
Guide to the

ARTHUR AND SISSY CASEY COLLECTION

1920s-1970s

1.5 linear ft

Accession Numbers: 9900-57; 0001-186; 0102-140; 0102-207; 0102-246; 0102-282

Collection 41

**Prepared by
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CITATION: Arthur and Sissy Casey Collection, Collection 41, Box number, Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library, Irving, Texas.

Biographical Sketch

Lucille “Sissy” Dorety was born January 7, 1920, in Irving, Texas. Her grandmother’s family had been members of the La Reunion settlement, which was a French utopian colony begun during the 1850s just south of today’s Irving area. The colony was short lived, and many of the settling families moved into the area that would eventually become Irving.

Her family’s land in this area was bounded by today’s Britain Rd., Union Bower Road, English Street, and Pioneer Drive. Sissy Dorety was born on this homestead. She attended the Irving school, graduating from Irving High School in 1937. She then enrolled at Texas Woman’s University and graduated with a degree in education. In 1944, Sissy Dorety married Arthur Casey, a classmate from her school days in Irving. The couple had one son who was born in 1947. Sissy Casey taught in several places around the state of Texas before the couple returned to Irving in 1953, where she began a career teaching at Irving High School.

In 1958, Sissy Casey and Bettye Strickland formed a girls’ drill team at Irving High School known as the Toy Tigers. In addition to her teaching duties, Mrs. Casey was sponsor of the drill team for 15 years. Sissy Casey retired from teaching in 1980.

Arthur Casey was born in 1920. He spent his early school years attending Hurst-Eules, Denton, and Dallas schools. He came to Irving in 1931 when he was 11 years old. His family lived on a 10-acre plot near today’s Nimitz High School in south Irving. Arthur graduated from Irving High School in 1939 and received a football scholarship to Paris Junior College. He then transferred to North Texas Teachers College (today the University of North Texas). Before the next football season, WWII began, and he joined the navy. Mr. Casey trained to be a Marine fighter pilot. After training, he was stationed in the South

Pacific at Bouganville with Marine Air Corps Group 24, which flew missions with the U. S. Navy's Black Sheep Squadron. He flew a F4U Corsair fighter in 180 combat missions and received 13 air medals and 3 distinguished flying crosses.

In 1944, he married Sissy Dorety, a classmate from his days in the Irving schools. After the war, he graduated from East Texas State University with a teaching degree. Mr. Casey was a teacher and coach at several different stops in Texas before returning to Irving in 1953. After a number of years coaching and teaching, he became principal at J. O. Schulze Elementary School. During his career, he was also principal at Plymouth Park Elementary (M. C. Lively Elementary today), and Bowie Junior High School. Upon its opening in 1964, Mr. Casey served as the first principal of MacArthur High School. After several years at MacArthur, he became an assistant superintendent of the school district. He remained in that position for 13 years until he retired.

Sources: Sissy Casey, interviewed by Yolanda Romero, June 27, 2002, tape #116, and transcript, Oral History Collection, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Arthur Casey, interviewed by Yolanda Romero, June 27, 2002, tape #117, and transcript, Oral History Collection, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Scope and Content Note

The Arthur and Sissy Casey Collection is housed in one legal-size manuscript box, three flat boxes, one newspaper box, one textile box, and the yearbook bookcase. The collection is arranged in two series: School Material and Casey Family Material.

Series I consists of material produced by the Irving school system and collected by the Caseys during their teaching careers in the Irving Independent School District. Included in the series is an extensive collection of material relating to the Irving High School drill team, the Toy Tigers. Mrs. Casey re-instituted the drill team in the fall of 1958. Previously, there had been a drill team known as the Tigerettes. Mrs. Casey was director of the Toy Tigers for 15 years. Among the material is a series of photographs of the Toy Tigers at pep rallies, games, and practices. Also featured are photos of drill team leaders from the mid-and-late-1960s and team photos from the mid-and-late 1960s. The photos span the years from about 1963 to 1970. There are a few color photos, but most are black and white. While most of the photos are 5 in. by 7 in., they do range in size; they have been separated and housed by size. There are two large drill team photos mounted on paperboard backing that have been placed in box 2 with the drill team uniforms. Also included in the series are class photos from Plymouth Park Elementary (today M. C. Lively Elementary), 1961-62, and J. O. Schulze, 1958-59 and 1959-60. These are schools at which Mr. Casey was principal.

Series I also consists of parts of several different styles of Toy Tiger uniforms from over the years and a drill team scrapbook, which spans the years 1958-1966. The scrapbook contains team rosters written directly on the scrapbook pages and photos of the team performing. The pages of the scrapbook are brittle and have been removed from their binding and interleaved with acid-free paper. A photocopy of the scrapbook has also been made for preservation purposes. This series also contains yearbooks from Irving High School, 1958, 1969, and 1970, and from MacArthur High School, 1965-1970.

Series II is made up of material relating to the Casey family. Included in this series is an Irving High School letter sweater won by Arthur Casey during his time at the school during the late 1930s and a pioneer-style dress and sunbonnet designed as part of Irving's celebration of its 50th year of incorporation in 1964. Also included are a number of Casey family photos. These are primarily of Arthur Casey in the military during WWII, but there are a few of the Casey family. The jacket and pants from Arthur Casey's Marine pilot dress uniform are also part of this series.

Provenance Statement

The Arthur and Sissy Casey Collection was donated to the Irving Archives by Arthur and Sissy Casey in six accessions from November 1998 through August 2002. Prior to its donation to the Irving Archives, the material in the Arthur and Sissy Casey Collection was in the Caseys' possession.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the Arthur and Sissy Casey Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Note to Researcher

See also: The Elise Walker Collection (Collection 40) for more information and photographs on the Toy Tiger drill team from the early to mid-1960s. Mrs. Walker was a teacher in the Irving school system from the 1930s to the 1970s, and her collection contains additional material on teaching in the Irving system during these years.

See also: The Irving Archives Oral History Collection contains interviews with the Caseys on tape and transcribed. The interviews were done in August 2002.

Container List

Series I School Material

Box 1

Drill Team Scrapbook, 1959-1966

Consists of newspaper articles, photos, rosters, and other mementos relating to the Irving High School drill team, the Toy Tigers. The scrapbook spans from the fall of 1959 through the spring of 1966. The pages of the scrapbook are brittle, so they have been removed from their bindings and interleaved with acid-free paper. A photocopy of the scrapbook has been made for preservation purposes.

Included in the box are guest books created from construction paper and held together with ribbon. Each booklet represents one year from 1958 to 1966. The booklets were used at a reunion or homecoming event for members of the Toy Tigers from each of those years to sign in.

The box also contains a guest book from a homecoming tea held for Toy Tiger alumnae from the 1962-1963 team. The year the tea was held is not evident.

Box 2

Toy Tiger Uniforms, 1960s

Contains pieces of several different styles of Toy Tiger uniforms. Included are white and gold cuffs and bibs, one gold skirt, two black-and-white skirts, black sequined belts, a yellow satin jacket, and cuff links.

Oversize Material

Also included in Box 2 is the oversize material from this collection: a 23½ in. by 20 in. black-and-white photo mounted on a paperboard backing of the Toy Tiger drill team posing for the team photo, c. early-1960s; a 13½ in. by 11 in. black-and-white photo mounted on paperboard backing of the Toy Tiger drill team posing for the team photo, 1966; a 17 in. by 15½ in. printed picture of the Texas state capitol at the dedication of the fireman's monument on the capitol grounds, July 7, 1896; an 18 in. by 14½ in., printed picture of a crowd gathered around the goddess of liberty statue before it was placed atop the Texas state capitol, Feb. 26, 1888; and a map of Texas from the Texas General Land Office depicting acreage in Texas by county, 1986.

Box 3

Folder

1 Photographs - Class Photos, Plymouth Park Elementary, Grades 1-3, 1961-62

Photo Identification Number 41-01

Contains color class photos of grades 1-3 at Plymouth Park Elementary School (now M. C. Lively Elementary) for the 1961-62 school year. Also in the file is a group faculty photo and a photo of the safety patrol. Arthur Casey was the principal of the school at the time and is in the photos.

2 Photographs - Class Photos, Plymouth Park Elementary, Grades 4-6, 1961-62

Photo Identification Number 41-01

Contains color class photo of grades 4-6 at Plymouth Park Elementary School (now M. C. Lively Elementary) for the school year 1961-62. Arthur Casey was the principal of the school at that time and is in the photos.

3-4 Photographs - Class Photos, J. O. Schulze Elementary, Grades 1-6, c. late 1950s

Photo Identification Number 41-02

Contains black-and-white class photos of grades 1-6 at J. O. Schulze Elementary School. A few of the photos in this series are dated 1958-59, and one is dated 1959-60. The rest are not dated, but appear to date from the same time. The photos in this file have the grade level and the teachers' name on back. Some have a list of the student's names on back. These lists were used to keep track of who ordered and paid for one of the class photos.

5-6 Photographs - Class Photos, J. O. Schulze Elementary, Grades 1-6, c. late 1950s

Photo Identification Number 41-02

Contains black-and-white class photos of grades 1-6 at J. O. Schulze Elementary School. These photos do not have the grade level written on the back. A few have the teacher's name on back, and some have a list of the students who purchased a class photo on back.

Photo Identification Number for drill team photos is 41-03

7 Photographs - Toy Tigers, mid-to-late 1960s
Contains photos of the Irving High School drill team, the Toy Tigers. Included are the individual leader photos from the 1964 team.

8 Photographs - Toy Tigers, mid-1960s
Contains photos of the Toy Tiger officers with Sissy Casey, and of the drill team performing at a pep rally.

9 Photographs - Toy Tigers, mid-1960s
Contains photos of the Toy Tigers performing at a pep rally.

10 Photographs - Toy Tigers, mid-1960s
Contains photos of the Toy Tigers performing at a pep rally and at a game.

11 Photographs - Toy Tigers, mid-1960s
Contains photos of the drill team practicing.

12 Photographs - Toy Tigers, mid-1960s
Contains photos of the drill team practicing.

13 Photographs - Toy Tigers, mid-to-late 1960s
Contains photos of drill team leaders and officers from the mid- and late 1960s.

14 Photographs - Toy Tigers, late-1960s-1970
Contains photos of drill team leaders from the late 1960s.

15 Photographs - Toy Tigers, early 1960s-1970
Contains group photos of drill team and drill team leaders from 1963 through 1970. Also contains photos of the drill team performing at the Cotton Bowl game in 1971.

16 Photographs - Toy Tigers and Sissy Casey, 1950s-1960s
Contains photos of drill team sponsor Sissy Casey at various events with members of the drill team and photos of Sissy Casey teaching in the classroom.

Yearbook Bookcase

Lair - Irving High School Annual, 1958, 1969, 1970

Crest – MacArthur High School Annual, 1965-70

Series II Casey Family Material

Box 3

Folder

17 Photographs - Casey Family Photos, 1920s-1960s

Photo Identification Number 40-04

Contains photos of Arthur Casey while he was overseas during WWII and one as principle of MacArthur High School; Arthur and his brother as boys; the Irving volunteer fire department, c. 1950; and Arthur and Sissy Casey and their son Skip Casey, c. 1947; newly built MacArthur high school. There are also two photos, which are in digital form only: one of these is Dorety Brothers service station on Irving Blvd.; and the second is a cropped-out section of the volunteer fire department photo.

18 Printed Material, c. 1970s

Contains an architect's rendering of MacArthur High School; a booklet "The Hippy's Handbook, 1967;" a high school student's bill of rights; newspaper clipping about students with long hair at Irving High School; a Junior Achievement stock certificate; and a series of sketches by Pete Fernandez of historical buildings around Irving. The sketches were done for the U. S. Bicentennial. See the description of oversize material in Box 2 for description of oversize printed pictures of the Texas state capitol grounds, 1888 and 1896.

Box 4

Pioneer Day Dress, 1964

Contains a pioneer style dress and sunbonnet created by Sissy Casey's mother for Pioneer Days in 1964 during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Irving's incorporation.

Box 5

Letter Sweater, 1937

Contains the letter sweater won by Arthur Casey when he attended Irving High School. It is a V-neck, black sweater. A black letter "I" with gold trim around it is on the front of the sweater. The box also contains a red T-shirt with black printing on the front. The T-shirt was created for the 20th anniversary of Railroad Maintenance Construction, Inc., of Irving, Texas.

Box 6

Marine Uniform, c. 1944

Contains a WWII era U. S. Marine Corps pilot dress uniform. The box contains a dress blue tunic and a pair of light blue dress pants.