

TITLE: Grace M. Sparkes Photograph Collection

DATE RANGE: 1880s-1940s

CALL NUMBER: FP FPC #16

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 11 linear feet (20 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Donated by James Sparkes (nephew of Grace Sparkes)

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CREDIT LINE: Grace M. Sparkes Photograph Collection, FP FPC #16, Arizona Historical Foundation

PROCESSED BY: Rebekah Tabah, August, 2009

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Grace Marion Sparkes was born 1893 in the Black Hills country of South Dakota. She was the daughter of Thomas J. Sparkes and Mary Ann Martin. Grace had two older brothers, Thomas and John and a sister, Charity. Thomas Sparkes was a mining engineer who made a fortune in Alaska during the Klondike gold rush. He was a man of many accomplishments - an interpreter for the Sioux Indians, publisher of the first newspaper in Dawson, financial donor for the first hospital in Nome, and representative of the Yukon miners to the Canadian government concerning protection of their rights. Grace, nicknamed Babe, was very close with her father whom she assisted in many endeavors.

In 1906, the Sparkes Family moved to Prescott, Arizona. At age 17, Grace graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in Prescott, a Catholic girls' school. She remained a lifelong Catholic and member of Prescott's Sacred Heart Parrish. Grace went on to Lamson Business College in Phoenix and returned to Prescott to begin a 34-year career as secretary of the Yavapai County Chamber of Commerce. Concurrently, she also served as Immigration Commissioner of Yavapai County from 1913-1938.

Grace Sparkes worked on numerous projects and civic activities. From 1925-1930 she publicized the Sunkist Trail and lobbied for the construction of the Blythe-Ehrenberg bridge which provided a short cut from Los Angeles to Phoenix. She was a founding member of the Smoki Dancers, 1922. Santa Barbara printer Jack McDonald proposed marriage in 1925 but Grace Sparkes declined. When asked later why she had never married, Grace said "that would mean just another job."

In 1926, Sharlot Hall hired Sparkes to help with business affairs and acted as her press agent until Hall's death in 1943. Sparks raised funds for building the Hassaymapa Hotel in 1927 through the Hotel Committee. She also was secretary of the annual Frontier Days

Rodeo, and in 1933 persuaded Will Rogers to make an appearance at the rodeo. Sparkes worked to secure the Post Office building in Prescott, was instrumental in having Tuzigoot Ruins in Verde Valley declared a national monument, and was one of the first women invited to join the Aeronautic Association.

Grace Sparkes also served as volunteer secretary of the Arizona Small Mine Operators Association. She subsequently became involved in mining, owning shares in small mines, writing mining articles, and lobbying for mining legislation. Eventually Sparkes left Prescott and moved to Bisbee. In 1946, she set up the "Montezuma Canyon Mineral Village" shop to sell rocks and minerals from her mining claims. During the 1950s Sparkes was a volunteer head of the Coronado International Monument Committee of Arizona and chairman of the Bisbee Chamber of Commerce Committee on National Parks and Monuments.

Grace Sparkes died following surgery at the Copper Queen Hospital in Bisbee, on October 23, 1963. She is buried in the family plot at Mountain View Cemetery in Prescott, Arizona.

She was an outstanding booster for tourism in Arizona and the Southwest, a writer, explorer, radio commentator, horseback rider, musician, crusader for the improvement of Arizona's road systems, and involved in just about every civic activity in Prescott. Grace Sparkes was inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame in 1985.

Source - "Grace Marion Sparkes: Matriarch of the Early Arizona Tourist Industry" by Mona Lange McCroskey. LD 179.15 1987.M3376 AHF

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The collection contains over 1200 photographs, 3 albums, and 35 oversized prints. Original order is unknown. The collection is arranged by subject and then alphabetically and chronologically within.

The photographs cover a variety of subjects pertaining to Arizona in particular Prescott and Northern Arizona. These include views of landscapes, military, mining, Native Americans, agriculture, buildings, street scenes, transportation, and various people and places.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	Photographs: Animals Burros	n.d.
	2	Photographs: Animals Various	n.d.
	3	Photographs: Arizona Exhibit at Chicago Exposition	1933
	4	Photographs: Arizona Territorial Highway (Prescott to Camp Verde)	circa 1909

	5	Photographs: Arts and Crafts	1930s
	6	Photographs: Boy Scouts	1930s
	7	Photographs: Bucky O'Neil Statue, Prescott	1920s-1930s
	8	Photographs: Buildings Banks (all in Prescott)	1909-1920s
	9	Photographs: Buildings Businesses (various)	1918-1930s
	10	Photographs: Buildings Churches (all in Prescott)	1920s-1940s
	11	Photographs: Buildings Government	1930s
2	1	Photographs: Buildings Homes and Gardens	1920s-1940s
	2	Photographs: Buildings Homes and Gardens	1920s-1930s
	3	Photographs: Buildings Hospitals (mostly Prescott)	1930s
	4	Photographs: Buildings Hotels	1909-1930s
	5	Photographs: Buildings Old Governors' Mansion and Sharlot Hall Museum	1930s
	6	Photographs: Buildings Prescott County Courthouse (includes demolition of old courthouse and interior views)	1910s-1920s
	7	Photographs: Buildings Prescott County Courthouse	1920s-1930s
3	1	Photographs: Buildings Schools (mostly Prescott)	1900s-1930s
	2	Photographs: Buildings Smoki Museum	1930s
	3	Photographs: Buildings Verde Valley Golf Club	1920s
	4	Photographs: Buildings Unidentified	n.d.
	5	Photographs: Building Roads, Northern Arizona	1930s
	6	Photographs: Cactus and Trees	1913-1940s
	7	Photographs: Camp Fire Girls	1910-1939
	8	Photographs: Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)	1933-1942
	9	Photographs: Civil Works Administration (CWA) 1 of 4	1934
	10	Photographs: Civil Works Administration (CWA) 2 of 4	1934
4	1	Photographs: Civil Works Administration (CWA) 3 of 4	1934
	2	Photographs: Civil Works Administration (CWA) 4 of 4	1934
	3	Photographs: Farming and Agriculture Animals	n.d.
	4	Photographs: Farming and Agriculture	1910-1930s

		Farms and Ranches	
	5	Photographs: Farming and Agriculture Fields and Workers 1of 2	1910s-1930s
	6	Photographs: Farming and Agriculture Fields and Workers 2of 2	1910s-1930s
	7	Photographs: Farming and Agriculture Fruit Trees and Orchards	1910s-1930s
5	1	Photographs: Hassayampa Mountain Club Homes 1 of 2	1937
	2	Photographs: Hassayampa Mountain Club Homes 2 of 2	1937
	3	Photographs: Landscapes 1 of 5	n.d.
	4	Photographs: Landscapes 2 of 5	n.d.
	5	Photographs: Landscapes 3 of 5	n.d.
	6	Photographs: Landscapes 4 of 5	n.d.
	7	Photographs: Landscapes 5 of 5	n.d.
6	1	Photographs: Military Camp Verde	n.d.
	2	Photographs: Military Fort Defiance	1939
	3	Photographs: Military Fort Whipple	1890s-1918
	4	Photographs: Military Soldiers	1914-1918
	5	Photographs: Military Unidentified	n.d.
	6	Photographs: Mining Emerald Isle Copper Company	n.d.
	7	Photographs: Mining Equipment and Machinery	n.d.
	8	Photographs: Mining Gold Ore	1911
	9	Photographs: Mining Hillside Mine	1935, 1936
	10	Photographs: Mining Lincoln Mine	1900s
	11	Photographs: Mining Miners and Prospectors	n.d.
	12	Photographs: Mining United Verde Copper Company, Jerome	1884-1930s
	13	Photographs: Mining United Verde Copper Company, Jerome	1930s
	14	Photographs: Mining Various Mines	n.d.
7	1	Photographs: Native Americans Apache	1880s-1913
	2	Photographs: Native Americans	n.d.

		Apache Dancers at the Grand Canyon	
	3	Photographs: Native Americans Arts and Crafts	1920s-1930s
	4	Photographs: Native Americans Dwellings	1910s
	5	Photographs: Native Americans Hopi	n.d.
	6	Photographs: Native Americans Hopi Snake Dancers 1 of 2	n.d.
	7	Photographs: Native Americans Hopi Snake Dancers 2 of 2	n.d.
	8	Photographs: Native Americans Navajo	n.d.
	9	Photographs: Native Americans Petroglyphs and Pictographs	n.d.
	10	Photographs: Native Americans Pueblo Grande	n.d.
	11	Photographs: Native Americans Walpi Pueblo	n.d.
	12	Photographs: Native Americans Unidentified	n.d.
8	1	Photographs: Northern Arizona State Fair	1920-1925
	2	Photographs: Northern Arizona State Fair	1931
	3	Photographs: People Armstrong Family	1890s-1914
	4	Photographs: People Baker, Bob (motion picture star)	1920s
	5	Photographs: People Camping and Picnicking	1910-1936
	6	Photographs: People Horseback Riding	n.d.
	7	Photographs: People Hunters	1926-1939
	8	Photographs: People LaGuardia, Fiorello H. (Mayor of New York City) (visit to Prescott) 1 of 3	1935
	9	Photographs: People LaGuardia, Fiorello H. (Mayor of New York City) (visit to Prescott) 2 of 3	1935
	10	Photographs: People LaGuardia, Fiorello H. (Mayor of New York City) (visit to Prescott) 3 of 3	1935
9	1	Photographs: People Ritter, Tex	1940s
	2	Photographs: People Shipp, Meryl	1930s

	3	Photographs: People A - J	1917-1940
	4	Photographs: People K - Y	1898-1942
	5	Photographs: People Unidentified	n.d.
	6	Photographs: People Unidentified	n.d.
	7	Photographs: People Unidentified	n.d.
	8	Photographs: People Unidentified	n.d.
10	1	Photographs: People Unidentified	n.d.
	2	Photographs: People Unidentified	n.d.
	3	Photographs: People Unidentified	n.d.
	4	Photographs: People Unidentified	n.d.
	5	Photographs: Places Agua Caliente	1920s
	6	Photographs: Places Blythe-Ehrenberg Bridge	1927, 1928
	7	Photographs: Places Camp Verde	1939-1944
	8	Photographs: Places Castle Hot Springs	n.d.
	9	Photographs: Places Colorado River	n.d.
11	1	Photographs: Places Colorado River and Green River	n.d.
	2	Photographs: Places Grand Canyon	1913-1925
	3	Photographs: Places Grand Canyon	n.d.
	4	Photographs: Places Granite Dells	1913-1937
	5	Photographs: Places Granite Dells	1915-1937
	6	Photographs: Places Lake Sullivan	n.d.
	7	Photographs: Places Montezuma Castle and Beaver Creek	1912-1935
	8	Photographs: Places Montezuma Well	n.d.

12	1	Photographs: Places Oak Creek Canyon	n.d.
	2	Photographs: Places Phoenix	1913-1930
	3	Photographs: Places Prescott	1909-1940s
	4	Photographs: Places Prescott	1900s-1940s
	5	Photographs: Places Prescott	n.d.
	6	Photographs: Places Roosevelt Dam and the Apache Trail 1 of 2	1913
	7	Photographs: Places Roosevelt Dam and the Apache Trail 2 of 2	1913
13	1	Photographs: Places Salt River	n.d.
	2	Photographs: Places Sedona 1 of 2	1920s-1941
	3	Photographs: Places Sedona 2 of 2	1920s-1941
	4	Photographs: Places Thumb Butte	n.d.
	5	Photographs: Places A - M (all in Arizona)	n.d.
	6	Photographs: Places P - W (all in Arizona)	n.d.
	7	Photographs: Places Other States, A - O (includes postcards sent to Grace Sparkes)	1900-1937
14	1	Photographs: Places Other States, T - W (includes postcards sent to Grace Sparkes)	1919-1935
	2	Photographs: Places Other Countries (includes postcards sent to Grace Sparkes)	1913-1937
	3	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1919-1931
	4	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1920s-1930s
	5	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1920s-1930s
	6	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1920s-1930s
15	1	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1920s-1930s
	2	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1920s-1930s
	3	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1920s-1930s
	4	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1920s-1930s
	5	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1920s-1930s
	6	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1931
16	1	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1931, 1932

	2	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1934-1937
	3	Photographs: Prescott Frontier Days	1930s
	4	Photographs: Prescott Parades (includes the Red Cross)	1920s-1930s
	5	Photographs: Prescott Parades (includes Victory Parades)	1930s-1940s
17	1	Photographs: Smoki People	1924-1930s
	2	Photographs: Smoki People	1933-1937
	3	Photographs: Sparkes Family (includes Grace's siblings)	1900-1934
	4	Photographs: Sparkes, Grace M.	1900-1920s
	5	Photographs: Sparkes, Grace M.	1920s-1940s
	6	Photographs: Sparkes, Thomas (Grace's father)	1898-1919
	7	Photographs: Sports (various)	1910-1937
18	1	Photographs: Statehood Day Celebration, Prescott	1912
	2	Photographs: Transportation Airplanes	1920s
	3	Photographs: Transportation Automobile	1913-1940s
	4	Photographs: Transportation Boats (includes the Nellie T. Bush Ferry)	1900s-1918
	5	Photographs: Transportation Motorcycles	circa 1913
	6	Photographs: Transportation Trains	1890-1910s
	7	Photographs: Welfare (under privileged) Children at Summer Camp	1934
	8	Photographs: Yavapai County Fair	1912
	9	Album: Includes photographs of downtown Phoenix, Papago Mountains, Native Americans, Grand Canyon, Granite Dells, Iron Springs, and The Arizona Museum	1890s-1950s
	10	Album: Includes photographs of unidentified family	1890s-1935
19	OV	Oversized Photographs: Includes Sedona, Oak Creek, Portraits, Yarnell Gold Mining Company, Granite Dells, Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, Prescott Frontier Days, Landscapes, Buildings, Animals, Smoki, Native Americans, Churches, Prescott, and Yavapai County Courthouse	1900-1935
20	OV	Oversized Photographs: Includes Wittick portraits of Native Americans, Prescott Rotary Club, Downtown Prescott, and St. Josephs Academy	1880s-1920s
OV	Map Drawer	Oversized Album: "Auto Tour - Jerome to San Xavier del Bac"	1904