Biographical

Ralph Wilbur Crocker was born March 9, 1883 in Hillsdale, Michigan. Crocker came to Prescott in 1921 and was employed by Dixon Fagerberg in the wholesale grocery business. In 1925 he became an agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance group then joined the Prescott Evening Courier’s advertising department in 1931. After five years with the Courier, Crocker became manager of the Studio Theater and retired from that position in 1953. After his retirement he worked for the Courier and Messenger on a part time basis, and at the time of his death was the advertising manager for the Bagdad Copper News.

Scope and Content

The Ralph Wilbur Crocker Collection consists of 8 scrapbooks (1 c.f.) containing photographs, artwork, and newspaper clippings 1814-1963. The majority of the photographs are of the Crocker, Perry, and Wilbur families of Hillside, Michigan and their decendents. Most interesting in the collection is Folder 8, containing the scrapbook of Prescott, AZ in 1926 and 1927. The scrapbook contains images of Hopi reservation and Hopi Indians participating in the 1926 and 1927 Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo and also includes rare images of Tom Mix filming a movie in Prescott town, not in the Granite Dells. Also of note are the photographs of E.W. Crocker’s (Ralph Wilbur Crocker’s relative) traveling horse show, which was a circus-type troupe of horses and burros which performed a stage show across the country and in Canada and the United Kingdom. These photos are located in Folder 3. The inventory below contains names and subjects contained in the scrapbook.

Inventory

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Folder 1—Scrapbook, c. 1901
- Vacation photographs of Canada
- Jennie Carter
- Jack Gray

Folder 2—Scrapbook, 1814-1949
- Crocker Family Album—Ancestors of Patricia Crocker Melter
- Ralph Wilber Crocker
- Percy Katherine Kerby-Crocket
- Horace Henry Crocker
- Della Gertrude Wilber Crocker
- Harriet M. Gile Wilber
- William A Wilber
William Henry Harrison Crocker
Susan Williams Crocker
Solomon Williams
Darcas Mosher
Jas Kerby
Esther Ann Douglass Kerby
James Kerby
James Douglass
Bridget Doyle Douglas
Mary Doyle

Folder 3—Scrapbook, 1895-1963
Mrs. R.W. Crocker
Daise Walker
E.K. Crocker, John C. Patrick and Bristol, June 30, 1911
R.W. Crocker
John Gray (Jack)
Prof. E.K. Crocker Horse Show
John C. Patrick

Folder 4—Scrapbook, 1904-1929
Percy Kerby Crocker

Folder 5—Scrapbook, 1908-1913
Ancestors of Percy Katherine Kerby Crocker
Snapshots from Hillside, Michigan

Folder 6—Scrapbook-1910-1963
Newspaper Clippings and loose photographs (unidentified)
Artwork by Virginia Lee Perry
Grace Genung (Chapman)
Genung Ranch
Bethel M. Braun
Dorothy M. Bennett, 1940 Rodeo
Mr. and Mrs. Herman A. Bennett, 1939 Rodeo
Dorothy Meyer, 1936
Betty Reid, July 1939
Helen (Patton) Theobald and Son “Mickey” Jr.
Della and Howard Salvenson
Mary Olliver, 1931
Jean Genung
R.W. Crocker
Ruby Ridgway
Laeone Bra Me (King)
Betty Steinhagen (Dieterich)
Robert Dieterich
Bert Tildon
George Ruffner
Fort Misery

Folder 7—Scrapbook, 1913-1914
Family of Percy Kerby Crocker
Mostly in Hillside and Detroit Michigan

Folder 8—Photographs, Prescott, AZ, 1936-1927

Thumb Butte
Montezuma Castle
Oraibi
Nicholas Quanowahu
Arthur Pohuquaptewa

Meta Naseen, Patricia G. Crocker, Clara Talasie—“this photograph was taken at the Fourth of July celebration, and Rodeo at Prescott Ariz. Indians a part of the group of Hopi near Oraibi—escorted by chief Herbert Yestewa” 1927

Patricia G. Crocker poses with Indians maidens at the 4th of July celebration at Prescott, 1927

Hopi Indians from the Reservation at Oraibi who came to the 1927 rodeo at Prescott

Clara Talasie with R. W. Crocker
Percy Crocker
Joe and Molly Taylor in front of 711 East Gurley Street
Prescott Frontier Days, 1926-1927
American Ranch
Tom Mix making a movie