

Guide to the

Jim M. Parks Collection 1971-1986 (bulk 1971-1974)

.5 linear ft.

Accession Numbers: 9900-61; 0001-127; and 0102-104

Collection Number 83

Prepared by Kevin Kendro

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CITATION: Jim M. Parks Papers, Collection 83, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Biographical Sketch

James M. (Jim) Parks was born to Mr. and Mrs. Milo G. Parks in Forresteron, Texas, in 1925. He moved with his family to Irving in 1941. Parks was in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He founded Parks Realty and Construction Company in Irving in 1947. He married Nora Lanelle Gresham of Waco, Texas in 1949. Parks helped organize the Irving Jaycees and was a member of the Kiwanis Club.

In 1971 he was elected to the Irving City Council to serve a one-year term. In 1972 he was re-elected to a full two-year term. He ran again in 1974 and emerged the winner after a runoff election. While in office he served as the council representative to the audit committee and the building committee for the construction of a new city hall building, which opened in 1976. He also served as the council's representative to the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Parks did not seek re-election in 1976.

Sources:

The Jim M. Parks Collection

Scope and Content Note

The Jim M. Parks Collection is housed in one manuscript box and consists of nine folders. The collection is comprised primarily of material relating to Jim Parks' three city council election campaigns in the early and mid-1970s. The collection contains campaign cards and fliers for various municipal candidates; newspaper articles relating to the city elections of 1971, 1972 and 1974, especially as they concern Jim Parks. Also included are Parks' campaign records such as lists of volunteers and donors, filing petitions, responses to media questions about his positions on the issues, correspondence thanking his supporters and some small artifacts.

Many of the documents in the collection were mimeograph copies or were copies on thermal paper. For preservation purposes these document were photocopied on acid-free paper and the original copies were discarded.

Provenance Statement

The Jim M. Parks Collection was donated to the Irving Archives by Jim Parks in three accessions: 9900-61 on February 23, 2000; 0001-127 on May 25, 2001; and 0102-104 on January 4, 2002. Prior to its donation to the Irving Archives, the collection was in the possession of Jim Parks.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the Jim M. Parks Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Container List

Series I. City Council Campaign Material

Box 1

Folder

1 Campaign Material, 1971

Campaign cards for various candidates in the 1971 city council races; copy of the Notice of Regular Municipal Election for April 3, 1971; a list of qualifications for city of Irving elective offices; Jim Parks' petition to get on the ballot; Candidate's Statement of Expense, April 1971; candidate questionnaire from the League of Women Voters; correspondence to supporters and letters of congratulations to election winners from Jim Parks; list of city council members and city department heads, 1971.

2 Campaign Material, 1972

Campaign mailers from various candidates in the 1972 city council races; candidate questionnaire from the League of Women Voters and Jim Parks' responses.

3 Campaign Material, 1973

Campaign cards and mailers from various candidates in the 1973 city council races: election return precinct breakdown sheet; newspaper clippings relating to the election; League of Women Voters voter's guide.

4 Campaign Material, 1974

Campaign cards and mailers from various candidates in the 1974 city council races; newspaper articles relating to the election; League of Women Voters voter's guide.

5 Runoff Election, 1974

Campaign cards and mailers for Jim Parks; newspaper articles about the runoff election.

6 Jim Parks Campaign Records, 1974

Campaign Contribution and Expense Statements for Jim Parks, January-May, 1974; Texas Municipal League Campaign Reporting and Disclosure Act; campaign contact lists; endorsement list; locations for signs list; sketch of campaign yard sign; League of Women Voters candidate questionnaire; Irving Daily News and Fort Worth Star Telegram candidate questionnaires. All three questionnaires contain Parks' responses.

7 Jim Parks Campaign Correspondence, 1974

Thank you letters to those who assisted Jim Parks with his campaign, April-June 1974 and a list of volunteers.

8 Other Races and Misc., 1944-1989

School District and County Commission elections, n.d., and non-political articles relating to Jim Parks, 1944, 1949, 1977 and 1989.

9 Artifacts

James Parks, City of Irving Councilman's business card; Las Colinas Country Club membership roster, 1978; City of Irving name tags (Home of Texas Stadium) for Jim and Janelle Parks; promotional emery board for Civic Savings; promotional token for First Federal of Irving; campaign emery board for Harry White, Council Place 4; wooden nickel – Re-elect Jim Parks, Council Place 2; paperweight of miniature Rock of Gibraltar and medallion in acrylic block from 38th U.S. Conference of Mayors; medallion from the Centennial of Mardi Gras, Parade of Krewes, n.d.

A Jim Parks campaign yard sign is located in Oversize Box 9.