations, Prescott College	1961 – 1966
18	1	Organizations, Rhodes Scholar Committee	1962 – 1963
	2	Organizations, Saint Luke’s Hospital Gift	1981
	3	Organizations, Thunderbird Graduate School – Honorary Doctor’s Degree	1972
	4	Organizations, The University of Kansas Alumni – Awards Received	1962 – 1977
	5	Organizations, The University of Kansas Alumni Associations	1969 – 1980
	6	Organizations, The University of Kansas – Council for Progress – Law School Contribution – New Building – Snell Courtroom (1 of 2)	May 1966 – October 1978
	7	Organizations, The University of Kansas – Council for Progress – Law School Contribution – New Building – Snell Courtroom (2 of 2)	January 1979 – November 1985
	8	Organizations, Valley Presbyterian Church – Fund Drive	1966 – 1972
	9	Organizations, World Peace Through Law Center	1964 – 1972
	10	Organizations, Young Men’s Christian Association Fund Drive	1978

#### Series IV Events

Description: Contains information regarding Mr. Snell’s relationship with various events (such as award dinners) that took place from 1966 through 1993. Within the collection are correspondence, news clippings, programs, invitations and speeches. These events include those in honor of Mr. Snell as well as those to honor others in which Mr. Snell was either involved in the organization of the event or attended the event.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
19	1	Events, Arizona Business Hall of Fame (1 of 3)	1987
	2	Events, Arizona Business Hall of Fame (2 of 3)	1989
	3	Events, Arizona Business Hall of Fame (3 of 3)	April 1990 – May 1993
	4	Events, Arizona Chamber of Commerce	1992
	5	Events, All American City Celebration Committee	1980
	6	Events, City of Phoenix Human Resources Department Community Recognition Dinner (Includes Welcome Remarks)	1977

	7	Events, Front Page Ball	1980
	8	Events, General Taylor's Visit to Phoenix (Includes information regarding General Taylor's Life)	1966 – 1992
	9	Events, Guest List – Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco	November 25, 1980
	10	Events, Junior Achievement Awards Dinner	1972 – 1973
	11	Events, History Makers	1991 – 1993
	12	Events, Luncheon – Dean Martin Dickinson	April 28, 1977
	13	Events, Man and Woman of the Year Matters	1969
	14	Events, Man and Woman of the Year Matters	1971 – 1972
	15	Events, Man and Woman of the Year Matters	1979
	16	Events, Sammy Awards Event – Doctor Paul Singer ( Samaritan Health Service)	1980 – 1989
	17	Events, Vietnam Veterans Banquet	1967 – 1969
	18	Events, Vietnam Veterans Banquet	1969 - 1970

### Series V Media

Description: Contains news clippings that were either sent to or retained by Mr. Snell. These news clippings pertain to various people (including obituaries) or the city of Phoenix. Within the collection is an oral interview with Mr. Snell conducted on January 13, 1993 (transcript not available, tape in good condition). The collection also contains a publication by the law firm of Snell & Wilmer which includes a brief biography of Mr. Snell.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Contents	Dates
20	1	Media, Newsclippings, Articles Regarding Matters of Interest (Includes Obituaries)	1952 – 1980
	2	Media, Newsclippings, Regarding Frank and Richard Snell (Includes Newsletters)	1966 – 1992
	3	Media, Newsclippings, Regarding Eugene C. Pulliam	1975
	4	Media, Newsclippings, Regarding Phoenix (Includes Correspondences Regarding Articles)	1975 – 1982
	5	Media, Newsclippings	1976 – 1987
	6	Media, Newsclippings, Regarding Ernest W. McFarland	1978
	7	Media, Newsclippings, Regarding Harry Montgomery	1979
	8	Media, Newsclippings, Regarding Sandra O'Connor's Appointment to United States Supreme Court (Includes thank you letter from Sandra O'Connor)	1981

	9	Media, Oral Interview with Dean Smith and Fred Steiner	January 13, 1993
	10	Media, Publication, <i>Snell &amp; Wilmer The First Sixty Years</i>	1998