

McALLEN INTERNATIONAL SPRING FIESTA PROGRAM, 1961
Finding Aid

Compiled by
Phyllis Kinnison

Museum of South Texas History
Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives
Edinburg, Texas

2014



CONTENTS OF INVENTORY

Summary	# 3
Biographical/Historical Note	# 4
Scope and Content Note	# 4

Use of manuscript materials. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please contact the Archivist at 956-383-6911 to make an appointment to visit the Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives (MHMMA) reading room.

Photocopying. Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member. Do not remove items to be photocopied. The existing order and arrangement of unbound materials must be maintained. Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of original held by the Museum of South Texas History), when available.

Publication. Readers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel.

Permission to examine archival materials does not constitute permission to publish or display. Any publication or display of such materials beyond the limits of fair use requires specific prior written permission. An “Authorization to Publish or Display” must be completed and submitted to the Executive Director of the Museum to obtain permission. When permission to publish is granted, two copies of the publication will be requested for the MHMMA.

Proper acknowledgement of MHMMA materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page.

SUMMARY

Size	1 folder
Geographic Locations	McAllen, Texas
Inclusive Dates	1961
Languages	English
Summary	The program for the McAllen International Spring Fiesta in 1961 lists events that took place from February 23 through March 5. It also contains articles giving historical information as well as information about women's clubs. One article describes the city government in 1961. Many old photographs and business advertisements are included.
Access Restrictions	The collection is open for research. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please contact the Archivist at 956-383-6911 to make an appointment to visit the Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives (MHMMA) reading room.
Reproduction Note	Reproductions must be made from surrogates (microfilm, digital scan, photocopy of the original held by the Museum of South Texas History), when available. Only archives staff may photocopy collection documents.
Copyright	Researchers assume full responsibility for compliance with laws regarding copyright, literary property rights, and libel. Permission to examine archival materials does not constitute permission to publish or display. Any publication or display of such materials beyond the limits of fair use requires specific prior written permission. Contact the Archivist at 956-383-6911 for instructions to obtain permission to publish or display.
Related Collections	
Citation	McAllen International Spring Fiesta Program, 1961. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Stack Location(s)	SMC 16, RGDOC 1, B:1

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

McAllen, Texas, was founded around 1909 and incorporated on February 21, 1911. Early businesses included a store established by Manuel Samano, a hotel owned by Luis Gerltz, and another hotel built by William Briggs. A Presbyterian church was the first religious institution started in the city in 1908. The first newspaper was the *McAllen Monitor*, which began publication in 1909.

A growing boom was the result of 12,000 U.S. soldiers being sent to McAllen in July 1916. They were sent to the area to help with what is known locally as the Bandit Wars, which was a result of border troubles with Mexico. The population was 23,000 by 1952 and grew to 33,000 by 1961. The major sources of income in the city were cotton, vegetables, oil and gas, citrus, and tourism.

The original records of the McAllen Chamber of Commerce were lost, so the exact date of origin is unknown. However, it is generally thought that the organization started about 1913. In 1915 the board met weekly when its main activities were getting bridges built across canals and filling pot holes so shoppers could get to McAllen. During the Great Depression the Chamber ceased to operate. It re-organized in 1934 under the presidency of Allen F. Vannov.

The chamber erected its own building in 1918. By 1961 the Chamber had enlarged its building until it was the third largest chamber-owned building in Texas.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The program for the McAllen International Spring Fiesta in 1961 lists events that took place from February 23 through March 5. It also contains articles giving historical information as well as information about women's clubs. One article describes the city government in 1961. Many old photographs and business advertisements are included.