

Guide to the

CSO: Irving Celebrations Collection 1964-1986

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Accession Numbers: 78-01B and 0203-333

Collection Number 81

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CITATION: The CSO: Irving Celebrations Collection, 1964-1986, Collection 81, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Historical Sketch

The purpose of the City Secretary's Office (CSO) is to act as administrator of municipal clerical duties and maintain legal records and documents entrusted to the office. Due to the overarching nature of the City Secretary's Office, it develops files covering a wide range of topics related to city activities. Those records that may have historical value are later transferred to the city archives.

One such group of files that was transferred to the Archives relates to the city's participation in the U. S. Bicentennial, the Texas Sesquicentennial, the city's Golden Anniversary Pageant, and the city's 75th anniversary celebration.

Committees of local citizens were formed to create and administer local events relating to each of these celebrations. The CSO served as the conduit between the committees and the city government and, as a result, developed a series of files relating to each of the events.

Scope and Content

The CSO: Irving Celebrations Collection is arranged in four series and housed in one manuscript box, one large flat box, and space in an artifact box.

In 1976 the United States celebrated the 200th anniversary of the country with national, state, and local events. The City of Irving formed a Bicentennial Commission made up of local citizens to organize events for the local celebration. Irving became an official Bicentennial City on November 2, 1974. The CSO served as a liaison between the commission and the city government. The files created in the planning of the local Bicentennial events make up a part of this collection.

In 1986 the state of Texas celebrated its 150th anniversary with the Texas Sesquicentennial celebration. The City of Irving formed a Texas Sesquicentennial Committee of local citizens to organize events for the local celebration. Irving was named a Texas Sesquicentennial City on February 13, 1985. The CSO served as the committee's contact point with the city and created files relating to the event.

The city held a celebration of its 50th year of incorporation in 1964. Irving was founded in 1903 but did not incorporate until 1914. Incorporation gives the city the right to elect a mayor and council and to annex land. In 1964 a local committee was established to organize events for a week-long celebration of what was called "Irving's Golden Year." The files created by the CSO in regard to the events are also a part of this collection.

Irving celebrated its 75th anniversary, or Diamond Jubilee, in 1978. A local committee was formed to develop events for the celebration and the CSO worked with the group on coordinating the events. As a result, the CSO created a file relating to the event.

These are the files and accompanying artifacts that make up this collection. The collection provides not only a nostalgic look into past celebrations, but also a look into the process of organizing these once-in-a-lifetime events.

Series I consists of material relating to the local celebration of the United States Bicentennial. Among the material are documents relating to some of the 47 local Bicentennial events held during 1975-1976. Included among the material are two Bicentennial flags and a commemorative brick.

Series II is made of records and artifacts concerning the local celebration of the Texas Sesquicentennial, 1836-1986.

Series III consists of documents relating to Irving's celebration of its 75th anniversary or its "Diamond Jubilee."

Series IV contains documents and artifacts relating to the city's celebration of its 50th year of incorporation or "Irving's Golden Year."

Provenance Statement

The CSO: Irving Celebrations Collection, accession numbers 78-01B and 0203-333, were donated to the Irving Archives by the City Secretary's Office. Prior to their donation, the material was in the possession of the City Secretary's Office.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the CSO: Irving Celebrations Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Note to Researcher

For more information on the local Bicentennial Commission, see the Sam Akins Collection in the Irving Archives.

For detailed information on the Golden Anniversary events see the *Irving Daily News Texan*, April 16, 1964, accession number 1213-097.

Many individuals have donated items pertaining to these celebrations to the Archives. Please consult with the archivist for additional material on these events.

Container List

Series I. Bicentennial Material, 1974-1976

Box 1

Folder

1 Bicentennial Documents, 1974-1977

Designation Day program, November 2, 1974; city resolution recognizing the local Bicentennial Commission, December 16, 1976; and a photocopy of a presentation by Estelle Bates about the pioneer farm communities in the Irving area.

2 Newsletter, undated (c. 1975)

Volume 1, Number 1, *Celebrate '76* the official publication of the Irving Bicentennial Commission, 1975. Based on information in the publication it appears that this issue was published in late 1974 or early 1975.

3 Bumper Stickers

Bumper stickers - "Bicentennial Irving Citizen '76" - and small stickers with the wording "200th Anniversary-USA, Irving, Texas '76."

4 Heritage Tour of Irving Guide, 1976

A program listing the history and location of homes included on The Heritage Tour of Irving. On the back is a map showing the location of the sites on the tour.

5 Photographs, 1976

Photographs, black and white, of fire hydrants painted to look like minutemen and other colonial figures.

Series II. Sesquicentennial Material

6 Sesquicentennial Documents, 1985-1986

A letter from the State of Texas designating Irving as a Texas Independence Community, Feb. 13, 1985; an invitation, program and working agenda from the Sesquicentennial ceremonies in Irving, January 23, 1986; fundraising application for the Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon Train; advertisement for and presentation letter to the city council for a Texas Sesquicentennial Winchester Commemorative Carbine, February 20, 1985.

7 Sesquicentennial Promotions, 1985-1986

Irving Sesquicentennial logos and logo transparencies; a Sesquicentennial bumper sticker "Irving Celebrates Texas, 1836-1986."

8 Heritage Park, 1986

The program from the groundbreaking ceremonies for Heritage Park, April 14, 1986.

9 Newspaper Clippings, 1985-1986

Newspaper clippings addressing Irving's history and Sesquicentennial events including: dedication of Heritage Park; production of a video by ICTN called *Irving's Hidden History: Bear Creek*; collection of photos for an Irving pictorial history book; article about the Smith house; the Sesquicentennial Wagon Train arriving in Irving; making of the documentary *80 Acres of Dreams* about Irving's founding; and "Sesquicentennial Salute" articles about the city's first ordinances, Esther Hurwitz, and promoting Irving in its early days.

Box 2 Oversized Publications, 1984-1986

Dallas Morning News magazine Texas 150: A Centennial Journal, Part 1, 1836-1865: *Irving Sesquicentennial News* newsletters, Winter 1985, Spring 1986, and a broadside "Wagon Train Pulls into Irving," June 18, 1986; *National Dispatch* (the Newspaper of the Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission), August 1985; Irving Sesquicentennial logo sheet; *Texas Heritage*, Spring 1984 (A Publication of the Texas Historical Foundation).

Series III. Diamond Jubilee, 1978

Box 1

10 Correspondence and Event Planning Documents, 1978

Sample letters to honored citizens; 75 Year Citizens' list; 75 Year Citizens' certificates; sample thank you letters to businesses that donated items to the auction; letters of appreciation from the mayor to those who participated in the event; committee development plans; donor agreements and lists of donors and of items for the drawing and for the auction; a mini-history of Irving; a list of events related to the 75th anniversary celebration.

Series IV. Golden Anniversary, 1964

11 Organizational Material and Meeting Minutes, January-April, 1964

Letter requesting that nominated board members come to a meeting; lists of potential and final board members; list of points to include in the By-Laws; Articles of Incorporation; board meeting minutes, Jan.-Feb. 1964; schedule of events, April 11-18, 1964; city resolution recognizing the Golden Anniversary celebration, April 11, 1964; letterhead of the Golden Anniversary event.

Series IV. Golden Anniversary

Box 1

Folder

12 Budget, 1964

Proposed income and expenses for the event; final accounting of the income and expenses; a ledger book containing a record of expenses and income for each event and account.

13 Membership, 1964

Lists of businesses that donated money to sponsor the Golden Anniversary events; letter presented to sponsors by members of the I Teen Club requesting their support.

14 News Releases, 1964

News releases announcing the queen contest; a list of all the events; an “honor roll” of sponsors. Included is an eight-page program for the Golden Year Pageant performances held April 16, 17 and 18, 1964.

15 Correspondence, 1964

Includes letters ordering decals; requesting that council men participate in the history pageant; letters of thanks to those businesses that helped out; thank you letters to Texas Governor John Connolly and President Lyndon Johnson for submitting a recipe to the anniversary cookbook; letters to Honored Citizens.

16 Queen Contest, 1964

Program from the Golden Anniversary Queen coronation; a letter inviting people to attend the program; a letter to queen candidates advising them on proceedings the evening of the event; completed contest applications.

17 Irving’s Golden Year Pageant, April 16-18, 1964

Script for the pageant; ticket sales reports from the nights of the event.

18 Bills and Receipts, 1964

Bills and receipts from items purchased for the event.

Series V. Artifacts

A Bicentennial quilt created by local students. The quilt is made up of squares on which students have drawn historic figures and signed their work. Two travel hanging bags that could be purchased as part of the fundraising activities for the local Bicentennial commission; a white, nylon, Bicentennial flag, (3’x5’); a white, nylon, golf-fringed, Bicentennial flag, (3’x5’); a red brick engraved with the word Liberty, an image of the Liberty Bell and the dates 1776-1976; two white, nylon, Texas Sesquicentennial flags (3’x5’).