

**TITLE:** B. Johnny Rube Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1878-1996

**CALL NUMBER:** Y-MS2

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by B. Johnny Rube, 2000.

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**CREDIT LINE:** B. Johnny Rube Collection, Y-MS2, Yuma County Library Special Collections

**PROCESSED BY:** Linda Whitaker, March 2013

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Born in Riga, Latvia on November 2, 1938, Latvia of German parents, Bernts “Johnny” Rube immigrated to the U.S. with his parents and five siblings at the age of 13. They were forced to flee their native country in the closing days of WWII as Russian forces advanced and were interned in a displaced persons camp. From there, they went to England and in 1951, arrived in Yuma, Arizona under the sponsorship of the Whitman Seed and Cattle Co. and the Lutheran Church. Bernts Rube spoke no English but had read about the Old West and was expecting to see cowboys and Indians.

He graduated from Yuma High School, joined the National Guard in 1956, and enlisted in the Navy a year later. While serving in the Navy, he became a U.S. citizen. Upon discharge in 1962, he joined the Yuma Police Department as a patrolman and was promoted to detective in 1967 specializing in arson investigations. In 1980, he became the School/Police Liaison Officer for Yuma High School. After 20 years in law enforcement, he retired to pursue his role as B. Johnny Rube, author and Yuma Law Enforcement Historian.

His serious interest in law enforcement history began in 1967 when as a young detective he was asked about Isaac Polhamus, the last Yuma police chief to be elected. Studying and researching Yuma Police and Sheriff’s Department history became a favorite past time. He published a number of newspaper, journal and magazine articles and produced a book-length, unpublished manuscript on the history of the Yuma law enforcement. In 1996, B. Johnny Rube published the book *A Wooden Road Through the Hollow of God’s Hand-Taming the American Sahara*.

Sources: *Yuma Daily Sun*, August 8, 1965; *Valley and Foothills News*, January 21, 1981

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

This collection was previously split between the AHS Yuma and Tucson branches. The materials have been reunited here. The research files include many hard-to-find sources, aggregated news articles typed from microfilm, and bibliographies. The bulk of photographs are numbered and indexed. They were intended to be published in the History of Yuma Law Enforcement book.

Arranged in four series, then alphabetically and chronologically within. **Series I: Personal; Series II: Writings; Series III: Research Files; Series IV: Photographs.**

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	1	<b>Personal:</b> Biographical, Correspondence and Newspaper Articles	1965-1981
	2	<b>Writings:</b> “1924 Group Planned Reunion-The AHOOTS (Ancient and Honorable Order of Old Timers)” in <i>The Valley and Foothills News</i> (includes research files)	1983, 1986
	3	<b>Writings:</b> “1948: A Bad Year”	n.d.
	4	<b>Writings:</b> “A Yuma Tragedy” in <i>Quarterly of the National Association for Outlaw and Lawmen History</i>	1979
	5	<b>Writings:</b> “A Wooden Road Through the Hollow of God’s Hand- Taming the American Sahara” published by the Yuma County Historical Society (includes draft manuscript and copy of book)	1996
	6	<b>Writings:</b> “An Indian Scare”	n.d.
	7	<b>Writings:</b> “Byrd’s the Word was His Campaign Slogan” (Ersel C. Byrd) in <i>¿Que Pasa?</i>	1985
	8	<b>Writings:</b> “Death in the Desert” in <i>Real West</i> and <i>The Valley and Foothills News</i>	1982-1983
	9	<b>Writings:</b> “Desert Mystery”	n.d.
	10	<b>Writings:</b> “Early Traffic Laws of Arizona” in <i>¿Que Pasa?</i> (includes research files)	1985-1986
	11	<b>Writings:</b> “Harry Harrison ‘Henry’ McPhaul. About 1861-March 3, 1948”	n.d.
	12	<b>Writings:</b> “History of Yuma Law Enforcement” (draft manuscript) 1 of 3	n.d.

	13	<b>Writings:</b> “History of Yuma Law Enforcement” (draft manuscript) 2 of 3	n.d.
	14	<b>Writings:</b> “History of Yuma Law Enforcement” (draft) 3 of 3	n.d.
	15	<b>Writings:</b> “History of Yuma Police Department” in <i>The Arizona Highway Patrolman</i> (includes related newspaper articles)	1977-1980
	16	<b>Writings:</b> “Hoof and Mouth Epidemic of 1924 or How the Yuma Volunteer Fire Department Saved Yuma” (includes 5 newspaper articles from <i>The Yuma Sun</i> )	1986-1987
<b>2</b>	1	<b>Writings:</b> “How to Predict a Robbery”	n.d.
	2	<b>Writings:</b> “Indian Justice versus White Man’s Justice:	n.d.
	3	<b>Writings:</b> “Judge, Let the Lord Be My Lawyer”	n.d.
	4	<b>Writings:</b> “Know Your Officers” (profiles of Keith Westgate, Kenneth Sipes, John Benson, Encarnacion Lopez, Robert Phillips, Larry Mosley, Gene Van Horn, Richard Bauer, Edgar Cross, Carl Cansler, Eraclio Arviso, Charles Wright, Dick Reagan, Guy Kizer, Arnold Iodice, Harvey Croutch, George Martinez, Gerald Pearson, Bill Penny, Donald Wheeler, Powell Elkins)	1960s
	5	<b>Writings:</b> “Los Angeles’ ‘Foreign Legion’ ”	n.d.
	6	<b>Writings:</b> Newspaper Articles (various topics, non-law enforcement)	1977, 1985-1986
	7	<b>Writings:</b> Newspaper Articles (various topics, non-law enforcement)	1987
	8	<b>Writings:</b> “Sheriff David B. King”	n.d.
	9	<b>Writings:</b> “The Algodones Dunes” (includes related newspaper articles)	1981, 1986
	10	<b>Writings:</b> “The Case of an Indian Cruelty”	1983
	11	<b>Writings:</b> “The First ‘Smoke Eaters’ of Yuma” (paper presented at the Arizona History Convention)	1986
	12	<b>Writings:</b> “The Killing of Sheriff Dana” in <i>Real West</i>	1983
	13	<b>Writings:</b> “The Long Drop” (includes research files and related newspaper	1983, 1985

		articles)	
	14	<b>Writings:</b> “The Narcotics Epidemic of Yuma 1970 through April, 1977”	n.d.
	15	<b>Writings:</b> “The Vigilantes of Arizona City”	n.d.
	16	<b>Writings:</b> “Tugboat USS Yuma Pulled More than Its Weight” in <i>¿Que Pasa</i>	1986
	17	<b>Writings:</b> “Yuma County Sheriff’s Department” (includes research files)	n.d.
	18	<b>Writings:</b> “Yuma County’s Invisible Empire: The Knights of the Klu Klux Klan” (includes research files)	n.d.
	19	<b>Writings:</b> “Yuma’s Chief of Police: Isaac Polhamus 1933-1934”	n.d.
	20	<b>Research Files:</b> “A Lesson in Pistol Shooting as Taught by the Police Pistol Team” by Kenneth R. Sipes	n.d.
	21	<b>Research Files:</b> Arizona Rangers	1903-1975
<b>3</b>	1	<b>Research Files:</b> “Arizona Death Penalty” distributed by Bruce E. Babbitt, Arizona Attorney General	n.d.
	2	<b>Research Files:</b> Criminal Cases (the killing of Mrs. Joseph Burns; Marian T. Alexander, Frank B. Miller, William B. Fain,	1901
	3	<b>Research Files:</b> Criminal Cases (Thomas Hart)	1901
	4	<b>Research Files:</b> Criminal Cases (Louis Leivar alias Louis Lavar)	1902
	5	<b>Research Files:</b> Criminal Cases (Plumo Aigla)	1911
	6	<b>Research Files:</b> Criminal Cases (Isaac Polhamus)	1943
	7	<b>Research Files:</b> Criminal Cases (kidnapping of Janette May Farrar by Richard Lynn Wright)	1961
	8	<b>Research Files:</b> Frank Wheeler	1908-1909
	9	<b>Research Files:</b> “Interviews of Centennial Commissioners by Yuma Daily Sun Newspaper Reporter Martin Green”	1979
	10	<b>Research Files:</b> “Law as Practiced in Yuma County” (Cibola and Kofa; includes related newspaper articles)	1878-1939; 1981, 1985
	11	<b>Research Files:</b> “Selected Bibliography of La Paz-Yuma County”	n.d.

	12	<b>Research Files:</b> William T. Dutton vs. The Territory of Arizona (Turf Saloon)	1909
	13	<b>Research Files:</b> WWII Law Enforcement	
	14	<b>Research Files:</b> Yuma County Law Enforcement Newsletters	1981-1984
	15	<b>Research Files:</b> Yuma Police Department	1915-1979
	16	<b>Research Files:</b> Yuma Police Department Training Manual 1 of 3	n.d.
<b>4</b>	1	<b>Research Files:</b> Yuma Police Department Training Manual 2 of 3	n.d.
	2	<b>Research Files:</b> Yuma Police Department Training Manual 3 of 3	n.d.
	3	<b>Photographs:</b> Index	n.d.
	4	<b>Photographs:</b> Yuma Sheriffs (photo #1 and #9 missing; Lee Echols, Jack Beard, Jim Washum, Thomas Newman, JG Hunter, James Chapell, James Polhamus, Dr. Francis Henri Goodwin, Francis Marion Hodges, John M Speese, MJ Nugent) 1 of 8	n.d.
	5	<b>Photographs:</b> City Judge Jonathan C. Jones 2 of 8	n.d.
	6	<b>Photographs:</b> June Walker & Klaus Martens Search 3 of 8	1951
	7	<b>Photographs:</b> Yuma Police Department (photo #25 missing) 4 of 8	1933-1958
	8	<b>Photographs:</b> Yuma Police Department 5 of 8	1952-1958
	9	<b>Photographs:</b> Yuma Police Department (photo #57 & #60 missing) 6 of 8	1905-1950
	10	<b>Photographs:</b> Yuma Police Department (photo #64 missing) 7 of 8	n.d.
	11	<b>Photographs:</b> Yuma Police Department (photo #94 missing) 8 of 8	1899, 1958-1958, 1961, 1972
	12	<b>Photographs:</b> Non-Indexed Photos (Town Marshals OUG Wilder, Jake D Meadows, Mel Greenleaf, and unidentified Yuma Police Department)	1893, 1899, n.d.
	13	<b>Photographs:</b> Negatives (unidentified)	n.d.