

Gertrude Schaleben collection
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

Size	1.3 cubic feet
Geographic Locations	Mercedes, TX; McAllen, TX; San Antonio, TX
Inclusive Dates	1930-1961
Bulk Dates	1945-1955
Languages	English
Summary	A record of the work done by Mrs. H.O. Schaleben with the Bougainvillea Trail, Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl, and Musical Culture Club.
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	Closner Ramsey collection, RGDOC 129 C:8; Schaleben photograph collection, RGPFO 15
Citation	Gertrude Schaleben collection. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Stack Location(s)	B:4, OVERDOC2 Drawer

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Mrs. Gertrude Ramsland Schaleben was an active community member from the 1930's to the 1960's in Mercedes, Texas. She spent her professional life creating and running the Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl. She was also involved in the creation of the Bougainvillea Trail in Mercedes, Texas and was a supporter of the Musical Culture Club. She was married to Dr. Henry Oliver Schaleben, a general practice doctor, with whom she had two children, Jeannette and Hale Oliver, a lawyer.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection includes documents pertaining to the creation and operation of the Bougainvillea Trail and the Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl. The documents enclosed are those of Gertrude Schaleben who co-created and operated both organizations. The Bougainvillea Trail was a beautification project. It was a trail lined with several different species of the bougainvillea flower. Visitors had the option of purchasing these flowers from the founding organization. This collection contains several letters explaining the trail's acquisition and documents detailing its purpose. The Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl was designed to be a community stage where cultural events would be performed. The property also had a barbeque pit and benches for public use. The Memorial Bowl was modeled after the Red Rocks Amphitheater in Denver, Colorado. Inside this collection there are founding documents for the Memorial Bowl, official organization correspondence, and property blueprints.

Also in this collection is information regarding the performances of the Musical Culture Club, a club for aspiring, young musicians, and the personal documents of Schaleben.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

- I. Bougainvillea Trail
 - a. Clippings
 - b. Correspondence
 - c. Project papers
- II. Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl
 - a. Scrapbook
 - b. Correspondence
 - c. Holiday events
 - d. Financial information
 - e. Organization papers
 - f. Clippings
 - g. Blueprints
- III. Musical Culture Club
 - a. Project papers
 - b. Correspondence
- IV. Personal papers

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. Bougainvillea Trail

The Bougainvillea Trail was a local beautification project that Schaleben helped create. The contents of this series include correspondence between Schaleben and political office holders, potential and current patrons of the trail, and fellow trail workers regarding its development and maintenance. There are also several newspaper clippings with local news pieces having to do with the trail as well as many legal documents detailing the trail's acquisition and purpose.

II. Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl

Compiled in this series are documents pertaining to the Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl. This was a project of Schaleben's that was meant to bring culture, tourism, and a creative environment to Mercedes, Texas. The Memorial Bowl's complete development was outlined in a scrapbook, the contents of which can be found in this series. Additionally, there are several brochures detailing the Memorial Bowl's more popular holiday events such as Las Posadas, a Christmas skit, and the annual Easter Sunday service. There are also many financial documents detailing the expenditures, donations, and transactions made by the Memorial Bowl organization as well as letters to and from potential donors, politicians, and board members explaining projects the Memorial Bowl was planning or information regarding the overall performance of the organization. Many local newspaper clippings describing the Memorial Bowl's projects and services are compiled here as are papers detailing its founding and purpose. Among these papers is the Constitution of the Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl, a paper written by Schaleben explaining its societal benefits, history of creation, and purpose, and a similar paper written about the Red Rocks Amphitheater in Denver, Colorado, after which the Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl was modeled. Additionally, two blueprints of the Memorial Bowl are included.

III. Musical Culture Club

The Musical Culture Club was an organization primarily composed of young, aspiring musicians that Schaleben supported. This series includes letters from Schaleben to potential club supporters encouraging them to help the club's growth and maintenance as well as information regarding the club's activities and performances.

IV. Personal papers

Contained here are the personal documents of Schaleben, specifically a card that accompanied her acquisition of a key to the city of San Antonio, Texas, a service award from the Musical Culture Club, and a legal document outlining the marital history of Macedonio Vela Zamora in which Hale Schaleben is referenced.

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1930-1961

Acc. #1971.019, 1971.027

MHMM Archives

INDEX TERMS

People

Schaleben, Gertrude Ramsland, 1883-1969

Schaleben, Hale Oliver, 1909-1984

Schaleben, Henry Oliver

Schaleben, Jeannette

Zamora, Macedonio Vela

Subjects

Bougainvillea Trail (Tex.)

Las Posadas

McAllen (Tex.)

Mercedes (Tex.)

Musical Culture Club

Red Rocks Amphitheater (Colo.)

San Antonio (Tex.)

Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl (Tex.)

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
B:4	RGDOC 14	1	Bougainvillea Trail: Clippings 1935, 1945, 1947, undated
		2	Bougainvillea Trail: Correspondence 1944-1946
		3	Bougainvillea Trail: Project papers (Folder 1 of 2) 1946-1947, undated
		4	Bougainvillea Trail: Project papers (Folder 2 of 2) 1941, 1944-1945, 1958, undated
		5	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Scrapbook (Folder 1 of 3) 1931, 1945, 1947, 1951, 1954-1957, 1967, undated
		6	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Scrapbook (Folder 2 of 3) 1940-1942, 1946-1947, 1951, 1953-1957, undated
		7	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Scrapbook (Folder 3 of 3) 1948, 1951-1958, undated
		8	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Correspondence (Folder 1 of 2) 1939, 1941, 1945-1946, 1952, 1954-1956, 1958, 1962, undated
		9	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Holiday events 1931, 1941, 1947, 1954-1955, 1958-1959, undated
		10	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 1 of 14) 1954, 1956, 1958-1960, undated
		11	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 2 of 14) 1951-1961
		12	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 3 of 14) 1957-1961
		13	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 4 of 14) 1952-1955, 1957-1961
		14	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 5 of 14) 1959-1961
		15	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 6 of 14) 1956-1959, undated
		16	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 7 of 14) 1947-1949, 1951-1960
		17	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Organization papers (Folder 1 of 2) 1941, 1944-1945, 1947, 1951, 1954-1956, 1960, undated
		18	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Clippings 1939, 1947, 1954-1955, 1957, 1960-1961, undated
		19	Musical Culture Club: Project papers 1930-1931, 1959, 1970, undated
		20	Personal Papers 1930, undated
		21	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Blueprints (Folder 1 of 2) 1953

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B:4	RGDOC 14	22	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 8 of 14) 1955-1957
		23	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 9 of 14) 1944-1945, 1947-1949, 1951-1952, 1954-1956
		24	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Correspondence (Folder 2 of 2) 1952-1955
		25	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Organization papers (Folder 2 of 2) 1939, 1948, 1953, 1955, undated
		26	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 10 to 14) 1932-1941, 1947-1950, 1955-1956, undated
		27	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 11 of 14) 1947-1952, 1955-1956
		28	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 12 of 14) 1954-1957
		29	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 13 of 14) 1947-1950, 1953, 1955-1957, 1961, undated
		30	Musical Culture Club: Correspondence 1952-1953
		31	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Financial information (Folder 14 of 14) 1947-1950
OVERDOC	Drawer 2	1	Sunrise Hill Memorial Bowl: Blueprints (Folder 2 of 2) 1954, undated