A Guide to the

IRVING BANK & TRUST CO. PHOTO COLLECTION

1946-early 1970s

5 linear inches

Collection Number: 0001-36

Prepared by
Kevin Kendro
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CITATION: Irving Bank & Trust Co. Photo Collection, Box 1, Folder number, Irving Archives, Irving Public Library

Historical Sketch

Irving Bank & Trust Co. began as Merchants and Planters Bank in Irving, Texas, in 1906. Judge George W. Riddle was the owner and founder. Mark Wheeler served as the cashier and bank officer. Chaney and Fletcher Miller, two local merchants, took over management of the bank in 1907. They chartered the bank as Irving State Bank in 1908.

In 1911, the Miller brothers built a brick building on the northwest corner of Main Street and First Street (Irving Blvd.) and moved the bank into it. This building remained the bank’s home until 1947.

During the 1920s, Dr. D. W. Gilbert replaced Judge Riddle as president. Gilbert served as president to 1930, when his son, Dr. F. M. Gilbert, became president, a position he held until 1954. In 1929, John Brandenburg joined the bank, and he and A. P. Mauk served as the bank’s staff. Brandenburg stayed with the bank until his retirement in 1975.

As the city began a rapid population growth after WWII, the bank out-grew its forty-five-year-old building. In 1947, a new Irving State Bank building opened on the east side of Main Street across the street from the original building. A motor bank opened in 1954. By 1955, due to the city’s swelling population, the bank directors found it necessary to make a large addition to the eight-year-old building to accommodate its growing business.

In 1952, R. N. Pittman joined the bank as cashier and Phillip Reid was hired as the bank’s president in 1954. These two men, along with John Brandenburg, guided the bank through years of strong growth during the middle decades of the twentieth century. All three men retired on the same day in 1975.

Irving State Bank became Irving Bank & Trust Co. in 1962. In 1967, a ten-story bank and
office tower was adjoined to the 1947 building. In the late 1970s, the bank was purchased by Texas Commerce Bank. Chase Bank later bought Texas Commerce Bank. Chase tore down the ten-story bank and office building in 1999.

**Biographical Sketches**
(from Collection 48: The Phillip Reid Collection)

Phillip Reid began his career in banking as a file clerk at the Citizens National Bank of Cameron in Cameron, Texas. He spent 13 years there during the 1920s and 1930s learning the banking business. In 1936, he left the bank and joined the U. S. Treasury Department for a few years and then spent 14 years as director of the National City Bank of Dallas. In 1954, he was hired as president of Irving State Bank (later Irving Bank & Trust Co). He was later appointed to the board of directors of the bank. Reid remained at the bank until his retirement in 1975.

R. N. Pittman graduated from Dublin High School in Dublin, Texas, and then attended Tarleton State College in Stephenville, Texas. He began his banking career at the First State Bank of Stephenville in 1924. He worked there until 1931. Pittman served as mayor of Stephenville from 1948-1952. In 1952, he joined Irving State Bank (later Irving Bank & Trust Co.) in Irving, Texas, as cashier. He served as senior vice president and later was named executive vice president of the bank. He was named to the bank’s board of directors in 1954. Pittman retired from Irving Bank & Trust Co. in 1975.

John J. Brandenburg attended Oak Cliff High School in Dallas, Texas. His father worked at First State Bank of Cedar Hill, Texas, and this is where Brandenburg received his early training in banking. He attended SMU and the University of Texas before coming to Irving in 1929 to work at Irving State Bank. At that time, the bank’s staff consisted of Brandenburg and one other employee. Irving State Bank later became Irving Bank & Trust Co. Through the years, as the bank grew, Brandenburg worked his way up the ranks to become executive vice president. Later he was named vice-chairman of the board. Brandenburg worked at the bank for 46 years until his retirement in 1975.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Irving Bank & Trust Co. Photo Collection is arranged in three series and housed in one legal-size manuscript box.

Series I, and the overwhelming majority of the collection, consists of photographs relating to Irving Bank & Trust Co. Most of the photos are black and white, and very few of them are dated. Although most of the photos are not dated, research indicates that they date primarily from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s (bulk 1955-1969).

A group of photos of employees and the interior of the bank before and after the 1955 expansion can be dated to 1955. A number of these are used in a promotional pamphlet from 1955, thus helping to date them. Another group of photos is of employees, a Christmas party, and employees decorating a Christmas tree. These appear to date from the early to mid-1960s. There are also photos of the ten-story bank building and its grand opening that date from 1967 to the early 1970s.
Also included in the collection is a photo of the bank staff on the day the 1947 building opened and a photo of the 1946 Irving High School band, majorettes, and cheerleaders. The back of the photo says that this was Irving High School’s first band, but further research indicates that students formed an informal band in 1938, and the school organized a formal band program in 1939-40. The dates listed in the photo inventory, when not exact, are the best estimates that could be determined.

The photos have been digitized.

Series II. is made up of newspaper clippings about the bank and newspaper advertisements for the bank from the mid-1950s, a pamphlet promoting the bank, 1955, and an invitation to the retirement reception for bank officers Phillip Reid, John Brandenburg, and R. N. Pittman, 1975. The clippings appear to have been in a scrapbook at one time. The newspaper clippings have been photocopied to acid-free paper for preservation purposes.

Series III. consists of two small artifacts: a political campaign ruler and a small tape measure promoting Texas Power & Light.

A Women’s Division of the Chamber of Commerce scrapbook, 1963-64, the year in which the donor of this collection, Lee Wilcox, was president of the group, was removed from this collection and placed with the Chamber of Commerce Women’s Division collection in the Irving Archives.

Provenance Statement

The Irving Bank & Trust Co. Photo Collection, accession 0001-36, was donated to the Irving Archives by Lee Wilcox on November 16, 2000. Lee Wilcox was a long-time bank employee and came into possession of the photos through the course of her work. Prior to that, they were housed at Irving Bank & Trust Co.

Literary Right Statement

Permission to publish from the Irving Bank & Trust Co. Photo Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives, Irving Public Library.

Note to the Researcher

For further information on Irving Bank & Trust Co. see Collection 48: The Phillip Reid Collection. He was president of the bank for 21 years, 1954-1975. Series I. Photographs, 1946-c. 1972

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Series I. Photographs, 1946-1972

Click here to view a selection of photos from the collection.

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160. Irving Bank & Trust safety deposit box room - Phyllis Brunner, back to camera, and Lola Brock, facing camera, c. early 1960s
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175a. Interior of bank lobby with people in line at windows showing addition to the 1947 building, 1955
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addition to the 1947 building, 1955
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Negatives of the photos of the Irving Bank & Trust pavilion at the Jaycee’s Circus, 1965; a
negative of the bank staff behind a sign that says “We gave 1 day’s pay the American Way,”
n.d.; and a color positive of the ten-story bank building, 1970.

Series II. Newspaper Clippings and Publications

Folder 9

Contains newspaper clipping and newspaper advertisements relating to the bank and its
promotions from the mid-1950s. For preservation purposes, the newspaper clippings have
been photocopied onto acid-free paper.

Folder 10

Contains photocopies of the original newspaper clippings and advertisements.

Folder 11

Contains a bank promotional pamphlet, 1955; an invitation to the retirement reception for
Phillip Reid, John Brandenburg, and R. N. Pittman; a sketch of the 1947 bank building and
the 1954 drive-through bank; an Irving Bank (Member Texas Commerce Bancshares, Inc.)
statement of condition, 1975.

Series III. Artifacts

Folder 12

Contains a small ruler used as a handout for an Irving city council campaign for Joe Glover
and a pocket-size tape measure promoting Texas Power & Light, c. mid-1960s.