

Guide to the

IRVING CENTENNIAL SCRAPBOOKS

2002-2005

1 linear ft.

Accession Number: 1718-06

COLLECTION NUMBER: 97

Prepared by

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September 2018

CITATION: Irving Centennial Scrapbooks, Collection 97, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives.

Historical Sketch

The City of Irving, Texas, was founded on December 19, 1903, by J. O. Schulze and Otis Brown. During the fall of 1902, the two young men were working as part of the Rock Island Railway crew that was surveying a 10-mile stretch of land between Dallas and Fort Worth. The crew made their camp on the property of local rancher Henry Britain near what today is old downtown Irving.

Not long after they began work in the area, Schulze suggested to Brown that they start a town along the soon to be laid railroad tracks. The two men purchased 80 acres of land from Henry Britain on which to establish their town. The survey crew completed its work and moved on, but Schulze and Brown remained to begin work on creating the town.

The two spent most of 1903 clearing the trees from the heavily forested area and preparing their town site. On December 19 they conducted a lot auction to launch the town. That day they sold about thirty lots at an average price of \$50 a lot.

One hundred years later, in the fall of 2003, the city celebrated its 100th anniversary. A Centennial Task Force was formed to plan the months-long, city-wide celebration. Among the many events held were: the construction of Centennial Park; the placing of historical markers at significant sites around the city; the Festival of the Century; period style shows; publication of a Centennial cookbook and Irving history book; a Centennial calendar and a lot auction re-enactment.

Eleanor Bell, a long-time Irvingite, was a member of, and later chairman of, the Centennial Markers Committee. She created this collection of scrapbooks that record the work of the Centennial Task Force committees and the events that made up Irving's Centennial Celebration.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of six scrapbooks that document the events commemorating Irving's Centennial Celebration. Most of the events occurred between October 2002 and December, 2003. However, some events, mostly historical marker dedications, extended into 2005.

The collection is housed in one cubic foot box. The scrapbooks are in excellent condition. They are made up of photographs, brochures, invitations, programs, and tickets to Centennial activities.

This collection provides a comprehensive summary of the events conducted by the Centennial Task Force and its committees.

Provenance Statement

The Irving Centennial Scrapbooks were donated to the Irving Archives by Eleanor Bell on October 17, 2017. Prior to their donation, they were in the possession of Eleanor Bell.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the Irving Centennial Scrapbooks must be obtained from the Irving Archives.

Container List

Series I.

Scrapbooks

Box 1

Title, Dates and Description

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| Scrapbook 1 | Contains photos, newspaper clippings, brochures, programs and correspondence. The Centennial events recorded in this volume are: the opening ceremony; the Caldwell House marker dedication; a style show with fashions from the 1900s-1930s; publication of the Centennial calendar; the State of the City Banquet; and the Guy Deel, Paul Tadlock art show at the Irving Arts Center. |
| Scrapbook 2 | Contains photos, newspaper clippings, brochures, programs and correspondence. The Centennial events recorded in this volume are: the Irving Heritage Society's Valentine Tea; a style show with fashions from the 1940s-1960s; the Student Art Contest and Exhibit; the Festival of the Century; the construction of Centennial Park; construction of the Heritage Senior Center; the Murder Mystery Dinner; and the dedication of the historical marker for the library building in Heritage Park. |
| Scrapbook 3 | Contains photos, newspaper clippings, brochures, programs and correspondence. The Centennial events recorded in this volume are: construction of Centennial Park; the Juneteenth event; the July 4 th parade; Lively Park Senior Center volunteer recognition event; construction of the Heritage Senior Center; placing of the timeline plaques in Centennial Park; and the placing of the statue "The Founders" in the park. |
| Scrapbook 4 | Contains photos, newspaper clippings, brochures, programs and correspondence. The Centennial events recorded in this volume are: the bronze timeline plaques mounted in place in Founders Plaza in Centennial Park; dedication of Centennial Park; the Centennial Citywide Church Choir Celebration; marker dedications for the original city hall building, the Dallas County Irving Fresh Water Supply District #5; the Irving Community Clubhouse; the Joffre-Gilbert House; the Otis Brown House; and the Heritage House. |

- Scrapbook 5 Contains photos, newspaper clippings, brochures, programs and correspondence. The Centennial events recorded in this volume are: historical marker dedications for the Caster Cabin; the Howard-Beaufford House; the John Haley House; the Britain family; and the School Campus marker; the Centennial Finale Concert; and Centennial Finale lot sale re-enactment.
- Scrapbook 6 Contains photos, newspaper clippings, brochures, programs and correspondence. The Centennial events recorded in this volume are: historical marker dedications for the original St. Luke Catholic Church, the original site of the Delaware Street Church of Christ, Caster Cabin, Twin Wells community; Old Kit Cemetery; Schulze House; Irving Lumber; dedication of five state historical markers which include the Bear Creek community; Sowers community; Dr. D. W. Gilbert Homestead; Kit community; and the Union Bower community. Also included are copies of Charles Brown's "Irving Sketches."