

Guide to the
JOSEPH RICE COLLECTION
1918-1996 (bulk 1985-1989)
10 linear inches

Accession Numbers 0203-149; 0304-034; 0405-218; 0405-226; 0607-088; 0809-168; and 0910-013

Collection Number: 92

Prepared by Kevin Kendro and Jessica Hilliard
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CITATION: Joseph Rice Collection, Collection 92, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives.

Biographical Sketch:

Joseph Rice, a native Texan, was born in the early 1940s. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English at the University of Texas-El Paso. He received his Ph.D. in English at the University of Oregon. During his career he held several university faculty and administrative positions. He received numerous awards for writing, designing, editing, and community service. Joe Rice was a member of the board of the Irving Heritage Society from 1985 to 1991 and served as President of the Society from 1991 to 1992. He volunteered to chair the Irving Sesquicentennial Committee of the Texas Sesquicentennial celebration, 1985-1986. Rice also served on the City of Irving Arts Board, as well as the boards of the YMCA, the Irving Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce, and the Cultural Affairs Council.

Joseph Rice is the author of a pictorial history book entitled *Irving – A Texas Odyssey*. The book is a general history of Irving, Texas. It covers the arrival of pioneers in the area in the 1850s through the founding City of Irving in 1903, and details the history of the city up to the 1980s. The Irving Heritage Society approached Rice to research and write the book. It was published by Windsor Publication on May 21, 1989. Two thousand copies of the book were printed. In 1990, Dr. Rice was nominated by the Dallas Historical Commission for the "Outstanding County Historical Commission Member" award.

Joseph Rice passed away at the age of 65 on June 27, 2009.

Sources:

Irving – A Texas Odyssey by Joseph Rice, 1999.

Joe Rice obituary – *Dallas Morning News*, June 29, 2009.

Joe Rice Collection – Collection 92, Irving Archives.

Scope and Content:

The collection, housed in one box, is composed primarily of research material on Irving's history. These items were given to and collected by Joseph Rice. Included are newspaper clippings, photographs, artifacts, maps, notes, brochures, and invitations. The collection is organized in five series.

This collection provides information on the history of the City of Irving. Joseph Rice was a local historian who wrote a pictorial history of Irving entitled *Irving – A Texas Odyssey*. Some of the material in the collection was donated to Joe Rice by other local historians.

Joe Rice served as chairman of the local Texas Sesquicentennial Committee and from these duties he developed a collection of documents and artifacts pertaining to the celebration. This material provides an insight into the events making up the Texas Sesquicentennial celebration.

Series I, Deatherage Research Material, consists of the items Mary Jo Deatherage collected on the history of the City of Irving. The research material consists of hand-written notes, photocopies of maps, and photographs. The photos are of local history sites. The series also contains subject cards containing information on local people and places. The cards are arranged in alphabetical order.

After the death of his wife, Mary Jo Deatherage, Jim Deatherage donated these records to local historian Joseph Rice. Mary Jo, local amateur historian, was a member of the board of the Irving Heritage Society from 1984 to 1992. In 1984 she was the Society's Project Committee Chairman and in 1987 was the 1st Vice President of Membership. Hand-written notes on some of the documents tend to indicate that they were collected while doing research for an Irving Heritage Society slide show about Irving history.

Series II, Fulton Material, is comprised of personal belongings of Robert E. Fulton. The folder contains photographs, letters, and a funeral register from Mr. Fulton's funeral. The items in this series was given to Joseph Rice by L.F. Bate on behalf of the Irving Genealogical Society. The genealogical society hoped that this information on the Fultons would be useful in a future Irving museum project. Of particular interest in this series is a British WWI ration book.

Robert E. Fulton and his wife settled in Irving, Texas, in 1922 on the west side of today's Fulton Drive at its intersection with Shady Grove. Mrs. Fulton often told the story that her home was the first in the area to have a complete indoor bathroom. The Fulton's were gracious and happy to show their bathroom to curious neighbors.

The record is unclear, but it appears that the Fulton's started the *Irving News*, a weekly newspaper, sometime between 1927 and 1931 and ran it for approximately ten years.

The Fultons were community leaders. The couple organized the Irving Poultry Association. They were instrumental in the formation of the Northwest Dallas County Civic Association, a forerunner of the Irving Chamber of Commerce. Perhaps their most significant undertaking was leading a campaign to acquire the right-of-way along Shady Grove Road so the county could widen and pave the road. The modernized road made travel between Dallas and Irving much safer and easier.

Series III, Texas Sesquicentennial, contains material produced by Irving's Sesquicentennial Committee. The folder consists of Irving Heritage Park groundbreaking invitations and a *Texas Wagon*

Train Telegram newsletter. Also included are Texas Sesquicentennial artifacts including hats, a banner, bumper stickers, and Texas Wagon Train patches.

The Texas Sesquicentennial was a statewide celebration of Texas' 150 years of statehood. Joseph Rice volunteered as chairman of the Irving Sesquicentennial Committee. The primary statewide event of the Sesquicentennial was the Texas Wagon Train that spent six months traveling 3,000 miles around the state. The Texas Wagon Train arrived in Irving on June 28, 1986. During the day a series of events were held. The wagon train followed the original pioneer route to California Crossing on the Trinity River. That was followed by a flag ceremony and a flyover by vintage WWII aircraft. Sandi Powell and Charley Pride entertained visitors with a concert that evening.

Throughout 1986 the City of Irving continued to celebrate Texas' Sesquicentennial by having their own events such as a Sesquicentennial marathon, an arts and crafts show, a historical pageant, and the groundbreaking of Heritage Park. The Irving Heritage Park groundbreaking was held on April 14, 1986.

Series IV, Publications, is made up of articles primarily about the City of Irving. The folder contains newspaper articles, an Irving Chamber of Commerce magazine, a booklet about the Civil War experiences of Captain Tacitus T. Clay, and a 1987-1988 Club Guide, a directory of Irving's civic and social clubs. Most of the articles in the folder pertain to the African American community, Bear Creek. Of note in this series is an article written by Joe Rice about the early years of Irving.

Series V, Oversized Maps and Posters, contains oversized maps of Irving area pioneer trails, and a laminated copy of the Sam Street Map of Dallas County, 1900. Also included are four Irving related posters.

Provenance Statement

The Joseph Rice Collection was donated to the Irving Archives in seven accessions. Accession 0203-149 was donated on April 1, 2003; accession 0304-034 was donated on November 10, 2003; accession 0405-226 was donated on September 1, 2005; accession 0405-218 was donated on September 6, 2005; accession 0607-088 was donated on April 3, 2007; accession 0809-168 was donated on July 31, 2009; and accession 0910-013 was donated on November 6, 2009. Prior to its donation to the Irving Archives, the material was in the possession of Joseph Rice.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the Joseph Rice Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives.

Note to Researcher

See also: Irving Archives Oral History Collection for audiotapes of interviews made by Joe Rice while researching the book *Irving – A Texas Odyssey*.

Container List

Series I. Deatherage Research Material

Box 1

Folder Title, Dates, and Description

1. Deatherage Research Material

Folder contains two letters from Jim Deatherage to Joe Rice giving Mary Jo Deatherage's Irving research material to Joe Rice, July 8, 1996; a certificate from the Texas Historical Commission to Joe Rice in 1990; Irving historical research material consisting of newspaper articles, a letter from Kay Brown concerning the naming of Irving, close-up of the Irving section of the Sam Street Map of Dallas County, and a *Dallas Morning News* insert – *Texas 150 A Sesquicentennial Journal Part 1, 1836-1865*, January 19, 1986. Also included are photocopies of images of people and homes in Hackberry community, 1920s; *Blue Blaze* magazine; Peter's Colony map (photocopy); and copies of pages from the book *Elm Fork Settlements: Farmers Branch and Carrollton*; and four photocopied newspaper articles from 1936, 1970, and c. 1966. The articles are about Irvingites "Pude" Grider and "Fat" Cunningham being guards at the Texas Centennial, 1936, Grandpa A.J. Clark at the Texas Centennial Parade, "Indian" George Alford receiving a new home from the Cosmopolitan Club, and the Borah dairy farm being sold off to make way for DFW airport. Also included is a Bicentennial home tour map of Irving with numbered points of interest, and a photocopy of a Kit Community map in 1900 created by Dick Story for the *Irving Daily News Texan*.

2. Deatherage Research Material

Folder contains a scanned copy of an *Irving News* article announcing the completion of Joe Rice's Irving history book *Irving - A Texas Odyssey*, April 26, 1989; Irving Chamber of Commerce 50th Anniversary commemorative booklet, 1932-1982. In the booklet is a copy of the menu from the celebration dinner, August 27, 1982.

3. Deatherage Research Material

Included is a USGS map of Irving, 1959; a map showing locations of northwest Dallas County post offices, settlements, schools, railroads, major roads, and the Cross Timbers, c. 1900. A map of the intersection of Irving Boulevard and Main St. The local businesses have been penciled in to reflect the intersection in 1940. A photocopy of the map Plan Des Terres showing the La Reunion Colony.

4. Research Cards A-L

Folder contains research index cards about people and locations of Irving

5. Research Cards M-Z

Folder contains research index cards about people and locations of Irving

6. Photographs

Folder contains photographs of: Kit Cemetery; Indian marker trees; and the Shady Grove Road bridge and the Singleton Blvd. bridge. Other photos are of: C.J. Colwell Sr. with his horse by Hackberry School on Royal Ln.; a train conductor standing at the R.I. Depot in Irving; "Oak-A-Farm," R.B. Wadsworth's home in 1930s on Highway 183 in Irving (now where the Shell Oil Co. is); a picture of goats being sheared at Andrew Jackson Colwells's home place; William DeHaes first brick home in the Irving area near present day Wingren Rd. and Highway 183; and a photo of the Bear Creek Masonic Lodge corner stone.

Series II. Fulton Material

7. Fulton Material

Folder contains a letter, Sept. 19, 1991, to Joe Rice from L.F. Bates about Mr. Fulton's belongings, Robert Fulton's funeral memorial book; picture of Robert Fulton on the front of a scrapbook cover; photos of the Northwest Dallas County Civic Association; photo of the Fulton house, 1956; a hand-colored portrait of a young Robert Fulton; a picture of a baby named Orpha; photo of two unidentified men in front of the original city hall, c. 1935; and a group picture of Northwest Dallas Civic Association, c. 1935. Also included is a letter and a poem from Frank Ford to Robert Fulton and a British National Ration Book dated January 11, 1918 which belonged to Robert Fulton.

Series III. Texas Sesquicentennial

8. Texas Sesquicentennial

Folder contains invitations to Heritage Park Groundbreaking Festivities, April 14, 1986, and a *Texas Wagon Train Telegram* newsletter, September 6, 1985.

9. Texas Sesquicentennial

Folder contains four Sesquicentennial hats.

10. Texas Sesquicentennial

Sesquicentennial flag.

Loose in the box are Texas Sesquicentennial Texas Wagon Train scout patches and a number of Sesquicentennial bumper stickers.

Series IV. Publications

Box 1

Folder Title, Dates, and Description

11. Publications

Folder contains booklet entitled *TAS the Civil War Experiences of Captain Tacitus T. Clay*, 1992; issue of the *Fort Worth Press* covering the JFK Assassination November 23, 1963. The paper is in the Newspaper Cabinet, drawer 3. Also included is a newspaper clipping from *The Journal* about the Muense

home on what use to be Will Story's 200 acre farm along Grauwlyer Rd., August 19, 1985; *Art Times* article about Joe Rice interviewing residence of bear Creek for which he received a distinguished service award from the Texas Historical Commission, June 1990; an issue of the *Dallas Morning News* containing an article about Bear Creek, Aug 13, 1991; an issue of the *Irving News* containing a story, "Grounds for our History," about creating Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center, Jan 17, 1991. *Irving Daily News* articles about Plymouth Park shopping center and Plymouth Park Hardware's 30th anniversary, October 16, 1985. Also included is a newspaper insert *The Irving Clubs Guide* for 1987-88.

Las Colinas Welcome Guide containing an article on Irving's history by Joe Rice, 1990.

Oversized Folder in Newspaper Cabinet Drawer 3

Also included is an issue of the *Irving Daily News Texan* covering the 50th anniversary of incorporation events, Thursday, April 16, 1964 and an insert section about Irving's history (various pages of the paper have the dates of April 12 and April 18, but these are typos. The correct date is April 16, 1964.); and pages from the Wednesday, September 20, 1978, issue covering Irving's 75th anniversary.

Oversized Material – Flat File Cabinet

Series V. Oversized Maps and Posters

Sam Street Dallas County, 1900 and Irving area trail maps. These are located in Flat File Cabinet, Drawer 3.

Four posters: Mustangs of Las Colinas aerial; commemorative Texas Sesquicentennial map, 1986; Schools of Irving poster; Irving Tomorrow's Texas Today poster; and Irving Arts Calendars. These are located in Flat File Cabinet, Drawer 3.