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## **Guide to the**

### **LYNN BROWN AND CATHERINE F. BROWN SCRAPBOOKS 1870s-1980s**

**1.6 linear ft.**

**Collection Number: 13**

**Prepared by Kevin Kendro  
September 1999**

**CITATION: The Lynn Brown and Catherine F. Brown Scrapbooks, Collection 13, Box number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.**

#### **Biographical Sketch**

Irving Lynn Brown (Lynn) was born June 17, 1914, in Irving, Texas. Lynn was the youngest son of Otis Brown, city of Irving co-founder and first mayor, and Onetta Barcus Brown. Lynn Brown was reared in Irving, attending school in the Irving Independent School District and graduating from Irving High School in 1931. Brown spent the next five years working until he was financially able to continue his education. At that time, he enrolled in the University of Texas, graduating in 1941 with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. After graduating he accepted a position with the United States Geological Survey. He stayed in this job until he joined the Navy in June 1943. Brown served in the Pacific Theater during World War II as an officer in the 110th Naval Construction Battalion, commonly known as the CBs. He was discharged in April 1946.

At the close of the war, Brown returned to Irving and went into business with his brother, Stanley, as Brown and Brown, Architect and Engineer. In 1949, Lynn Brown went into business for himself, designing residential subdivisions, streets, and water and sewer systems.

On May 27, 1948, Lynn Brown married Mary Catherine (Kay) Fakes of Dallas, granddaughter of the founder of Fakes Furniture stores in Dallas. The couple made their home in Irving, where they brought up their daughter. Kay Brown was a charter member of the Irving Woman's Club, the Irving Symphony Orchestra Association, and the Irving Heritage Society. She was also a member of the Garden and Arts Center, a board member of the Irving Community Concert Association, and a member of the Friends of the Library. In addition, Mrs. Brown, served as a board member of Catholic Charities of Dallas, was president of the St. Luke's School Mother's Club, was a member of the Dallas Diocesan Vocation Guild, and the American Society of Civil Engineers Wives' Club.

In 1959, Lynn Brown was elected mayor of Irving and would be elected to four consecutive two-year terms running from 1959-1967. The city experienced explosive growth during the 1950s and 1960s. Brown's terms in office coincided with these years of expansion. Mayor

Brown felt some of the major achievements of his administration were: the annexation of the Carpenter Ranch (current site of the Las Colinas business and residential development), work on the Cooper Reservoir plan, the expansion of Irving's business community, and the growth of the University of Dallas.

Lynn Brown sought a fifth term as mayor in 1967, losing in a runoff election to City Councilman Robert Power. In addition to serving as mayor, Brown was a member and president of the Irving Chamber of Commerce, president of the Dallas County Municipal League and the Irving Symphony Association. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Irving Independent School District, the Irving Rotary Club, and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Irving Lynn Brown died in 1990. Catherine F. Brown died in 2003.

### **Sources:**

The Lynn Brown and Catherine F. Brown Scrapbooks

Oral history interview conducted by Estelle Bates with Stanley, John, and Lynn Brown, 1975. Irving Archives, Oral History Collection.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists entirely of photocopies of the contents of two scrapbooks kept by Lynn and Catherine Brown. The scrapbooks span the years from the 1870s-1987, but the vast bulk of the material is from Lynn Brown's years as mayor of Irving, 1959-1967. Most of the material consists of pictures and articles taken from the newspapers that served Irving during these years, primarily The Daily News Texan or the Irving Daily News. Subjects included in the material are: the Brown and Fakes families; campaigns; elections; business openings; and civic functions.

The collection is housed in acid-free folders in four manuscript boxes. Box 1 contains material relating, primarily, to the Brown and Fakes families. Box 2 contains material relating to Kay Brown's activities and Lynn Brown's mayoral undertakings. Box 3 contains material relating, mainly, to Lynn Brown's terms in office. Box 4 contains material relating to the city's golden anniversary celebration in 1964.

### **Provenance Statement**

Mrs. Catherine Brown loaned the scrapbooks to the Irving Archives for copying, c. 1985. Mrs. Brown retained the originals.

### **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish from the Lynn Brown and Catherine F. Brown Scrapbooks must be obtained from the Irving Archives.

### **Note to Researcher**

Consult with archivist for additional information. See Also:

Collection 4, City of Irving - Office of the Mayor - Lynn Brown Administration Records, 1962-1967.

Collection 6, Irving Chamber of Commerce Scrapbooks, 1944-1995.

Collection 9, Otis and Onetta Brown Papers, 1900-1958.

Collection 20, Irving Woman's Club Scrapbooks, 1948-1998.

Special Collection 1, City of Irving Commission/Council Minutes.

### **Container List**

#### **Series I. Scrapbooks, 1870s-1980s**

##### Box

- 1 Scrapbook, 1870s-1987, bulk 1900-1950
- 2 Scrapbook, 1954-1983, bulk 1964-1967
- 3 Scrapbook, 1955-1963, bulk 1962-1963
- 4 Scrapbook, 1963-1967, bulk 1964