
Guide to the

MARTHA JO LUCAS WATSON COLLECTION 1936-1986

1 linear ft.

Accession Numbers: 0102-143 and 0708-04

Collection Number: 56

**Prepared by Kevin Kendro
April 2008**

**CITATION: The Martha Jo Lucas Watson Collection, Collection 56, Box number,
Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.**

Biographical Sketch

Martha Jo Lucas Watson was born in Irving, Texas, to Hazel and Charles Lucas on December 13, 1930. Charles worked at Texas Pipeline Company in west Dallas. The couple had two other children, Charles and Geraldine. During the 1940s, Hazel Lucas worked at the Tiger's Den, a snack shop across the street from the Irving school grounds. She purchased the Tiger's Den and owned and operated it until 1948, when Charles was transferred to Wichita Falls, Texas.

Martha attended the Irving schools during the 1930s and 1940s. She graduated from Irving Elementary School in 1944 and from Irving High School in 1948. While in high school, she was editor of the student newspaper, the Tiger Rag, was club chairman of the Y-Teens, and president of the Future Homemakers of America. She was also a member of the Tigerette drill team and the school flag guard. She was elected to the student council in 1947 and 1948 and was selected the Football Sweetheart in 1947.

In 1948, Martha Jo Lucas married Mickey Watson. The couple made their home and raised their three children in Irving. Mrs. Watson has been active in local social organizations throughout her adult life. She has also served as a member and president of the board of the Irving Public Library and as a member of the DART board.

Sources:

The Martha Jo Lucas Watson Collection.

Martha Jo Watson, interviewed by Yolanda Romero, June 21, 2006, tape #282, Oral History Collection, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Conversations with Martha Jo Watson.

Series Description

Series I. School Documents, 1936-1948. .5 linear ft.

Material includes Irving High School yearbooks, 1945-1948; photographs; diplomas; scrapbook; and class reunion material, 1987.

Series II. Clubs and Organizations, 1950s-1960s. .25 linear ft.

Material includes garden club yearbooks, a Jaycee-ette yearbook, and a Future Homemakers of America yearbook.

Series III. Topical Events, 1940s-1980s. .25 linear ft.

Material includes newspaper and magazine issues and newspaper articles pertaining to national historic events during the 1960s and 1970s.

Scope and Content

The Martha Jo Lucas Watson Collection is arranged in three series and contained in three flat boxes, one manuscript box, and space in the yearbook bookcase.

This collection of material reflects Mrs. Watson's interests and activities throughout her life. The bulk of the material focuses on her days at Irving High School during the mid-to-late 1940s. It provides insight into the life of a student at the Irving schools during a time when Irving was a small town and the school system consisted of one elementary school and one high school. Another significant portion of the collection is made up of newspaper and magazine coverage of national events such as President John Kennedy's assassination, the first moon landing, and Richard Nixon's resignation as president.

Series I. consists of material related to Martha Watson's school years, primarily her high school years. The series contains a scrapbook she kept during high school which documents school activities, outings, and the 1947 football season. The series also includes the Irving High School yearbook, the Lair, from the years 1945-1948, and twenty issues of the high school student newspaper, Tiger Rag, from 1944-1948. There is also a collection of invitations and programs from events relating to the activities of the senior class of 1948. Of particular note in this series are photos of the Tiger's Den, which was a snack shop that was located on Jefferson Street across from the school grounds.

Series II. is made up primarily of yearbooks and clippings relating to the Junior Rose Garden Club during the mid-1950s and the Gay Gardeners Garden Club, late-1950s.

Series III. consists of newspapers, magazines, and newspaper clippings relating to events in Martha Jo Lucas Watson's life and to events of a larger historic nature from the 1960s and 1970s, such as the assassination of John Kennedy and the first moon landing.

Provenance Statement

The Martha Jo Lucas Watson Collection was donated to the Irving Archives by Martha Jo Lucas Watson in two accessions. Accession number 0102-143 was donated on March 8, 2002, and accession number 0708-04 was donated on October 9, 2007. Prior to its donation

to the Irving Archives, the material was in the possession of the donor.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the Martha Jo Lucas Watson Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Note to Researcher

The Irving Archives Oral History Collection contains a tape-recorded interview (tape #282) with Martha Jo Watson.

Container List

Series I. School Material, 1944-1987

Yearbook Bookcase

Irving High School yearbooks, the *Lair*, 1945, 1946, 1947, and 1948.

Box 1

Scrapbook, 1945-1948

Contains a scrapbook created by Martha Jo Lucas Watson to document events during her years at Irving High School. The bulk of the material dates from 1947 and 1948. Included are photos of family and friends; football programs; newspaper clippings; invitations; crushed flowers; and other items relating to her high school activities. Also included is material on the Rainbow Girl activities. The Rainbow Girls are a Masonic girls' youth group. A folder in the box contains loose items from the scrapbook.

Box 2

Folder

1 Diplomas, 1944 and 1948

Contains Martha Lucas Watson's elementary school diploma, 1944, and her high school diploma, 1948.

2 Programs, Invitations, Misc., 1947-1948

Contains invitations to graduation exercises and baccalaureate services; programs from the senior class play, "The Adorable Imp" and "The Gateway Commencement Pageant;" "My Senior Book," containing information on events of senior year, 1947-48; a senior memory booklet; a list of senior activities, and a senior class roll.

3 High School Photographs, 1947-1951

Contains high school photos of Martha Jo Lucas Watson; a Future Homemakers of America function in the Community Building; pictures of the exterior of The "Tiger's Den" snack shop, 1951; Irving High football team at the line of scrimmage, 1936, and football team picture, 1937.

Photo Identification Numbers:

56-01 Martha Jo Lucas Watson at table in Louann's dinner and dancing club, n.d., (c. 1948), 7 in. x 5 in., black-and-white.

56-02 Irving High School football team, 1937, 4½ in. x 7¾ in., sepia. "Defending Regional Champions 1936" is written along bottom of photo. Players identified by last name only on back.

56-03 Irving High School offensive team posed at line of scrimmage, 1936, 5 in. x 7 in., black-and-white. Players are randomly identified on the back. On back is also stamped: Irving Tigers, 1936, Won District Championship, Won Bi-District Championship and 4th Regional Championship of Class B Teams.

56-04 Future Homemakers of America event at the Community Building. Woman pouring punch, club members looking on, 1947-48, 4 in. x 5 in., black-and-white. Partial identification on back.

56-05 Future Homemakers of America members pose at event, 1947-48, 4 in. x 5 in., black-and-white. Partial identification on back.

56-06 Future Homemakers of America members pose in front of dining tables at club event, 1947-48, 4 in. x 5 in., black-and-white. Partial identification on back.

56-07 Future Homemakers of America members pose in Community Building behind set table, 1947-48, 4 in. x 5 in., black-and-white. Partial identification on back.

56-08 Portrait of Martha Jo Lucas Watson in a summer dress, n.d., c. 1945, 5 in. x 4 in., black-and-white.

56-09 Martha Jo Lucas Watson's high school senior portrait, 1947-48, 4¾ in. x 3½ in., black-and-white.

56-10 Portrait of Martha Jo Lucas Watson, 1947, 2¼ in. x 2½, black-and-white.

56-11 Tiger's Den snack shop front view, 1951, 3½ in. x 3½ in., black-and-white.

56-12 Tiger's Den snack shop oblique angle with sign on pole visible, 1951, 3½ in. x 3½ in., black-and-white.

4 Class Reunion, 1987

Contains pictures copied from the 1948 Irving High School yearbook that have been laminated on black backgrounds for showing at the thirty-ninth reunion of the class of 1948.

5 Class Reunion, 1987

Contains small black-and-white portraits of class members and their spouses mounted on order form sheets. The file also contains a proclamation from Mayor Bob Pierce declaring June 13, 1987, as Irving High School Class of 1948 Day.

6 Class Reunion Photographs, 1987

Photo identification number 56-13:

Contains black-and-white photos (22) of the Irving High School class of 1948 reunion in 1987-- couples dancing, group photos, and the band playing.

Box 3

1 *Tiger Rag* - Irving High School newspaper issues, 1944-1948:

October 18, 1944

November 22, 1944

December 15, 1944

February 16, 1945
April 17, 1945
October 8, 1945
October 31, 1945
November 21, 1945
February 13, 1946
March 1946
October 1946
December 1946
January 1947
February 1947
March 1947
May 1947
October 1947
November 1947
December 1947
April 1948

Series II. Clubs and Organizations, 1950s-1960s

Box 2 (continued)

Folder

7 Garden Club Notebook, 1952-1958

Contains the by-laws and constitution of the Junior Rose Garden Club and the club's yearbooks, 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58. Also included are the yearbooks from the Gay Gardeners Club, 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55; and an agenda from a Junior Rose Garden Club flower show, 1956.

8 Club Newspaper Clippings, 1950s-1960s

Contains newspaper clippings regarding Martha Jo Watson and the Junior Rose Garden Club and the Jaycee-ettes. Martha Watson was an officer in these organizations.

9 Club Publications, 1947 and 1956

Contains a Jaycee-ette yearbook, 1956; and a program from the officer installation of the Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star, 1956-57.

10 Personal Mementos, 1948-1973

Contains two Irving High School football season tickets for the 1948 season; an invitation to the dedication of DFW Airport, 1973; and a child's Mother's Day card.

Series III. Topical Events, 1960s-1980s - newspaper and magazine coverage

Box 3

Contains the following books and magazines related to the assassination of John F. Kennedy: The Torch is Passed . . . (book put together by the Associated Press about the assassination of President Kennedy and the days after the event).

My Weekly Reader - special memorial section about John F. Kennedy, December 1963.

Parade magazine - portrait of Lyndon Johnson, Jan. 5, 1964.
Look magazine - Jacqueline Kennedy on cover, Jan. 28, 1964.
Look magazine - JFK memorial issue, November 17, 1964.
Look magazine - Kennedy and his family in pictures
Life magazine - John F. Kennedy Memorial Edition, 1963 (2 copies).
Life magazine - The Kennedys' Special Edition, 1968.
Post magazine - John F. Kennedy in Memoriam, Dec. 14, 1963.
John F. Kennedy Memorial Album, 1964.
Dallas Morning News, Nov. 22, Twenty Years Later, November 20, 1963.

Also included in the box are:

tv Channels magazine - Walter Cronkite on the cover of the Bicentennial issue, July 4, 1976,
and a
"Sesquicentennial Year Celebration" calendar, 1986.

Box 4

Contains issues of Dallas area newspapers relating to the assassination of John F. Kennedy:
Irving Daily News Texan, Nov. 22, 23, 24, 1963.
The Dallas Morning News, Nov. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 1963.

Also included are:

The Shorthorn, Jan. 17, 1945, (North Texas Agricultural College newspaper (today University of Texas at Arlington)).
The Irving Herald, Aug. 3, 1948, (Lucas/Watson wedding announcement).
The Irving Herald, Aug. 10, 1948, (Martha Jo Lucas marries Mickey Watson).
Irving News-Record, Oct. 24, 1947, (Martha Jo Lucas crowned Football Sweetheart).
Irving News-Record, Dec. 19, 1947, (Tigers Win Regional 4-A Championship).
Irving Daily News, Jan. 26, 1969, (ground broken on Texas Stadium).
Irving Daily News, July 8, 1974.
Irving Daily News, July 4, 1976, (U. S. Bicentennial celebration).
The Dallas Morning News, July 21, 1969, (first moon landing).
The Dallas Morning News, Aug. 9, 1974, (President Nixon resigns).
The Dallas Morning News, July 4, 1976, (U. S. Bicentennial issue).
The Dallas Times Herald, Aug. 8 and 9, 1974, (President Nixon resigns).
The Journal, Oct. 6, 1986, (article on Watson home remodeling).