
Guide to the

IRVING WOMAN'S CLUB RECORDS 1948-1998

6 linear ft.

Accession Numbers: 9798-18; 9899-23; 9900-134; 0203-22; and 0506-177

Collection Number: 20

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CITATION: The Irving Woman's Club Records, Collection 20, Box number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Historical Sketch

The Irving Woman's Club originated as the Junior Irving Garden Club in the spring of 1948. The nucleus of the club, which was sponsored by the Irving Garden Club, was the daughters and daughters-in-law of the members of the Irving Garden Club. The purpose of the Junior Irving Garden Club was to "stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs; to aid in the protection of native trees, plants and birds and to encourage civic planting."

The club held its first meeting in April of 1948. There were 16 charter members in the group, which met on the fourth Wednesday of every month from September to May. The meetings were held at member's homes and centered on gardening topics.

The organization was founded primarily as a social club, but was involved in civic and service programs as well. Most noteworthy was the club's sponsoring of the dedication ceremonies at the opening of the Irving Youth Center in Senter Park in 1954. The proceedings were mentioned on national radio and covered by local and regional television stations.

In August of 1955, the members of the Junior Irving Garden Club decided to change the name of the club to the Irving Woman's Club. The new name was adopted to reflect the broader interests of the group. The topics at club meeting would no longer be confined to gardening, but would include speakers on various topics, such as theater, decorating, and the culinary arts. The organization of the club remained the same, as did the practice of meeting once a month at a member's home.

Service projects engaged in over the years by the Junior Irving Garden Club and the Irving Woman's Club included fund raising for the Irving Municipal Library, the Wadley Bloodbank and Research Center, the March of Dimes, the Red Cross, and polio drives. The Irving Woman's Club established the Madge Montgomery Scholarship in memory of one of its members. The scholarship is used to help young women further their education.

Sources:

The Irving Woman's Club Scrapbooks

The Irving Daily News Texan

The Irving Daily News

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of two series, Scrapbooks and Minute Books. The material documents the organization and meetings of the Junior Irving Garden Club/Irving Woman's Club from its founding in 1948 to 1998. The annual scrapbooks are put together by the club historians. The 23 scrapbooks are composed of photographs, meeting agendas, membership rosters, officers' rosters, newspaper clippings, and correspondence. They span the years 1948-1998. Also included in the collection are three single-panel poster and one large three-panel poster created for the club's fiftieth anniversary celebration in 1998.

Scrapbook 1, 1948-1958, contains the constitutions of the Junior Irving Garden Club and the Irving Woman's Club, a letter summarizing the club's first year's activities, and letters from the various committee heads to the club president detailing their activities. These items have been encapsulated for preservation purposes. During the early 1950s, summaries of the club's meeting were handwritten on the pages of the scrapbook. Many of the pages in this scrapbook are fragile and have been worn away along the edges. In order to aid in preserving the scrapbook, a photocopy of the entire scrapbook has been made. The pages of the original have been interleaved with acid-free paper.

Scrapbook 2 is dedicated to the opening of the Irving Youth Center in December 1954. The scrapbook contains correspondence of best wishes and congratulations from many local, state, and national politicians such as President Dwight Eisenhower, Texas Governor Allen Shivers, U.S. Representative Sam Rayburn, and Senator Lyndon Johnson. Also included is a script from the CBS radio program "Alan Jackson and the News," in which Mr. Jackson talks about the opening of the Irving Youth Center.

Scrapbook 3 is made up of photographs from three events held between 1948 and 1955. These events are an outdoor meeting, the "womanless wedding" production, and a flower exhibition.

The remainder of the scrapbooks record the yearly activities of the club.

In addition to a scrapbook, Box 16 also contains a guest book from 1997. Two pages of the book have been used. Box 6A also contains a guest book from an event in 1981 and several events in 1994.

The minutes of the club's meetings are contained in seven small three-ring binders. The binders contain the general meeting minutes, board meeting minutes, and meeting attendance rolls from 1948-1996.

Provenance Statement

The Irving Woman's Club Records were donated to the Irving Archives in five accessions: accession number 9798-18, scrapbooks, was donated on November 5, 1997; accession number 9899-23, also scrapbooks, on December 17, 1998; accession number 9900-134, a single scrapbook, on July 30, 2000; accession number 0203-22, minute books, on October 15, 2002; and accession number 0506-177, scrapbooks, on June 13, 2006. Prior to their donation, the records were in the possession of Irving Woman's Club members.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Irving Woman's Club Records must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Series I. Scrapbooks

Box

- 1 Scrapbook, 1948-1958
- 2 Scrapbook, December 1954
- 3 Scrapbook, 1948-1955
- 4 Scrapbook, 1958-1965
- 5 Scrapbook, 1965-1967
- 6 Scrapbooks, 1967-1973 and 1973-1975
- 6A Scrapbook, 1975-1979 and Guest Book
- 7 Scrapbooks, 1979-1981 and 1981-1982
- 8 Scrapbook, 1982-1984
- 9 Scrapbook, 1984-1985 and 1985-1987
- 10 Scrapbook, 1988-1989 and 1989-1990
- 10A Scrapbooks, 1990-1991 and 1991-1992
- 11 Scrapbook, 1992-1993
- 12 Scrapbook, 1993-1994
- 13 Scrapbook, 1994-1995

- 14 Scrapbook, 1995-1996
- 15 Scrapbook, 1996-1997
- 16 Scrapbook, 1997-1998
Guest Book, 1997

Series II. Minute Books

Box

17 Contains seven minute books:

- Book 1, Minutes - 1948-1958
- Book 2, Minutes - 1958-1966
- Book 3, Minutes - 1966-1973
- Book 4, Minutes - 1973-1977
- Book 5, Minutes - 1977-1985
- Book 6, Minutes - 1985-1994
- Book 7, Minutes - 1994-1996

Oversize Shelf

A large three-panel poster and three single-panel posters commemorating the Irving Woman's Club fiftieth anniversary.