

# **WESTSIDE STORY:**

## **Digitizing Historical Newspapers of Phoenix's West Valley**

AzLA Conference 2023

**Mary Feeney, University of Arizona Libraries**

News Research Librarian & Liaison Librarian for History & Journalism

**Asa Espanto, State of Arizona Research Library**

Newspaper Collection Librarian

# IN THIS PRESENTATION

Learn about the history of the communities as reflected in their newspapers.

Learn about how librarians can use these and other digitized newspapers to assist library patrons and researchers.

Learn where to find resources for continued research.

## **Goodyear Town Boasts Fine Library**

Goodyear—It isn't as well known as it might be, but the Avondale Community Club has as one of its projects a public library which has been serving the people of Goodyear and the surrounding area for nearly a year. The library can be found in the Avondale Circle Community Hall and is open from 9 in the morning until 5:30 on week days, from 9 to 4 on Saturdays, and is closed on Sundays.

Mrs. Don Thompson, the librarian, is assisted by volunteer helpers from the community club. The Maricopa Free Library supplies a list of current books, beside which the community club maintains over 400 volumes



**#ChronAm**

## BACKGROUND ON NDNP

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National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

Competitive grant program for states to digitize 100,000 pages of historical newspapers that are in the public domain from the state (through 1963)

Digitized newspapers hosted and publicly available through Chronicling America (<https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/>)

Over 20 million pages now available.



THE ARIZONIAN,  
A WEEKLY PAPER,  
DEVOTED TO THE GENERAL INTERESTS  
OF ARIZONA.  
— TERMS —  
Single copies, per annum, \$2 00  
SIX MONTHS, \$1 00  
Three Months, \$0 50  
One Quarter, \$0 25  
All communications and business letters must be addressed to THE ARIZONIAN, TUBAC, ARIZONA.

Leach's Wagon Road.  
[Before Congress grants further appropriation for "wagon road" we venture the suggestion that some official investigation be instituted as to the expenditures made and the work done by his expedition. If no more good has been accomplished by the wretched wagon company than was effected by General Leach and his corps on the same route, the money might as well be kept in the City of Mexico, which it was in the power of Congress to have secured to them. It gave it to their adventures, and hence this protracted series of woes.

Condition in Mexico.  
The London Times uses strong language in its article on Mexico. In an article written directly after the reception in England of the President's Message, after a sketch of Mexico of the sixteenth century, the Times continues: "There is literally no spot in the entire American continent, from the Arctic Sea to Cape Horn, which presents such a spectacle of desolation and ruin. The Indians of this region are better called than the Mexicans of 1838. In the old seat of American civilization there is now no Government, no recognized polity, no public order. Life and property are insecure, not through the accident of a political revolution, or as the consequence of a momentary convulsion, but necessarily and permanently, from the utter default and breakdown of all the institutions designed for their protection. My country had in any European history—and especially of Spain—the most magnificent civilization of the present state of things in Mexico. The Mexicans can neither govern themselves nor find anybody strong enough to govern them; and the hope of it can still be called a State, is simply banking to pieces for want of something to take its place."

The ordinary inquirer which might attach to a spectacle like this is naturally enhanced by two important considerations. On the north-west frontier of Mexico lies a formidable stretch already appropriated by large acquisitions of Mexican territory, and prepared for the absorption of more. What gives this contingency still greater weight is the fact that the internal politics of the North American Union will be intimately affected by any further annexation towards the South, and its most serious apprehensions of the results which might ensue. Certainly, up to the present time the Government of Washington has exhibited considerable solicitude in dealing with the provisions to which the stretch and license prevailing throughout Mexico have naturally given rise.

In Mexico there is no recognized nationality. Of its area or eight millions of population, about one million only are within the real being Indians or mixed breeds, and these Mexican Spaniards have not succeeded in the French Canadian, in preserving the spirit which they brought across the sea. Mexico has broken up from pure incapacity for self-government. The license which issued on the extension of abolition forty years ago has never been exchanged for any regular or stable Administration, so that what should have been a mere temporary suspension of authority has proved a permanent abrogation of order. Descriptions might have relieved the country, but no Mexico has been strong enough for a depot, and affairs, therefore, have gone from bad to worse, with insupportable convulsions, insupportable losses of territory, and at length such absolute political disorganization that no stage of decline can be more remote, and men are only looking to what may follow.

The above paragraph is a sample of bombast. No such number of men as is stated in the above paragraph has been worked on the Gila at one time—nor ever those hundred at the very highest estimate. At present there are but few persons at the diggings, and most of the men are barely clearing expenses. A few com-

plaints who only abandoned posse to place at its disposal the resources of the masses of popular rights, and, in whose weakness were those to any other cause, Mexico is this day indebted for the lamentable confusion into which its affairs have fallen. If the events of the past year have proved anything, it is that the Liberal cause is predominant everywhere outside of the capital, and that the Constitution which Congress intended not to be a general law, the weak and weak of the people. The only point maintainable by the popular party in the City of Mexico, which it was in the power of Congress to have secured to them, it gave it to their adventures, and hence this protracted series of woes.

Some of the departments of Congress in the United States, there has been a constant state of warfare between the opposing factions, with varied success, said very lately, when the Conservatives are reported to have triumphed, and elected General Maximilian President. We may, however, still look for a continuance of this state between the various parties.

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# BACKGROUND ON ARIZONA NEWSPAPER DIGITIZATION

5<sup>TH</sup> NDNP grant for Arizona

Partnership between the State Library of Arizona and the University of Arizona Libraries

110 newspapers from Arizona now on Chronicling America covering 1859 - 1963

Last grant (2017-2019) prioritized digitization of newspapers from diverse communities



**Lean**  
**El Tucsonense**

★  
El más antiguo y mejor periódico —  
Con noticias hasta el último minuto; ar-  
tículos de interés y que pugna por el uni-  
ficación y amistad Pana - Americana.

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**nense**

The Southw. s oldest and finest  
Newspaper in Spanish, is published every  
Week.

El Tucsonense is dedicated to Pan -  
American unity and friendship, up-to-date  
News and Articles of interest.

Año XXXXII — Volumen LXVIII - Número 16

Viernes 6 de Diciembre de 1957

COPIA — 10c

# ELECCIONES PRESIDENCIALES DE MEXICO!

**Venta de 2045046 Metros  
Cuadrados de Terrenos en  
Nogales y Cercanías**

**Las Personas  
Interesadas Ya  
Pueden Ocurrir**

NOGALES, Son., Dic. 5 —  
Dice el Noroeste, diario de  
Nogales, Sonora:

**Pedirán Aquí La  
Ciudadanía**

De las 40 personas de di-  
versas nacionalidades que  
graduaron en la clase de ciu-

**El Problema del Cobre de Arizona**



**Club de Leones  
De Monterrey,  
Es el Primero**

De prensa de Sonora, Mé-  
xico, copiamos la parte prin-  
cipal relacionada con la im-  
portante reunión de repre-  
sentantes de clubes lionisti-  
cos de varios estados de a-  
quella república, reunión que  
tuvo verificativo en Ciudad  
Obregón, Sonora, a fines de  
Noviembre último.

Dice la información: "El  
Club de Leones de Monte-

**Luis Alvarez Candidato a  
Presidente de México por  
Partido Acción Nacional**

**Se Necesita Que  
Haya Oposición  
En Elecciones**

MEXICO, Dic. 4 — Pasada  
la imposición del PRI (Par-  
tido Oficial del Gobierno  
Nacional de México) desig-  
nando candidato a Presiden-

**M. Cota-Robles  
Abre Su Bufete**

Con gusto nos hemos ente-  
rado que el joven Mario Co-  
ta-Robles, despues de haber  
sido admitido como miembro

**CURRENT GRANT AWARD, 2022-2024**



# **FOCUS ON INCLUDING NEWSPAPERS THAT:**



increase racial, ethnic, and linguistic representation including Spanish-language newspapers, those published by African American communities, those published by or for indigenous communities

were published in the Arizona-Mexico borderlands

were published in mining and agricultural communities

# Buckeye Valley News

VOL. I

BUCKEYE, ARIZONA, FEBRUARY 12, 1912

NO. 1

## Subscription Solicitors Wanted

### A GOOD PROPOSITION

THE NEWS should find its way into the home of every family in the Valley. In order to accomplish this we have decided to allow a commission of 25 cents on each yearly paid in advance subscription turned in between now and May 15th 1912.

Any boy or girl residing in the Valley is eligible to enter the contest. A good hustler can make some money. Every one will subscribe and a great many will want to send a copy to a friend or relative in the east, and help boost for the Valley.

### AN EXTRAORDINARY OFFER

As an extra inducement we will give absolutely free to the person turning in the most cash on subscriptions, on or before 12 o'clock noon March 15th, 1912, a NEW \$30.00 VICTOR TALKING MACHINE. Now get busy, get your friends interested in your behalf and win that Phonograph. Remember, while you are winning the Phonograph you are being well paid for your labor in commissions, so you can't lose.

Contestants will forward names of subscribers together with all money, less commission, which may be deducted, to the Buckeye Valley Bank.

## Buckeye Valley News

### The Buckeye Valley

By C. A. ZANDER

#### WATER DISTRIBUTION

The Buckeye Canal is thirty-one miles in extent. Its heading is at the juncture of the Agua Frio and Gila rivers a few miles below the mouth of the Salt river. It has a head gate, four waste gates, a flume under the Hasayampa river at the

incorporation were amended so as to assess all stockholders for all the disbursements of the canal whether they used water or not. This will distribute the cost of water over 16,000 acres instead of 13,000 acres. This change will also result in the improvement of all the unimproved land, a result that has been long looked forward to.

and south. Over this tract pass back and forth by thousands of sheep in the northern summer range and southern winter range at grounds.

The fertilizer contained in the mer floods of the Agua has been estimated to be

# WESTSIDE NEWSPAPERS

Buckeye Valley News, 1912-1935

Buckeye Valley News & Buckeye  
Review, 1935-1950



DEVOTED  
TO  
AGRICULTURE  
AND  
ALLIED INTERESTS  
OF ARIZONA

# The Tolleson Independent

WE  
COVER  
THE  
FIELD

VOLUME ONE

Tolleson, Arizona, Friday, June 20, 1941

NUMBER ONE

## Tolleson Tentative Budget

The following is a tentative budget set up by the Common Council of the Town of Tolleson and was acted upon at a meeting held on the evening of June 19th, 1941, at 8 o'clock p. m. in the Town Hall.

Anticipated Expenses	\$	
Interest on Bonds	\$	600.00
Town Clerk	\$	300.00
Office Expense	\$	25.00
Garbage Disposal	\$	600.00
Police Patrol	\$	300.00
Water Supt.	\$	1080.00
Sprinkling Streets	\$	300.00
General Fund	\$	600.00
Imp. and Exp. Water System	\$	2000.00
Streets	\$	700.00
<b>Power Bills</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>900.00</b>
		<b>\$7405.00</b>
Anticipated Income:		
Cash on Hand June 1st, 1941	\$	767.32
From Water System	\$	4800.00
Rent from Town Hall	\$	120.00
License Fees	\$	300.00
		<b>\$5987.32</b>
Amount to be Raised by Taxation		<b>\$1417.68</b>

H. C. ARNOLD, Clerk.

## New Officers Named By Tolleson Lions

At their noon luncheon, June 12, the Lions Club held election of officers for the coming year. Joseph Faxton was elected president; Harry Sams, first vice-president; A. J. Levi, second vice-president; R. L. Robertson

system. The money to accomplish these things was raised by the donkey softball game last summer and the play put on last winter. A scoreboard and soft drink stand is soon to be erected. The drink stand will be operated by the local chapter of the Pa-

## Jottings About Town

### TOLLESON SOFTBALL LEAGUE

June 10  
Pie-n-Pay defeated Tolby Bros. 4-2 with Bray Sessom pitching four-hit ball for Pie-n-Pay. This was the first defeat for Tolby in the Tolleson loop, and brings Tolboys and Pie-n-Pay in tie for first place.

Litchfield upset Texaco Service 3-2 in a closely played contest.

June 12  
St. Mary's defeated Tolby Bros. 3-2 in a practice game at Tolleson, with Lopez, Phoenix ace hurler, pitching the last half of the game for St. Mary's.

June 13  
Bob's Ice defeated Avondale 9-6.  
Litchfield defeated Texaco Service 3-2.

June 17  
Pie-n-Pay defeated Lions Club 6-2.  
Tolby Bros. defeated Bob's Ice 10-5.

Girls' Games  
Thursday in Phoenix—Lettuce Queens 4, Tolleson 6.  
Friday in Phoenix—Allen's Furniture 8, Tolleson 6.

### M. C. FLOHRS RETURNS HERE

Dr. and Mrs. Martin C. Flohr returned to their home in Tolleson during the weekend. Dr. Flohr spent the past two months in El Paso on duty in the army medical reserve. Mrs. Flohr last week motored to Nowata, Okla., where she spent two days with her sister, Mrs. Glen H. Chappell, who, with her daughter, Miss Martha Ann Channell, re-

Mr. and Mrs. Hector are visiting at the coast.  
Hobart Hall is spending several weeks at Payson. He reports fishing is good.

Virgil Tolby is recovering from his illness, and is reported to be able to be up and about.

Miss Belio Martinez, English teacher in Nogales, has been spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Granados.

The Miller and Johns shed is opening this week for the shipment of cantaloupes, the first to be shipped from this valley.

Gene Morgan, nephew of John Morgan, has arrived from Gehr, Nebr., to spend the summer here.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lullig and son have gone up into the mountains for a few days rest before the cantaloupe season starts.

The farm atop of the agricultural department of Tolleson High School is progressing nicely. It is being constructed by N.Y.A. labor, under the direction of Mr. M. J. Coe.

Ralph Granados and family are spending a few days with his parents. They plan on a trip to Stockton, Calif., before returning to Superior, where he is employed.

The families of Mr. Robertson, Mr. Washburn and Mr. Van Landingham celebrated Father's Day with a picnic in South Mountain Park. They all reported a good time.

Harry Sams and family and Lester Tichert and family have taken over the operation of Cox's Ranch located near Payson. They will be there all summer and will be glad to have all their friends drive up and see

### Visitors Honored In Tolleson Home

Mrs. Richard O. Whyman was hostess Monday morning at a breakfast given at her home in honor of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Walter G. Tolleson, Jr., of San Francisco, Calif., and Mrs. Glen H. Chappell of Nowata, Okla., home guest of her sister, Mrs. Martin C. Flohr. Bridge was played following the breakfast.

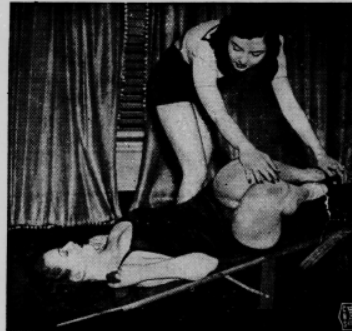
Other guests were Mesdames Charles C. Tolby, Archie McDonald, Chester Tolby, Joseph F. Faxton, Alvin E. Ellis, Herbert D. Hall, Delbert N. Martin, Norman Anderson, David A. Grout and George Grout.

### GIRLS PREPARE FOR SPANISH DINNER

The Girls Catholic Club is preparing for their annual Spanish dinner. All money raised at this benefit is to be used for the church here in Tolleson. The date set for the dinner is June 22, in the John Baltz building, and it will be served between 3 and 8 p. m. at 35 cents a plate. The club is headed by Lacy Flores and all the girls are out to meet the good showing made last year. Don't forget the date, and your attendance will be appreciated.

### COLDWATER NEWS NOTES

Last week Mrs. W. T. Jarnigan and Mrs. E. R. Schneider spent a few days in Los Angeles visiting Mrs. McMangal. Returning with them last Sunday was Mrs.



THE SWIMMING SEASON is here again. For those who need to reduce the hips and tummy and firm the breast, before donning a bathing suit, beauty expert Ana Delafield recommends the figure eight exercise. Gertrude Fisher, one of the instructors at the Richard Lindout "Success School," shows Bonnie Donahue of Columbia net-work's "Crime scene over your feet, pull your chest. Repeat to are inscribing a Next week—H

### Last Prom

Death came un- day afternoon in- pit to Olney O. gant, 37 years ol- valley rancher an-

# WESTSIDE NEWSPAPERS

Tolleson Independent, 1941  
Westside Enterprise, 1941-1953  
Westside Weekly, 1953-1955  
Westside Enterprise, 1955-1963

# HALF ARIZONA'S FARM LAND TO BE IN COTTON

With planting actually started in some sections, it appears Arizona's farmers are going to put in at least 500,000 acres of cotton in 1951. That means the extra-ordinary situation of half our farm land in one crop.

No one seems to have any clear idea of the amount of long staple cotton that will be planted. Apparently the goal of 50,000 acres, necessary to meet government production requests, will not be met.

## Labor

Labor continues to hold first place in the thoughts of all farmers. With just enough labor available at the moment it appears we may be very short of choppers. As everyone knows the picker problem appears serious. Growers already have placed orders with the Arizona Cotton Growers Association for several thousand Mexican National cotton pickers.

*Westside Enterprise*

March 9, 1951

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Newspapers published in major cotton-growing areas in Arizona

Agricultural and environmental news

Labor news

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## **BIOGRAPHY OF BUCKEYE AND WEST GILA VALLEY OLD SETTLERS' UNION MEMBERS**

(Each week in this column will appear a copy of the biography of one member, in the order as arranged in the Union Scrap Book, compiled by I. H. Parkman.)

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### **REBECCA CATHERINE WALLS**

Rebecca Catherine Walls was born Feb. 19, 1877, at Whitt, Texas, with James Pate and Jane Sullivan-Pate, as parents. She came to Arizona in 1896 and located near Liberty on July 8, 1896.

She was married Dec. 25, 1892 to Frederick Walls and raised a family of seven boys and two girls, all graduating from the Liberty school.

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## ***Buckeye Valley News***

### **October 20, 1938**

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Information about people for genealogy and local history research:

birth, marriage, & death announcements;

school awards;

club and church activities;

comings and goings;

and more!





**IN THE BAG**—A Cotton Bag Sewing Contest with a \$35 sewing machine for top prize will be held at the Arizona State Fair, Nov. 6-15. Just to show what can be done with printed feed sacks, Pat Hall, 17 of Tucson, Arizona's Junior Maid of Cotton, models a dress made from four cotton bags. In the background itself is Diana Laird, 17, Phoenix, 1953 Salad Bowl Queen. In the middle is Cinderella, an Aberdeen Angus calf, who had a real party out of the feed sack in the foreground.

## *Westside Enterprise*

**May 28, 1953**

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Fashion historians and researchers may find a wealth of contemporary stories to spark their curiosity.

This is one example of a cotton bag (or "feed sack") sewing contest. The tradition of making clothing from cotton bags is well-known to many people in rural communities dating back to at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the US.

# Agua Fria Farm Workers Community News

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❖ A special meeting of members of the Co-op store was held for the purpose of electing board members for the new store.

❖ In order to eliminate danger while cutting over into the newly constructed power line to Luke Field, power was cut off in Avondale all day Tuesday. Because the water supply is dependent on electric power, residents were asked to limit the use of

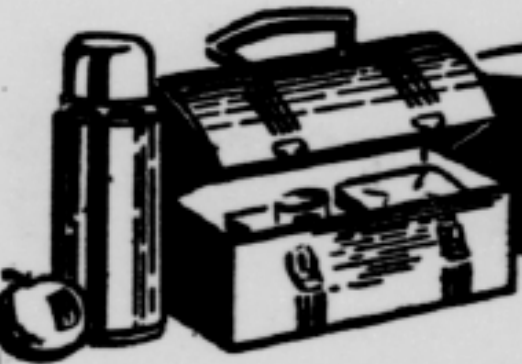
*Tolleson Independent*

**July 18, 1941**

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The Agua Fria Farm Workers Community was a migrant workers' camp based in Avondale established by the FSA.

Another newspaper, *The Desert Sentinel*, was published in Avondale in the early 1940s by the community of Agua Fria.



# LUNCH BOX

## POTATO CANDY?

Yes, you heard right—potato candy. And it's a treat that should brighten up any breadwinner's lunchbox. Of course by the time you have added coconut and the other good things in the recipe given here, the result might more appropriately be called Coconut Fruit Drops. They're loaded with health values—and economical, too. No more throwing out leftover mashed potatoes with a standby like this. Add some to the next lunch you pack, or serve them at your next party.

## COCONUT FRUIT DROPS

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup hot mashed potatoes	$1\frac{1}{2}$ cups shredded coconut
1 teaspoon melted butter	Dash of salt
$1\frac{3}{4}$ cups ( $\frac{1}{2}$ pound) sifted confectioners' sugar	$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon grated lemon or orange rind
$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla	

Mix potatoes and butter together in bowl. Add sugar gradually and beat until thoroughly blended. Add vanilla, salt, coconut and grated lemon or orange rind. Drop from teaspoon onto waxed paper. Let stand until firm. Makes about 2 dozen drops.

*Westside Enterprise*

June 25, 1953

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Contemporary recipes can be found regularly in newspapers, which may evoke feelings of delight or disgust.



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**US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**

All states



+

from

1770

to

1963

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enter one or more search words

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**100 Years Ago Today: 10/9/1923 (27 issues)**



**DEMO OF CHRONICLING AMERICA**

# SELECTED RESOURCES

- [Chronicling America](#)
- [Arizona Memory Project](#)
- [Mexican and Mexican American Press \(UA Libraries\)](#)
- [Library news databases](#)

## **Governor Invites Airplane Builders To Come to Arizona**

Gov. Sidney P. Osborn has addressed a letter to the Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy Director of Production Management William S. Knudsen, and to every airplane manufacturer working on government contracts a letter setting forth Arizona's advantages as an airplane manufacturing center. The letter follows:

"My dear Mr. Knudsen:

News dispatches from Washington some days ago quoted the Honorable Jesse H. Jones as stating that he intends to provide one billion dollars of RFC funds for building plants for the 500-Bombers-a-Month program. These factories, the news articles said, were to be government-owned but leased to private companies for operation.

On the assumption that such new plants as may be constructed will be located at points convenient to raw materials, at a safe distance from possible coastline attack, in favorable climate for economical all-year operation, and in localities which offer a potential sufficiency of electrical power, I am writing this letter to call attention to the many advantages presented by Arizona sites in this connection.

This state has almost unlimited natural resources in raw materials of nearly every description which go into manufacture of heavy goods, all of them easily accessible by rail and road. It has, in addition to its existent supply, an almost limitless potentiality of cheap hydro-electric power through new developments like Boulder Dam along the Colorado River and other streams.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*The Arizona Digital Newspaper Project has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.*



**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES**

The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

**LIBRARY** LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS



# CONTACT US

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Asa Espanto, [aespanto@azlibrary.gov](mailto:aespanto@azlibrary.gov)

