

Schmidt Thurber History Collection Finding Aid

Photographs

- 5 X 7 inch reproduction photograph of Mingus Band. Hand-written on the back is the following:
“The Mingus (Thurber Junction) Band, originally the Hunter Band of Thurber. When Thurber shut down, the band reformed in Mingus with the same conductor, Don Rafaele. The Mingus band stand was just the SE of the Mingus Bank Building. The band stand might have been moved from Thurber, or else modeled after Thurber’s, because it was identical to the Thurber band stand. Picture taken in front of Taramino home in Mingus in the early 1920s.
Standing left, conductor Dan Rafaele
Bottom Row, L-R: Tut Hickman, Bill Botts, Alva Simmons, Lawrence Bertino, Delphina Auda, ? , Steffie Walker, ___Leedy, Johnny Franks.
Middle Row, L-R: ? , Frank Lenzini, ? , Ted Botts, Hillis Rigsby, Shy White.
Top Row, L-R: Cicero Harris?, Wee Davis, Earl Ray?, Pete Taramino, Joe Beneventi, ? , Clinton Clowers.
- 4 X 6 inch landscape photograph of smokestack and Smokestack Restaurant from New York Hill across Interstate 20.
- One plastic sleeve holding eight 3 X 5 inch photographs of an ancestral Gordon family cemetery in Virginia.
- One plastic sleeve holding thirteen 3 X 5 inch photographs of an ancestral Gordon family cemetery and home.
- 3 ½ X 4 ½ inch set of three loose photographs of (1) a dining room table set, (2) a mantle, (3) a ceiling. They are of the same number sequence of the photographs in plastic sleeves above.
- Five 2 ½ X 4 ½ inch photographs of oil fields, landscapes, a train, and a train station.
- One Xerox copy of train station photograph from above.

Non-accessionable

Copy of the Huckabee & Associates, Inc. floor plan of the W. K. Gordon Center.

Blue Binder Notebook

A notebook assembled by Mrs. W. K. Gordon, Jr. It is a “tribute” biography of Mr. W. K. Gordon, Sr. containing all but not limited to the following: photographs, newspaper articles, Who’s Who excerpts, copies of patent certificates, copies of telegrams, copies of company letters, and memorials. 56 pages, plus 4 loose papers and 1 loose photograph.

Booklets

Thurber Historical Association: I remember Thurber. . . Do You?

Two copies of this 12 page booklet (marked #18 in pen on the front) detailing the history of Thurber with text and photographs. There is no publishing date listed.

Thurber, Texas: Demise of Thurber Cemetery and Interments.

This is a 36 page booklet containing a short newspaper article by Preston Lerner, a letter on the demise of the cemetery by Leo Bielinski, and an alphabetized list of interments of the cemetery.

No publisher, editor, or dated listed.

Magazines and magazine articles

Fowler, Gene. “Eastland County.” Texas Highways, (December 1993). Magazine in its entirety.

King, Dick. “Rascals’ and Rangers.” True West, (March-April 1975). Magazine in its entirety.

Myers, Cindi. Texas Highways, (May 1995). Two stapled, torn out pages (49-52).

Sorenson, Marry. “A Mine of Information.” Texas Journey, (March-April 2003). One torn out page (13-14).

Loose business papers for “Friends of Thurber”

- Two pages entitled, “Biographies of Participating Humanities Scholars”. Eight biographies listed.
- Three pages entitled, “Thurber School District #84, Erath County, Texas” by Mrs. Everett (Lillie) Gibson.
- One page copy of Texas Sales Tax Resale Certificate for Friends of Thurber, dated 5 December 1988.
- Six page stapled copy of the following documents: Friends of Thurber assumed name certificate, dated 31 August 1988; Thurber Historical Association’s certificate of incorporation, dated 27 February 1969; agreement between Thurber Historical Association and Forest Glen TV Productions, dated 26 August 1988; and Thurber Historical Association’s taxpayer’s number.
- Notebook leaf, handwritten, “Friends of Thurber assumed name filed 31 Aug 1988, vol. 253, p. 66.”
- Inspection notice check stub. Checking account of Friends of Thurber and Ruby Schmidt.
- One page copy of credits for “Boom Town to Ghost Town” video. Copyright Thurber Historical Association.

- Seven page stapled copy of Preservation Services Fund grant application by Thurber Historical Association, paper clipped to two handwritten notes and Lillie Gibson's Tarleton State University Foundation, Inc. business card.
- One photocopy of the legal agreement between Larry Joe Taylor and the Thurber Historical Association regarding the use of his song in the "Boom Town to Ghost town" video on 17 November 1988. Signed by Larry Joe Taylor and Ruby Schmidt.

Miscellaneous loose papers

- One two-page stapled copy of Robert D. Hunter's last will and testament, May 6, 1903. Printed on Champlin Petroleum Company stationary.
- Two photocopies of an ad out of the Texas Mining and Trade Journal for the Green and Hunter Brick Company.
- One plastic notebook sleeve containing a two page excerpt from the book, Romance of American Petroleum and Gas on William Knox Gordon and a two page business letter from Mr. Gordon to Robert Hunter on Texas and Pacific Coal Company letterhead, dated 21 April 1897.
- One plastic notebook sleeve containing a photocopied handwritten note on Green & Hunter Brick Company letterhead.
- Sixteen photocopied business letters on Texas & Pacific Coal Company letterhead to Col. R. D. Hunter from W. K. Gordon, 9 March 1897 - 18 June 1898.
- One seven-page stapled document containing research on Lawrence Santi, including a genealogical page, oral history outline, and handwritten notes.
- One two-sided document titled "Possibilities" containing a list of donators, descriptions of their donations, and ideas on how to use those objects in an exhibit. Ruby Schmidt's name is written in the top left corner.
- One page document titled "Thurber State Park" containing the concept and operational procedures of a possible state park in Thurber. Leo Bielinski's name is handwritten in the top left corner.
- One commemorative white dinner napkin from the opening of the W. K. Gordon Center on 1 November 2002.
- One four page stapled document titled "History of the Women's Club" with handwritten notes and highlights.
- One cream colored invitation to Mr. and Mrs. W. Albert Schmidt from Jeane Pruitt to attend the Merriman Cemetery Historical Marker dedication on 15 May 1993.
- One yellow photocopy of a fact sheet titled "Thurber, Texas 1889-1938 with notes and an illustration of the smokestack chimney.
- Three loose notepad sheets with notes titled "Museum" listing items needed for Thurber museum in Ruby Schmidt's handwriting.
- One photocopy of fact sheet titled "Thurber's Connection to Ft. Worth".
- Two photocopies of maps of Thurber (one titled "Thurber: The Life and Death of a Texas Town by Mary Jane Gentry" and the other untitled) taped together.
- One copy of the handout with a poem titled "Thurber" by Adam Blum.
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Folders

- File folder labeled “Gordon” containing random copies of letters to and from W. K. Gordon and copies of printed biographies.
- File folder “Beer, Booze, Bootlegging & Bocci Ball in Thurber-Mingus, Leo S. Bielinski: 1981, map” containing materials authored by Leo S. Bielinski and an article about a family member.
- File folder “Correspondence” containing primarily drafts, originals and copies of correspondence, but also a small amount of research material relating to the production of the “Boom Town to Ghost Town” video.
- File folder “Blacks” containing information on African Americans in Thurber authored by Leo S. Bielinski.
- Unnamed file folder containing duplicates of material used in production of the “Boom Town to Ghost Town” video.
- Unnamed file folder containing material used in the production of the “Boom Town to Ghost Town” video including annotated scripts, copies of photographs, copies of source materials, and notes.
- File folder “Humanities” containing photocopies loosely relating to finances, fundraising, and collecting of critical praise for the “Boom Town to Ghost Town” video.
- File folder “Victor Lucadello Memoirs: 5038 29th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140” containing Mr. Lucadello’s memoir and a copy of a thank you letter to him from Ruby Schmidt for it. The memoir’s pages appear to be out of order.
- File folder “Facts on Thurber and those who lived there” primarily containing photocopies, letters, newspaper articles, book excerpts, bibliographies, and research notes on every aspect of Thurber life. Cultures, significant people, religions, jobs, town dynamics, myths, and past times are the main themes of research. Resources include Studdard, Spratt, Santi, Lucadello, Botts, Carter, Gentry, Bielinski and others. Also includes correspondence among Thurber Historical Association members concerning the publishing of *Fire in a Hole*.
- Unnamed file folder containing photocopies of material from Leo Bielinski concerning Mingus history and his notes and papers on his presentation to the State Parks Board to argue for Thurber to become a state park.
- File folder “Chronology” containing a thirteen page detailed timeline of Thurber.
- File folder labeled “Ranger” over “Texas State Genealogical Soc.” containing material on the history of the town of Ranger, Texas. Among the material are the following items: newspaper articles, book excerpts, a photocopy of a photograph of John H. McCleskey and his wife, programs, and a map.
- File folder “Tarleton Contract” containing materials on the following three topics: miner union research, Thurber Historical association administrative papers, and Tarleton State University contract information.
- File folder “Mail Outs” primarily containing copies of letters from various people to the Petroleum Museum Hall of Fame on behalf of the late W.K. Gordon Sr., research on W. K. Gordon Sr., and some research on the “Golden Goddess” in Ft. Worth.
- File folder “*Fire in a Hole* by Weldon B. Hardman” containing a photocopy of the book itself in its entirety plus a couple extra copied pages.
- File folder “Burts” containing various research, genealogy forms, and newspaper clippings on Dr. William Paxton Burts (first mayor of Ft. Worth) and his family.

- File folder “Cabluck” containing various materials on a Mr. Johnny Cabluck and his family including the following: one blue booklet containing Johnny’s recollections of his father’s life as an immigrant; three replicated photographs of shoe repair shops, possibly where Cabluck’s father worked; notes and research on Johnny and his family; and an illustration of the Roosevelt filling station in Ft. Worth where Johnny worked.
- Faux leather imprint folder “Welcome: Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, Texas” with a photograph of center on the front, relabeled “*Were You in Ranger, Boyce House*” containing a photocopy of the book *Were You in Ranger?* by Boyce House in its entirety.
- One unlabeled blue report cover containing a photocopy of *The Back Road to Thurber* by Leo S. Bielinski in its entirety.
- One unlabeled green report cover containing more notes and corrections on script and materials for the “Boom Town to Ghost Town” video. Some duplicates to material in other folders. Also includes on two-sided cardstock program for a commemorative traditional Latin Mass at St. Barbara’s church on 10 June 1995 with photograph of church, list of Fathers at church from 1892-1936, and a description of the traditional Mass.

Genealogical Information

Genealogical notes on the following families with Thurber connections:

- Harold Boyce Hall
- Thomas Marion Thannisch
- Fay Kearby’s (W. K. Gordon, Sr.’s wife)
- Piotr “Pete” Wasieleski

Restaurant Menus

Two early versions of menus from the following restaurants in Thurber:

- The Smokestack Restaurant
- New York Hill Restaurant

Newsletters

- *The Haley Library Newsletter*, Vol. XII, No. 2, Summer 1990.
- *The Compass Rose: Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington*, Vol. VII, No. 2, Fall 1993.
- *The Medallion*, July 1990, pages 3-6 only.

Loose Newspaper Clippings and Photocopies

Ferchill, Cantey. 2003. "Pots". *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, June 14, sec. 6E. Original clipping. Incomplete article.

Historical Edition, *Fort Worth Mail-Telegram*. 1896. "The Thurber Mines", May 14. Four-page photocopy.

Jennings, Diane. 2002. "Ghost Town alive with controversy". *The Dallas Morning News*, June 2, page 45A-46A. Two page photocopy.

Radziwinowicz, Wacek. 1990. "Polish-Americans dish up fellowship, pride at picnic." *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, June 11. Original clipping.

Ranger Times. 2003. "Thurber Historical Association Reunion". June 19, vol. 99 no. 49. Two photocopies.

Reischel, Diane. 1982. "The way it was: He-man comfort to return in 'new' Stockyards Hotel". *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, October 20, page 1 and 3. Original clipping.

The News-Tribune. 1982. "Luxury Hotel Set for Stockyards by New Owners of Thannisch Block". June 4, page 25. Original clipping.

Trejo, Frank. 1981. "Landmark hotel in Stockyards is closed down". *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, August 13, sec. 2B. Original clipping.

Woodson, Peyton D. Unknown date. "Priest fighting extradition to N. Texas". *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Original clipping.