

PAUL T. MOFFITT COLLECTION
Finding Aid

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

2016



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SUMMARY

Size	0.24 cubic feet
Geographic Locations	Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas; McAllen, Texas
Inclusive Dates	1923-1969
Bulk Dates	1942-1966
Languages	English
Summary	Song books, sheet music, placards, newspaper clippings, a program, and correspondence, 1923-1969 (bulk 1942-1966), collected by Paul T. Moffitt, help to document people and events in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.
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.
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Related Collections	Texas Composers Collection, 1836-1968, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.
Citation	Paul T. Moffitt collection. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Display Credit Line	Courtesy of Museum of South Texas History.
Stack Location(s)	RGDOC 112, F:22

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Paul T. Moffitt, a retired banker from McAllen, Texas helped start the McAllen Foreign Trade Zone, Inc. He was married to Marilyn Crawford Moffitt, the granddaughter of John and Lillian Crawford.

Annie Laurie McDonald Trousdale was born in Lufkin, Texas, in 1888 to Rev. William G. and Sarah Ida Armour McDonald. Trousdale attended Texas Presbyterian College, Milford, Texas; the Curry School of Expression, Boston, Massachusetts; the Conservatoire de Musique, Fontainebleau, France; and the Houston Conservatory. She was a nationally-known poet and composer of song. She married Lamar Coke Trousdale (1888-1945), a rice rancher. Trousdale died in 1945 and, along with her husband, is buried in the Garden of Memories in El Campo, Texas.

Louise Murse was a pioneer resident of McAllen, Texas. Her husband was James Walter Murse.

James Nicholas "Nikki" Rowe, a career U.S. Army officer, was born in McAllen, Texas on February 8, 1938 to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Rowe. When he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1960, Rowe joined Special Forces as a lieutenant. He was sent to Vietnam in 1963 and, a few months later, was taken prisoner by Viet Cong forces. He remained a prisoner of war until he was able to escape in 1968. Rowe resigned his commission in 1974 but was recalled to active duty in 1981 as a major. He served as the Assistant Director of Special Forces School and established the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School. In the late 1980s, Colonel Rowe was assigned as Chief, Ground Forces Division with JUSMAAG Philippines. He was assassinated in the Philippines on April 21, 1989. He earned numerous awards and decorations during his military service.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Song books, sheet music, placards, newspaper clippings, a program, and correspondence, 1923-1969 (bulk 1942-1966), collected by Paul T. Moffitt, help to document people and events in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.

The collection was arranged in three series: John and Lillian Crawford materials, Valley Federal Savings and Loan Association placards, and Louise Murse materials. These series are based on order created by the archivist when three donations by Moffitt were combined to make the collection.

The Crawford materials consist of song books and sheet music. Most of the sheet music was composed by Annie Laurie Trousdale, a musician and poet from Houston, Texas. The Murse series contains newspaper clippings about the history of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas; newspaper clippings about the homecoming of Major James N. Rowe to McAllen, Texas after his escape from five years of imprisonment by the Viet Cong; and Christmas cards from Sharyland in Mission, Texas.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

- I. John and Lillian Crawford materials, 1923, 1926-1927, 1942, 1943, undated (2000.110)**
- A. Song books, 1923, 1926-1927, undated**
 - B. Sheet music composed by Annie Laurie Trousdale, 1942, 1943, undated**
- II. Valley Federal Savings and Loan Association placards, 1956, 1960, 1966 (2001.026)**
- III. Louise Murse materials 1927-1929, 1960, 1961, 1969, undated**
- A. James Nicholas “Nikki” Rowe materials, 1969**
 - B. International Spring Fiesta program, 1961**
 - C. Clippings: Lower Rio Grande Valley history – miscellaneous, 1960, 1969, undated**
 - D. Correspondence: Sharyland Christmas cards, 1927-1929**

INDEX TERMS

de Camargo, Diego [- circa 1520]
de Vaca, Cabeza, circa 1490-circa 1559
Gartman, William T., 1889-1981
McAllen, John, 1826-1913
Murse, Louise
Pederson, Harry
Rowe, James Nicholas “Nikki,” 1939-1989
Trousdale, Annie Laurie, 1888-1945

Sharyland (Tex.)
Toluca Ranch (Tex.)

Camp songs.
Composers--Texas.
International Spring Fiesta (Tex.).
Popular music--1940-1949.
Prisoner of war.
Sheet music.
Songs.
United States – History – 1961-1969.
Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
F:22	RGDOC 112	1	Crawford materials: Song books: "Songs of Kiwanis (without music)," 1926-1927
		2	Crawford materials: Song books: "Songs Submitted in Rural Encampment Competition," 1923
		3	Crawford materials: Song books: "Songs Submitted in Rural Encampment Competition," undated
		4	Crawford materials: Music composed by Annie Laurie Trousdale: Trousdale biography, undated
		5	Crawford materials: Music composed by Annie Laurie Trousdale: "Texas Welcomes You," 1943
		6	Crawford materials: Music composed by Annie Laurie Trousdale: "Let's Get Off (from Tripoli)," 1943
		7	Crawford materials: Music composed by Annie Laurie Trousdale: "Everyone to Your Post," 1942
		8	Crawford materials: Music composed by Annie Laurie Trousdale: "Fight for Freedom," 1942
		9	Valley Federal Savings and Loan Association placards, 1956, 1960, 1966
		10	Louise Murse materials: James Nicholas "Nikki" Rowe materials
		11	Louise Murse materials: International Spring Fiesta program, McAllen, Texas, 1961
		12	Louise Murse materials: Clippings – miscellaneous Lower Rio Grande history, 1960, 1969, undated
		13	Louise Murse materials: Correspondence: Sharyland Christmas cards, 1927-1929
L:18	OSDOC 1		Louise Murse materials: Rowe information