

TITLE: Valley Field Riding and Polo Club

DATE RANGE: 1929 - 2006

CALL NUMBER: FM MSS #149

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 14 linear feet (22 boxes)

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PROCESSED BY: John Irwin, June, 2010

HISTORICAL NOTE:

In 1929 the manager of new Westward Ho Hotel in Phoenix made arrangements with Captain H. A. Mosse's riding academy and stable in Phoenix for hotel guests to ride at the stable. This interest in riding and polo by local Phoenicians and visitors led to the creation of the Westward Ho Riding Club. It was incorporated as a stock bearing corporation on October 11, 1929 by Dr. S. I. Bloomhardt, Roland Haskell and Mosse with one hundred fifty memberships. The club field was located at what is now Missouri Avenue and 7th Street in Phoenix, and a club house known as "The Barn" was constructed in 1930. Amid organizational difficulties among stockholders, the name of the club was changed on December 27, 1932 to the Valley Field Riding and Polo Club, and it became a non profit corporation with no dividends. In the early 1930's the Club hosted the polo team, the Field Blues, as well as horse shows, tournaments and social gatherings for members. Rides over open desert trails frequently ended in suppers at the clubhouse.

A fire on August 1, 1936 destroyed the "Barn" clubhouse. Member Joseph Edward Thompson, brother of mining tycoon William Boyce Thompson, offered a donation of twenty-one acres of unimproved desert land six miles east of Phoenix near what is now Papago Park. An adobe clubhouse was constructed in 1936, in 1938 a stables was added and later a caretakers cottage. Polo and equestrian grounds and a swimming pool were planned but never developed.

During WWII the 364th Infantry Division of the U. S. Army rented the facility as an Officers's Club in conjunction with the U. S. prisoner of war camp in Papago Park. Club use declined because of gasoline rationing and the general war effort. In 1945 there were 58 members.

Riding and horse activities among members also declined after World War II, and in 1959 the stables were dismantled. Currently the majority of members do not ride nor own horses. However, members' theme dinners and parties flourished and these social events became the club's prominent focus continuing to the present day. By 1959 the stockholder corporation changed to a private, non profit paid membership organization. New members are admitted by invitation rather than by application.

The maintenance of the clubhouse and desert grounds occupied much club attention over the decades. The clubhouse was first extensively remodeled in 1966, and later in 1992. The original iconic, historic 1936 adobe structure has become an area architectural landmark. The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2009.

The Long Range Planning Committee was established in 1973, and its work assumed greater importance as the surrounding area saw extensive commercial and residential development and a dramatic increase in land value. In 1988 the club sold a portion of the property to Blood Services, and there were extensive proposals for development in the 1990's.

A concurrent membership interest was retaining the Club's desert open space as escalating taxation pressures increased. The Club hired a land planner to address numerous development proposals, zoning, and a land sale to the City of Scottsdale for parkway frontage. After considering many proposals, in 1998 it sold considerable acreage for development, and in 1999 it entered into a ground lease arrangement for commercial income property in Tempe, Arizona as a cash source for paying property taxes.

The bylaws state the Club "*shall be composed of not more than 150 members who are congenial Arizonians who enjoy participating in Club parties, as well as sharing in its responsibilities. The members shall be of Arizona Heritage and have been involved in cultural, charitable and civic activities in Arizona.*" Over the decades the exclusive membership included many leaders and prominent individuals of metropolitan Phoenix: Kemper and Ethel Marley, Earl Bimson, Robert T. Evans, Joe C. Haldiman, Mae Heard, Arthur Luhrs, Harry Fennemore, Walter O. Boswell, Clarence Budington Kelland, Margaret Rockwell, Senator Barry M. Goldwater, Sandra Day O'Connor, Tom Goodnight, Dr. Carlos Craig, Margaret and Leslie Kober, Eleanor and Scott Libby, Jr., Kitty Bloomhardt, Lou Ella Archer, Sherman Hazeltine, Karl Eller, Keith Turley, William Clements, Denison Kitchel, James Kitchel, Orme Lewis, Jr., Ted and Carolyn Warner, Frank Gordon, and Paul Orme.

In 2010 the Club remains active and continues its annual schedule of parties at the clubhouse in Scottsdale.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The collection consists of an amalgamation of files gathered and assembled at different times from various Club officers and members. The processing archivist continued the organization and filing structure established by the Club Historian Committee prior to the donation of the papers to the Arizona Historical Foundation. This system is based on the Club's longstanding committee organization, although some committees changed names and responsibilities over the decades.

No effort was made to fine-tune each folder into exact chronological or alphabetic order, or to remove individual duplicates that might also be located in other series. However, multiple copies of single documents filed together were discarded. Likewise there was no attempt to perform refiling to achieve exact consistency under file headings.

Arranged in four series:

I. Executive: Articles of Incorporation; Bylaws; Board of Directors Agendas and Minutes; President's Correspondence; Finance (Treasurer)

In the 1990's the Club Historian Committee made a special effort to assemble as complete as possible set of Board of Directors' minutes. These include minutes of the Executive Committee and stockholders meetings. Over the decades this file also included at various times financial statements, presidential correspondence, membership letters and other records that are also found in Committee records in Series II. In some instances these are duplicate copies, while at other times they may be the original and only copy. This file contains the most complete administrative records of the Club.

Financial/Treasurer files include at various times financial statements, unpaid member accounts, party treasurer reports, invoices, and monthly/ annual financial reports. Taxation files include property, employment, sales, federal, state, and local tax documents, tax protests, and annual corporation fees and filings.

II. Committees: Club Historian; Club House and Grounds; Investment; Long Range Planning; Membership; Nominating; Party Coordination; Property (titles, deeds, land exchange, easements, condemnation, sales); Roster

Especially in the 1990's when much change occurred with the Club property and surrounding area, files of the Club House and Grounds Committee and the Property Committee are closely inter-related and sometimes contain similar material.

III. Media: This series contains photographs of club members and club parties from the 1930's to 2006, and club property, 1967-2003.

IV. Architectural and Landscape Drawings: This series consists of various drawings and construction plans for the property, 1992-2000.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Executive , Articles of Incorporation	1929-1959
	2	Executive , Articles of Incorporation	1960-2002
	3	Executive , Bylaws	1959-1981
	4	Executive , Bylaws	1982-2006
	5	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1929-1934
	6	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1935-1939
	7	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1945-1958
	8	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1959
	9	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1960-1965
	10	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1966-1974
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	12	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1978-1979
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	14	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1983-1988
	15	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1989-1991
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	18	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	January – June, 1996
	19	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	July–December, 1996
2	1	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	1997
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	4	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	2000
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	7	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	2003
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	9	Executive , Board of Director's Meeting Agendas and Meetings	2005
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	11	Executive , Executive Committee (John Baldwin) 1 of 2	1973-1974
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	13	Executive , President's Correspondence	1982-1984
	14	Executive , President's Correspondence	1997/1998
	15	Executive , President's Correspondence	1998/1999
	16	Executive , President's Correspondence	1999/2000
	17	Executive , Presidents Correspondence	2000/2001
	18	Executive , Twenty Day Lien Notices	2000
	19	Executive , Finance, General Ledger	1951-1965
3	1	Executive , Finance	1956-1997/1980
	2	Executive , Finance	1980/1981- 1989/1990
	3	Executive , Finance	1990/1991- 1991/1992
	4	Executive , Finance	1992/1993
	5	Executive , Finance	1993/1994- 1994/1995
	6	Executive , Finance	1995/1996- 1996/1997
	7	Executive , Finance	1997/1998- 1998/1999
	8	Executive , Finance (1 of 2)	1999/2000
	9	Executive , Finance (2 of 2)	1999/2000
	10	Executive , Finance (1 of 2)	2000/2001
	11	Executive , Finance (2 of 2)	2000/2001
	12	Executive , Finance	2001/2002
	13	Executive , Finance	2002/2003- 2005/2006

4	1	Executive , Finance, Harris Trust Bank Loan Purchase of SEC Kyrene and Baseline Road, Tempe, Arizona	August 27, 1999
	2	Executive , Finance, Harris Trust Bank Loan	December 15, 1999
	3	Executive , Finance, Harris Trust Bank Loan	1999-2003
	4	Executive , Finance, Insurance	1945-1996
	5	Executive , Finance, Insurance	1997-2002
	6	Executive , Finance, Osco Drug Store 1031 Exchange	1995-2000
	7	Executive , Finance, Party Coordination Financial Receipts and Statements	1958-1991
	8	Executive , Finance, Reserve Data Analysis	2002
	9	Executive , Finance, Scott Battle	2000-2003
	10	Executive , Finance, Taxes	1954-1989
	11	Executive , Finance, Taxes	1990-1995
	12	Executive , Finance, Taxes	1996-1997
	13	Executive , Finance, Taxes	1998
	14	Executive , Finance, Taxes	1999
	15	Executive , Finance, Taxes (1 of 2)	2000-2001
	16	Executive , Finance, Taxes (2 of 2)	2000-2001
5	1	Executive , Finance, Taxes	2002
	2	Executive , Finance, Taxes	2003-2006
	3	Executive , Finance, Taxes, City of Tempe	2001-2003
	4	Executive , Finance, Stock Certificates, Canceled and Recall Correspondence	1933-1982
	5	Executive , Finance, Stock Certificates Receipts Book # 1-151	1930-1947
	6	Executive , Finance, Stock Certificates Receipts Book # 152-205	1947-1957
	7	Executive , Finance, Stock Certificates 1-100 Cancelled	1959-1960
	8	Executive , Finance, Stock Certificates 101-201	1946-1970
	9	Executive , Finance, Stock Certificates Canceled, Westward Ho Riding Club	1945
	10	Committees , Club Historian, Arizona in WW II	1978
	11	Committees , Club Historian, U.S. Office of Price Administration, War Price and Rationing Board, Correspondence, Forms, Stamps	1945
	12	Committees , Club Historian, Club Members Biographies and Obituaries	1950's - 1981
	13	Committees , Club Historian, Club Members Biographies, Sandra Day O'Connor	1981
	14	Committees , Club Historian, Club Members Biographies, John Rhuart	1982-1984

	15	Committees , Club Historian, Club History	1976
	16	Committees , Club Historian, Club History by Dorothy Webb (Draft)	1998
	17	Committees , Club Historian, Club History by Dorothy Webb (Final)	February, 1998
	18	Committees , Club Historian, Club History by Dorothy Webb	2011
	19	Committees , Club Historian, John Clements Oral History Interview	1998
	20	Committees , Club Historian, Literature Review and Records Search for the VFR&PC Property	1999
	21	Committees , Club Historian, Newspaper Clippings	1930-1937
	22	Committees , Club Historian, Arizona Horseman's Association Equestrian Center, Phoenix Mountain Preserve	1974
	23	Committees , Club Historian, Polo	1930-1936
	24	Committees , Club Historian, Historical Notes	1976-2003
	25	Committees , Club Historian	1999
	26	Committees , House and Grounds (including caretakers cottage and caretakers duties)	1955-1987
	27	Committees , House and Grounds	1990-1998
	28	Committees , House and Grounds	1999
	29	Committees , House and Grounds	2000-2003
6	1	Committees , House and Grounds, Clubhouse Renovation	1966
	2	Committees , House and Grounds, Clubhouse Renovation (1 of 2)	1990-1991
	3	Committees , House and Grounds, Clubhouse Renovation (2 of 2)	1990-1991
	4	Committees , House and Grounds, Housekeeping	1966-1993
	5	Committees , House and Grounds, Hydrology Report	1999
	6	Committees , House and Grounds, Inventories	1945-1999
	7	Committees , House and Grounds, Landscaping	1991-1993
	8	Committees , House and Grounds, New Fire Lane Engineering Report	1999
	9	Committees , House and Grounds, Construction, Achen-Gardner Temporary Access	1998
	10	Committees , House and Grounds, E Group Land Planner, Driveways, Parking Lot, Landscaping (1 of 2)	1999
	11	Committees , House and Grounds, E Group Land, Driveways, Parking Lot, Landscaping Planner (2 of 2)	1999

	12	Committees , House and Grounds, E Group Land, Driveways, Parking Lot, Landscaping Planner	2000-2001
	13	Committees , House and Grounds, Archon Construction (1 of 2)	2000
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	18	Committees , Long Range Planning	1990-1991
	19	Committees , Long Range Planning	1992-1995
7	1	Committees , Long Range Planning (1 of 4)	1996
	2	Committees , Long Range Planning (2 of 4)	1996
	3	Committees , Long Range Planning (3 of 4)	1996
	4	Committees , Long Range Planning (4 of 4)	1996
	5	Committees , Long Range Planning	1998-1999
	6	Committees , Membership	N. D.
	7	Committees , Membership	1955-1979
	8	Committees , Membership	1980-1986
	9	Committees , Membership	1987-1999
	10	Committees , Membership	2000-2006
	11	Committees , Nominating	1950's - 2006
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	4	Committees , Party Coordination, Invitations	1980-1989
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	6	Committees , Party Coordination, Mountain Oyster Club, Tucson, Reciprocal Use	1992-1995
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	9	Committees , Property, Boundary Survey	1977
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	12	Committees , Property, Blood Systems	2000-2003
	13	Committees , Property, Club Improvement History 1989-2003	2003

	14	Committees, Property, Deeds	1937
	15	Committees, Property, Elks	1970-1993
	16	Committees, Property, Evans-Withycombe Proposal	1993
	17	Committees, Property, 64th Street and Wilshire Access	1992-1997
	18	Committees, Property, Kitchell Property Survey	1998
	19	Committees, Property, 1031 Land Exchange	1999
	20	Committees, Property, Winius Montadon Appraisal, "Estimate of Just Compensation Due To A Partial Taking From VFR & PC Property On The West Side of 64th Street ...Scottsdale"	1996
	21	Committees, Property, Montecito/Cameron Sale	1997
	22	Committees, Property, Montecito/ Cameron Sale (1 of 3)	1998
9	1	Committees, Property, Montecito/ Cameron Sale (2 of 3)	1998
	2	Committees, Property, Montecito/ Cameron Sale (3 of 3)	1998
	3	Committees, Property, Montecito/ Cameron Sale	1999-2000
	4	Committees, Property, Ivan Easement (Montecito Homes)	1997-1999
	5	Committees, Property, Osco Drug Store, 1031 Tax Free Exchange, Ground Lease (1 of 6)	1999
	6	Committees, Property, Osco Drug Store, 1031 Tax Free Exchange, Ground Lease (2 of 6)	1999
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	8	Committees, Property, Osco Drug Store, 1031 Tax Free Exchange, Ground Lease (4 of 6)	1999
	9	Committees, Property, Osco Drug Store, 1031 Tax Free Exchange, Ground Lease (5 of 6)	1999
	10	Committees, Property, Osco Drug Store, 1031 Tax Free Exchange, Ground Lease (6 of 6)	1999
	11	Committees, Property, Osco Drug Store (Easements)	2000
	12	Committees, Property, Osco Drug Store, Transmittal of Final Easement For SRP Land Rights	2002
	13	Committees, Property, Pease Property, 60' Easement	1982-1997
	14	Committees, Property, Raymond Property	1999
	15	Committees, Property, Starker Trust	1999
	16	Committees, Property, Survey	1977
	17	Committees, Property, Trammell Crow	1994

		Residential: The Polo Club, A Luxury Rental Community, Letter of Intent	
	18	Committees , Property, Trammell Crow Residential Proposed Land Sale	1996
10	1	Committees , Property, Trammell Crow Residential Proposed Land Sale, John Hughes Protest	1996
	2	Committees , Property, Trammell Crow Residential Proposed Land Sale (1 of 2)	1997
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	4	Committees , Roster	1951-1960
	5	Committees , Roster	1961-1974/1975
	6	Committees , Roster	1975/1976-1988/1989
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	9	Committees , Roster	1961-1994 (bound)
	10	Media, Photographs , Arizona Historical Society, Central Division (photocopies)	1920's – 1950's
	11	Media, Photographs , Club Members and Parties	1930's – 1960's
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	17	Media, Photographs , Property	1967
	18	Media, Photographs , Property	1969
	19	Media, Photographs , Property	1997
	20	Media, Photographs , Property	2000
	21	Media, Photographs , Property	2003
11		Architectural and Landscape Drawings , Grinnell Fire Protection Systems: Dining Room Addition 2/1/91; Richard Britt, Architect: New Storage Room, Remodel Restrooms 3/2/92; City of Scottsdale Approval, Job Copy 173-C-92 3/17/92	1991-1992
12		Architectural and Landscape Drawings , Christensen, Cassidy, Billington, Candelaria: Bid Revisions 10/28/90	1990
13		Architectural and Landscape Drawings , Christensen, Cassidy, Billington, Candelaria: Construction Documents, City of Scottsdale 90-890 Approved - Fire, Planning 12/14/90	1990

14	Architectural and Landscape Drawings, Christensen, Cassidy, Billington, Candelaria: Construction Documents, City of Scottsdale 90-890 Approved – Bldg 12/4/90; North Patio Plan 9/28/90; Revisions 1/16/91	1990-1991
15	Architectural and Landscape Drawing, E Group Construction Documents, Mylar Sheets, 2 nd City Review Comments 3/2000	2000
16	Architectural and Landscape Drawings, E Group Construction Documents, F. W. Dodge Set 9/24/99	1999
17	Architectural and Landscape Drawings, E Group Construction Documents, City of Scottsdale 2 nd 4553-99 11/19/99	1999
18	Architectural and Landscape Drawings, E Group Construction Documents, City of Scottsdale 2 rd 4553-99 3/2/2000; City of Scottsdale 3 rd 4553-99 2002?; New Water Line (never implemented) 6/8/00	2000-2002
19	Architectural and Landscape Drawings, DNA, Inc.Civil Engineering/Land Surveying, Improvement Plans (alternate), City of Scottsdale 4553-99 10/12/99	1999
20	Architectural and Landscape Drawings, DNA, Inc. Civil Engineering/Land Surveying, Improvement Plans, City of Scottsdale 4553-99 3 rd 2/3/2000; Water Meter 11/1/00;	2000
21	Architectural and Landscape Drawings, Aerial View (prior to 3/3/99); 64 th Street Signs N.D.; Northwest Patio Cover N. D.	1999
22	Club Seal (for stock certificates)	1930's