

**Edinburg Tourist Club records**  
Finding Aid

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

2013



*Founded in 1967 as the  
Hidalgo County Historical Museum*

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**SUMMARY**

<b>Size</b>	0.26 cubic feet
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Edinburg, Texas
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1941-2001
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1965-1985
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	A collection of photographs and documents outlining the founding and early projects of the Edinburg Tourist Club.
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	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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<b>Related Collections</b>	L. Wallace collection
<b>Citation</b>	The Edinburg Tourist Club records, Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	E:1, Q:7, L:18

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Before its founding in 1941, several Edinburg tourists who traveled annually to the Lower Rio Grande Valley for the winter season would meet at the house of Louise Beverly several nights out of the week for a night of music and mingling. As the group that met at Beverly's home began to grow, she saw a need to find a more appropriate sized meeting place for the tourists. Resultantly, she proposed to the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce that their Community House be used for the tourists to meet a couple of nights a week. Her proposal was approved and the first meeting of the yet unnamed Edinburg Tourist Club began. The first meeting drew a large crowd which grew with each passing meeting. As the club grew, the Commerce Hall began to require a charge for the space and extra work for the janitor. This led to the election of a president to manage such affairs and ultimately the formation of the Edinburg Tourist Club as a formal organization. In the early 1970s the membership total was around 300. By 2003 there were only 22 members.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Edinburg Tourist Club was created so that seasonal tourists would have an environment to converse, work on projects (primarily sewing projects), play games, and listen to music. The high volume of winter tourists brought a sizable crowd to the club. This collection contains the by laws of the club, photographs of club projects and events, as well as several historical accounts of the clubs founding.

**LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES**

- I. Notes
- II. Constitution and By Laws
- III. History
- IV. Shuffleboard Tournament
- V. Photograph Album
- VI. Membership booklet

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **I. Notes**

This series includes hand written accounts of the minutes spent during the Edinburg Tourist Club's Meetings.

### **II. Constitution and By-Laws**

Contained here is a typed copy of the Edinburg Tourist Club's constitution and by-laws. The document outlines the organization of the board of directors, member expectations and limitations, as well as fees charged to members and guests.

### **III. History**

In this series, there are several accounts of the history of the Edinburg Tourist Club. Some of the more prominent histories are written by Louise Beverly, the founder of the club, Fred Blackburn, the first club president, Vernon Crouse, and Dulania Chenoweth. The history written by Beverly accounts for the foundation of the club while the others are mainly concerned with club events after its formation.

### **IV. Shuffleboard tournament**

One of the activities hosted by the club was the annual shuffleboard tournament. This series contains the names of the first, second, third, and fourth place winners in both the male and female divisions from 1965 to 2001. Photographs from many of the winners in the late 1990s are also included.

### **V. Photograph album**

Several photos and pamphlets from club events from 1993-1995 were collected and displayed in this photo album. The album primarily contains pictures of birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, and the pamphlets associated with them. Because of the large member base, many anniversary and birthday celebrations were done as a group, celebrating many persons as opposed to just one. The pamphlets list all of the respective celebrants.

### **VI. Membership booklet**

Only one item is contained in this series; a booklet listing all of the members of the club from 1993-1994. The booklet includes the member's names, addresses and phone numbers. It served to be a line of communication between fellow tourists if they were ever to cross paths when not vacationing in the Rio Grande Valley.

**INDEX TERMS**

**People**

Beverly, Louise  
Blackburn, Fred  
Chenoweth, Dulanja  
Crouse, Vernon

**Subjects**

Clubs  
Clubs—Edinburg Tourist Club (Tex.)  
Edinburg Chamber of Commerce (Tex.)  
Edinburg Tourist Club (Tex.)  
Shuffleboard  
Shuffleboard—Tournaments.  
Tourists—Societies and clubs.  
Winter Texans—Lower Rio Grande Valley (Tex.)

**CONTAINER LIST**

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
E:1	RGDOC 547	1	Notes 1964-1965, 1970-1971, undated
		2	Constitution and By-Laws 1972, 1975, 1985, 1993
		3	History 1941, 1958-1980, undated
		4	Shuffleboard tournament 1965-2001, undated
		5	Photograph Album (Folder 1 of 5) 1993-1995, undated
		6	Photograph Album (Folder 2 of 5) 1993-1995, undated
		7	Photograph Album (Folder 3 of 5) 1993, undated
		8	Membership booklet 1993-1994
Q:7	RGPHO 83B	2	Photograph Album (Folder 4 of 5) 1994, undated
L:18	OSDOC 1	3	Photograph Album (Folder 5 of 5) undated