

## Guide to the

### STEVE HILLIER-CITY OF IRVING PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD COLLECTION

1969-2002 (bulk 1988-2002)

8 linear inches

Accession Numbers 0001-185; 0102-184; 0203-282; 0809-160; and 1516-190

## Collection Number: 90

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**CITATION: Steve Hillier-City of Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Collection, Collection 90, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives.**

### Biographical Sketch:

Steve Hillier worked for the *Irving News Texan* newspaper during the 1960s. In May of 1965, Hillier won second place in the Texas Press Association's Ad-of-the-Month contest. He had an interest in local politics, and, in 1969, ran against and was defeated by Harry Field for Irving City Council, Place 7.

Hillier became a member of the City of Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in late 1983. He served three two-year terms and was elected chairman in 1987 and 1988. He felt the biggest accomplishments during his years as chairman were the opening of Twin Wells Golf Course and the Senior Activity Center as well as the groundbreaking for West Park Recreation Center (today Georgia Farrow Recreation Center) and the Trinity View Adult Softball Complex. He retired from the Parks Board in 1989.

He was also a member of the Parks People of Irving. The Parks People was a group of volunteer residents that worked with the city's parks department on park improvements, projects and fundraising. Hillier was a member of the group from 1987 to 1993 and served as president during the club year, 1989-1990.

### Historical Sketch:

#### City of Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

The City of Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was established in 1957, before there was a city parks department. At that time, the city had few parks and the board advised the city council on community needs and park planning. Today the purpose of the board is to advise the City Council and Parks Department Director on affairs for the parks and recreation centers in the City of Irving. Other duties of the City of Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board include recommending policies and review of the annual budget. Currently the board consists of nine members and meets once a month. Board officers consist of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary each elected to one-year terms.

## **Parks People of Irving**

The Parks People of Irving was a non-profit organization established to encourage and receive gifts, endowments, and bequests for the parks in Irving. The group was actively involved in programs relating to the fine arts, the environment, and sports and recreation. The Parks People also supported the City of Irving with developing park services and facilities for the community. Their projects consisted of hosting fundraisers, participating in festivals, sponsoring a golf tournament, and assisting at the Girls National Softball Tournament in Irving. Their largest project was the development of Castle Kingdom in 1989. Castle Kingdom was a creative playground consisting of ramps, mazes, tunnels, swinging platforms, and sandboxes all designed in a castle motif. The playground was constructed in Victoria Park by the Parks People in cooperation with Parks Department staff and volunteers.

### **Sources:**

Steve Hillier-City of Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Papers, Collection 90, Irving Archives, Irving, Texas.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The collection, housed in two boxes, is composed primarily of City of Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board material, 1987-1989. The material was collected by Steve Hillier during his years of involvement with the Parks Board and with the Parks People of Irving. Included are newspaper clippings, photographs, artifacts, maps, newsletters, brochures, and notes dating from 1987 to 2002. The collection is organized in five series.

This collection provides insight into the projects and issues undertaken and confronted by the City of Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board from 1987 to 1989. During the 1970s and 1980s, Irving had a young population and recreation facilities were in great demand. The Parks Department and Board were heavily engaged in keeping up with this demand. The material focuses on new park development, additions to existing parks, and recreational programs held at various parks. It also provides information on the Parks People, a non-profit organization that worked in association with the Parks Board and the Irving Parks and Recreation Department.

Series I, City of Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, consists of a variety of materials including newspaper articles, photographs, maps, brochures relating to board activities, and events at and information on individual parks. The series is divided into several subseries which contain information on individual parks in the Parks Department.

Series II, Parks People, contains contact information for members of the organization, rules of conduct for members, and recommendations for improvements to various parks from the group to the Parks Department.

Series III, Irving Centennial, is comprised of two folders. The first contains material relating to the activities of the Irving Centennial Celebration Task Force, 2000-2002. The second folder is made up of material relating to the Irving Centennial Calendar subcommittee. Irving celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2003.

Series IV, Steve Hillier Personal Material, is made up of newspaper articles, voter guides, and candidate qualifications for the Irving City Council election of 1969. Steve Hillier was a candidate for

office that year. Also included is a newspaper article about Hillier receiving an advertising award while he was employed at the *Irving News Texan* and an information packet on the Art Reach Committee, of which Steve Hillier was a member. The Art Reach Committee made recommendations to the Arts Board concerning arts development.

Series V, Artifacts, consists of a variety of items. Among these are park-themed shirts; a small Irving Community Hospital first aid kit, c. 1964; and a deck of TexasFest cards.

### **Provenance Statement**

The material in the Steve Hillier-Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Collection was donated to the Irving Archives in five accessions. Accession 0001-185 was donated on October 18, 2000; accession 0102-184 was donated on April 22, 2002; accession 0203-282 was donated on Aug 14, 2003; accession 0809-160 was donated on July 31, 2009; and accession 1516-190 was donated on June 14, 2016. Prior to its donation to the Irving Archives, the material was in the possession of Steve Hillier.

### **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish from the Steve Hillier-Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives.

### **Note to Researcher**

See also: MVF-20-03 for more information on the Irving Parks People organization and their Castle Kingdom Project in Victoria Park.

Consult with Archivist for information on the various Parks Department collections in the Irving Archives.

## **Container List**

### **Series I. Parks Board, 1987-1989**

#### Box 1

#### Folder

1. Parks Board Material, 1987-1989  
Contains a "Goals for Irving" booklet from a conference that was held in Waco, Texas, May 16-19, 1968; a copy of a cashier's check to the Friends of Irving Parks valued at \$3,500, March 15, 1988; Steve Hillier's presentation to the Dallas County Open Space Committee, 1988. Also included are newspaper articles concerning issues relating to the Parks Department and Parks Board, February 1987-November 1989.
2. Parks Board Introduction Packet, 1989  
Contains the By-Laws of the Parks and Recreation Board; a park land needs assessment; a Parks Department information update, 1989; and a Parks Department Information update, 1989.

3. Twin Wells Golf Course, 1984-1989  
Contains two proof-sheets of photographs of the groundbreaking of Twin Wells Golf Course. Also included is an American Golf Travel Club brochure; newspaper articles covering the groundbreaking of Twin Wells Golf Course, the building process of the course, golf fees, the delay of the grand opening, funding problems, and the grand opening, September 1984-October 1989. In addition the file contains photographs of the golf course under floodwaters, 1986.
4. Northlake Park, 1988-1989  
Contains the master plan for Northlake Park; a proposed lease agreement for the park between the cities of Irving and Dallas; a report on proposed improvements to the park; funding requests for park improvements; recommended ordinances regarding swimming, boating and other activities at North Lake Park and a Proposed North Lake Park Development plan.
5. Northlake Park, 1987-1989  
Contains newspaper articles about the City of Irving leasing the park from Dallas and the park being closed for six months for a cleanup.
6. Heritage Park, 1986-1988  
Contains newspaper articles about the construction of Heritage Park and the renovation of the railroad depot that was moved into the park. Also included is a copy of the floor plan and elevations of the depot, an invitation to the groundbreaking of Heritage Park and a Heritage Park dedication brochure, July 4, 1986.
7. Bear Creek, 1992-1999  
Contains newspaper articles about the Bear Creek Heritage Center project and efforts to obtain a historical marker for the Shelton Bear Creek Cemetery. Other items include a Department of Building Inspection Permit Schedule revised, August 6, 1992, and a photocopy of a plat map of the area around Carver Street in the Bear Creek community.
8. West Park Recreation Center, 1987-1989  
Contains newspaper articles concerning the building plans for West Park Recreation Center; the opening of the recreation center, June 1987-May 1989; and the program from the groundbreaking ceremony of West Park Recreation Center, February 25, 1988.
9. Trinity View Park Adult Softball Complex, 1987-1989  
Contains newspaper articles regarding the development, groundbreaking and dedication of the Trinity View Adult Softball Complex. Also included is an invitation to the softball complex groundbreaking and the agenda for the groundbreaking ceremony.
10. Senter Park/Lee Park/Southwest Park/Lively Senior Center, 1987-1988  
Contains newspaper articles relating to Lee and Senter Park extending their hours; a senior softball tournament; the opening of Lively Senior Center; and the Lively Seniors teaching students to swing dance.

11. Parks – Miscellaneous, 1986-1990

Contains newspaper articles about park vandalism; Fourth of July parades; volunteers; and better safety at parks. Among the material is an Irving Gymnastic Center Dedication program, January 28, 1989.

12. Public Art, 1999

Contains newspaper articles on funds for public art; the creation for a bronze mascot for each high school in Irving; and the council vote for Whistle Stop Plaza.

13. Maps, 1985-1986

Contains maps that show types, location, and size of Irving parks, 1986. Also included is a blue line map of Northlake Park, 1985.

**Series II. Park People, 1988-1994**

14. Park People, 1988-1994

Contains note cards for a brief address given to the Mayor about the work of the Parks Board; a brochure promoting the Park People benefit golf tournament, 1988; thank you letter to the Parks People of Irving for their donation to the Irving Heritage Society for Bear Creek Heritage Park development; contact information for the directors/trustees of the Park People of Irving; Park People by-laws, rules of conduct, and certificate of incorporation; Park People newsletters; Park People assessment of Irving's parks and the group's suggestions for improvements and budgets for all parks and recreation centers; and plans for a creative playground campaign.

**Series III. Irving Centennial Celebration Task Force, 2002**

15. Irving Centennial, 2000-2002

Contains information on the activities and objectives of the Irving Centennial Task Force; agenda from several meeting of the Task Force; and a form inviting interested members of the public to join the planning committee for the Centennial celebration.

16. Irving Centennial – Calendar Committee, 2001-2003

Contains minutes from various Calendar Committee meetings; a production schedule for the calendar; a request for proposals for professional design services for the calendar; and an interim report. In addition, the file contains information on the Publications Committee, of which the Calendar Committee was a subcommittee.

**Series IV. Steve Hillier – Personal Material, 1965-1988 (bulk 1965-1969)**

17. Personal Material

Contains newspaper articles about Steve Hillier winning second place in the Texas Press Association Ad of the Month contest; qualifications for City of Irving elective officers; and a Voter's Guides from April 5, 1969. Full-page political advertisements involving candidates in the

1969 city council election are also part of this series. These newspapers advertisements are in Box 2. Also included are photographs of Parks Department Director Bill Enlow (L) and Parks Board Chairman Steve Hillier (R) presenting the first Parks Beautification awards to three unidentified people, c. 1988 and an information packet about the Art Reach Committee of the Irving Arts Board.

## **Series V. Artifacts**

### Box 2

Contains a TexasFest 1993 towel; an Irving Centennial T-shirt; a Twin Wells Golf Course polo shirt; and a Trinity View Park Softball Complex grand opening T-shirt. In addition are three CDs by the band "The Shoppe," one VHS tape of "The Shoppe," 1997; one Reba McEntire CD, a TexasFest deck of cards, a small calculator, GTE magnetic address book, a commemorative Irving Community Hospital First-Aid kit from the opening of the hospital, 1964; Irving Chamber of Commerce ink pen, Texas Sesquicentennial bumper sticker, and two George W. Bush presidential campaign bumper stickers.