

I. Title page

- a. **Name of the repository:** Greater Grand Canyon Historical Society and Archives
- b. **Title of the collection:** Fred Harvey Company Records Collection
- c. **Date Range for materials:** 1889 – 1946
- d. **Creator:** Fred Harvey Company
- e. **Acquisition:** Gift of Ira Harvey, 2020
- f. **Language:** Collection materials are in English.
- g. **Finding Aid Creation:** Paige Carlson, November 20th, 2020

II. Summary Information

- a. **Extent:** 1 Box

b. **Abstract:** The Fred Harvey Company was a chain of hotels and restaurants set up alongside train stations for travelers. This collection contains correspondence from 1901-1910, newspaper clippings, a code book, and photographs from the company's lifespan with focus on the Albuquerque Alvarado hotel as well Harold A. Belt, an executive of the company.

III. Access and Use:

Collection is open for research.

IV. Background Information

a. **History of the collection:** Regarded as the first restaurant chain in the United States, the Fred Harvey Company chain of hotels and restaurants was established in 1889. The restaurants arose out of a need for a place alongside train stations where hungry travelers could get something tasty and quick before boarding their train once again for their final destination. Becoming a staple alongside the railways, the restaurants would receive a telegraph telling them when the next train was coming in so they could prepare to feed the passengers who likely had not eaten, as trains often offered poor quality or inedible meals on their journey. Once at the station, the passengers would only have an hour before needing to board again – so efficiency and preparedness was important.

The restaurants also became well-known for their “Harvey Girls.” These were women between the ages of 18 and 30 who were hired for decent pay and room and board, and the job became highly sought after. Known for their manners, morals, and neatness, these women served as inspiration for the 1942 novel titled *The Harvey Girls* and subsequent 1946 film adaptation. Harold A. Belt, an executive of the Fred Harvey System, served as an advisor for the film.

b. Scope and Content: This collection contains materials related to the Fred Harvey Company, including correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Fred Harvey Company correspondence is organized by date, from 1901-1905 and from 1906-1910. Newspaper clippings pertaining to the Alvarado Hotel in Albuquerque are collected into a folder. An undated code book for the Fred Harvey Company is also included. There are newspaper clippings concerning Harold A. Belt and *The Harvey Girls* film and the final folder contains photographs of the restaurants and people involved.

V. Subject Terms

Personal Name(s)

Harvey, Fred
Belt, Harold A.

Corporate Name(s)

Fred Harvey Company

Geographic Name(s)

Albuquerque, N.M.

Subject(s)

Food Service
Restaurants – Chain Restaurants
Harvey Girls
Hospitality – Hotels
Hospitality – Women in the hospitality industry

VI. Related Materials

NAU.MS.280 at Northern Arizona University, Manuscripts Collection 99 at the Kansas Historical Society, Fred Harvey Company Photograph Collection at the University of New Mexico

VII. Contents Listing:

Series I: This series contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs dating 1889-1946.

<u>Folder Title</u>	Folder Number	Box Number
Fred Harvey Company Correspondence, 1901-1905	1	1
Fred Harvey Company Correspondence, 1906-1910	2	1
Alvarado Hotel Newspaper Clippings, 1940.....	3	1
Fred Harvey Code Book, undated.....	4	1
Belt, Harold A. Newspaper Clippings, 1932-1946	5	1
Photographs, undated.....	6	1

Summary

Creating the finding aid for the collection from the Fred Harvey Company's records required a few different examples as well as a variety of guides for creating an aid. The Georgia Historical Society's guide, the finding aid for the John-Manuel Andriote collection, the TusCon Records collection at the Arizona Archives Online, and Trinity University's Coates Library David Matias Papers were used as examples and guides for the creation of this aid.

When beginning this finding aid, the abbreviated template was used along with the guidance from the Georgia Historical Society to get a general idea about structure and format. The Georgia Historical Society also served as a base for the contents listing section of the finding aid, with slight modifications. Instead of "Container" number, it has been labelled as "Folder" number since this is how they are referenced in the assignment document. The labels for the "access restrictions," "acquisition," and "language" sections were written following the Georgia Historical Society's guide.

One of the big problems when it came to creating the finding aid was figuring out how much information to include. Wikipedia, Legends of America, the Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Public Library, and the Xanterra Travel Collection were consulted, as were the articles within the collection, in order to write the history. In this collection, defining who Harold Belt was and why he was significant to the Fred Harvey Collection was important, as those who are beginning their research might not realize how that folder could help them. The length of the abstract, historical background, and scope and content sections were based off of similar sections in the examples and from past experiences as a researcher. These sections need to be short and informative. They were then written with the intention of putting as much related information as possible in just a few words. When searching through a finding aid, it is important to be able to

briefly glance at the abstract and figure out the content of the collection to decide if it is relevant.

With this in mind, the formerly stated sections were written.

Information such as the inclusive dates and the dates of each folder were taken specifically from the documents themselves. The first folder states the dates of the records are 1889-1946, and thus those are used as the “date range.” For the newspaper clipping dates used for the folders of the Alvarado Hotel and Harold Belt were the dates on the objects themselves. The subject terms came from the Library of Congress Subject Headings and were divided into sections as are done in the Arizona Archives Online – where access terms are organized by personal name, corporate name, geographic name, and subject. Related materials were collected using a simple search of the web for “Fred Harvey Company Archives” which returned related collections.

The creation of this finding aid was mostly propelled by what a researcher would find most important and how much time a researcher would want to spend looking at a finding aid before deciding whether it is relevant to them or not. A researcher might have dozens of potential hits for their research, and so it is of utmost importance for them to be able to skim through potential collections in order to find specifically what they need. Due to this, it is important that the information is as succinct, complete, and as specific as possible.

References

Fred Harvey Company. (2020, October 24). Retrieved November 20, 2020, from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Harvey_Company

Our Fred Harvey Legacy. (2019, March 01). Retrieved November 20, 2020, from

<https://www.xanterra.com/who-we-are/our-fred-harvey-legacy/>

Railroads in New Mexico: Fred Harvey, the Harvey Houses, and the Harvey Girls. (n.d.).

Retrieved November 20, 2020, from <https://abqlibrary.org/railroads/HarveyHouses>

Weiser, K. (2019, October). Harvey Hotels & Restaurants on Route 66. Retrieved November 20,

2020, from <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/66-harveyhouse/>