
Guide to the

BONA FIDÉ CLUB RECORDS 1950-2003

1 linear ft.

Accession Numbers: 9798-66; 9900-116; 0405-17; 0405-55, 0506-220; and 0708-64

Collection Number: 15

Prepared by Kevin Kendro

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Revised October 2009

CITATION: The Bona Fidé Club Records, Collection 15, Box number, Volume number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Historical Sketch

The Bona Fidé Club was organized as the Junior Felicity Club in 1933. In May 1946 the organization's name was changed to the Bona Fidé Club. The purpose of the group is "to further the civic, social, and cultural advancement of its members." The club meets once a month with the new club-year beginning in September and extending through May. Membership is limited to thirty. In addition to its social role, the club also makes yearly donations to the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Fund.

The Bona Fidé Club was originally affiliated with the Dallas Federation of Women's Clubs, but the members elected to resign from the federation in the 1950-1951 year in order to devote more time to the needs of Irving. To serve this end, the group joined the Irving Coordinating Council.

Sources:

The Bona Fidé Club Records, Collection 15, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of six scrapbooks compiled by the historians of the Bona Fidé Club covering the years 1950-2005 and Junior Felicity Club and Bona Fidé Club minutes spanning the years 1940-1989. The scrapbooks summarize the club's yearly activities through typed or handwritten notes, newspaper clippings, and photographs. The collection is arranged in two series, Scrapbooks and Minutes, and is housed in five flat boxes.

Volume 1 covers the years 1950-1979. A synopsis of each year's activities is written directly on the scrapbook pages. Along with this yearly summation, there are yearbooks containing officer's rosters, membership rosters, by-laws, and yearly programs. The newspaper articles pertain primarily to meeting announcements. There are a few black-and-white photos beginning in 1955. Color photos are present from the mid-1960s onward. Photographs become more prevalent in the scrapbook after the mid-1960s.

Many of the pages in volume 1 have pulled free from their binding, and all pages are suffering the yellowing effects of acidic newspaper. Since the club might borrow the scrapbook from time to time, it has been left in tact, but acid-free interleaving paper has been inserted between the pages. As a preservation measure, a photocopy of the scrapbook has been made. The photocopied version of the scrapbook is in box 3 of this collection.

Volume 2 encompasses the years 1979-1988. Summations of the meeting are written on the scrapbook pages. The scrapbook is made up mainly of photographs. This volume contains no club yearbooks and few newspaper clippings.

Volume 3, spanning the years 1988-1997, is dedicated to Ann Dillion, a long-time member who passed away. There is a pictorial tribute to Mrs. Dillion. In addition to photos from club meetings there is also a section of pictures entitled "From Years Gone-by," consisting of color photos and newspaper photos of club members from past years. Club yearbooks from the 1990s are present in this volume.

The pages of volumes 2 and 3 are still connected to their binding, but the paper is brittle and fading. These volumes have been left intact, but the pages have been interleaved with acid-free paper. As a preservation measure, the scrapbooks have also been photocopied. The photocopied versions of the volumes are in box 3 of this collection.

Volume 4 covers from September 2000 through December 2001. The scrapbook consists of color photos with handwritten identification and captions. The photos were taken at club meetings. The scrapbook is in memory of Jessica Clinkscales and Helen Sale, both long time members.

Volume 5 covers from January 2002 through June 2003. The scrapbook is made up of color photos taken at club meetings. Handwritten captions and identification accompany the photos.

Volume 6 spans the years 2003 through 2005. The scrapbook is made up of color photos taken at club meetings. Handwritten captions and identification accompany the photos. The volume also contains a few newspaper articles and club member obituaries as well as a few pieces of correspondence.

The minutes of the club's meetings contained in the collection span from 1940-1955, 1979-1989, and 1997-2007. A bound volume covering from September 1940 – January 1946 are minutes of meetings of the Junior Felicity Club, which was the Bona Fidé Club's original name. Several loose sheets contain the minutes from the meetings that took place from March through May 1946. A second bound volume of minutes commences with the June 1946 meeting and continues through the June 1955 meeting. The minutes from October 1979

through May 1989 are on unbound sheets of paper. There is a gap in the minutes from 1955-1979, although summations of each year's activities are written on the pages of the scrapbooks. There is also a gap in the minutes from 1989-1997. The minutes and attendance records from 1997-2007 are typed on loose leaf paper.

Provenance Statement

The Bona Fidé Club scrapbooks volumes 1-3, accessions 9798-66 and 9900-116, were donated to the Irving Archives in February of 1998 and June 2000, by Jessica Clinkscales, historian of the Bona Fidé Club. Accession numbers 0405-17 and 0405-55, scrapbook volumes 4 and 5 and club minutes, were donated to the Archives by Polly Warner, club historian, on behalf of the club in November 2004 and December 2004. Accession number 0506-220 was donated to the Archives by Dorothy Howell on behalf of the club on August 15, 2006. Accession number 0708-64 was donated to the Archives by Dorothy Howell on behalf of the club on February 25, 2008. Prior to their donation to the Irving Archives, the material was kept in club members' homes.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the Bona Fidé Club Records must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Container List

Series I and II. Scrapbooks and Minutes

Box 1

Vol. 1 Scrapbook, 1950-1979

Box 2

Vol. 2 Scrapbook, 1979-1988

Minutes, 1940-1989

Folder 1 – Minutes, September 1940-May 1946

Folder 2 – Minutes, June 1946-June 1955

Folder 3 – Minutes, October 1979-May 1989

Box 3

Vol. 3 Scrapbook, 1988-1997

Photocopied versions of scrapbooks volumes 1-3.

Box 4

Vol. 4 Scrapbook, September 2000-December 2001

Vol. 5 Scrapbook, January 2002-June 2003

Box 5

Vol. 6 Scrapbook, September 2003-May 2005

Folder 1 - Minutes and attendance record, September 1997-December 2007; also a copy of the club's constitution and a club yearbook from 2005-2006.