



Guide to

MS 114

Laurence E. Stevens
Papers

Span Dates, 1880s – 1990s
Bulk Dates, 1910 – 1962

4 feet (linear)

Processed by Abbie Weiser
December 12, 2007

Donated by Frances Stevens

Citation: Laurence E. Stevens papers, 1880s – 1980s, MS 114, C.L. Sonnichsen
Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biography or Historical Sketch

Born in Lordsburg, New Mexico on April 6, 1895, Laurence Edwin Stevens (1895 – 1969) moved to El Paso with his family around 1897. Stevens was the son of Charles B. and Emma Stevens and the family resided at 215 W. Yandell Boulevard for many years. A prominent El Paso businessman, Stevens was involved in the family real estate business along with his father and uncle, Horace B. Stevens, and later had farming interests in El Paso's Upper Valley. Laurence Stevens attended school in El Paso and later at Lawrenceville School in New Jersey and at Cornell University. During WWI he served as a captain of infantry. After WWI ended Stevens returned to El Paso and entered into his family's real estate business. In 1921 Laurence Stevens married Frances Smith (1895 – 1979), daughter of Congressman William Robert Smith of Texas. Frances Stevens worked as an administrative assistant and secretary to the first ten presidents of the College of Mines (later Texas Western College and University of Texas at El Paso) until her retirement in 1961. The Stevens also raised two nieces in their home. A noted authority on El Paso, Stevens was a member of the Board of Directors for the El Paso County Historical Society, and both Laurence and Frances Stevens served on various committees for that organization. Stevens also held the post of U.S. jury commissioner of El Paso from 1927 – 1965, served as vice-president of the Pioneer Association of El Paso, and was a member of Phi Delta Theta Alumni Association. The Stevens later lived at 917 McKelligon Drive in El Paso.

Series Description or Arrangement

The Laurence E. Stevens papers are arranged in five series:

I. El Paso history and souvenirs

Series is arranged chronologically by date.

II. Real estate and legal material

Series is arranged chronologically by date.

III. Maps

Series is arranged chronologically by date.

IV. Photographs

Series is arranged chronologically by date.

V. Publications

Series is arranged chronologically by date.

Scope and Content Notes

The Laurence E. Stevens papers date 1880s – 1990s, bulk 1910 – 1962. Types of records include correspondence, clippings, publications and other printed material, field notes, real estate records, souvenirs, memorabilia, and photographs. Arranged in five series (El Paso history and souvenirs, Real estate and legal material, Maps, Photographs, and Publications), these papers primarily document late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century El Paso and Stevens' real estate and business activities.

The El Paso history and souvenirs series contains souvenir books and booklets about El Paso, various memorabilia, clippings, and a transcript of a program sponsored by the El Paso County Historical Society about El Pasoan's recollections of the Mexican Revolution. The Real estate and legal material series includes correspondence, field notes, mineral surveys, affidavits, and other property records connected to Stevens' career in the real estate business. The Maps series consists of maps of El Paso, New Mexico, and sectional aeronautical charts of several southwestern cities. The Photographs series contains several possible Stevens' family photographs and assorted scenes of El Paso. The Publications series includes several publications about New Mexico, El Paso, and Texas and a random clipping of a bear from an unidentified magazine. Also of note are publications regarding the use of hydro-electric power from Elephant Butte and Supreme Court cases between Texas and New Mexico over their shared boundary.

Provenance Statement

Donated by Frances Stevens in 1970.

Restrictions

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Laurence E. Stevens papers, must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Laurence E. Stevens papers, MS 114, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

Some of the Laurence E. Stevens papers are fragile and brittle. Please handle with

care. Photocopying of materials in poor condition might be restricted.

Folder 18 contains an original clipping and is placed at the end of the collection.

Researchers should also see:

Horace B. Stevens papers, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Laurence E. Stevens papers, Pioneer Association membership card file, El Paso County Historical Society.

Container List

Series I. El Paso history and souvenirs

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Souvenir book of El Paso, Texas and Paso del Norte, Mexico	about 1887
1	2	El Paso and Ciudad Juarez (book with scenes of El Paso)	about 1897
Map Drawer W1	1	<i>El Paso Herald</i> supplement, Clipping on El Paso babies, people, and residences	January 4, 1902
1	3	Taft-Diaz Reception Committee ribbon	October 16, 1909
1	4	Program, El Paso School for Girls (on English May Day and Shakespeare; includes card of Jane Rust Burges)	1916
1	5	Commencement invitation, El Paso School for Girls (group photograph moved to photographs series)	about 1916
1	6	Booklet, An Invitation to Cloudcroft, more especially to Cabin Jonimac	about 1910s
Map Drawer W1	1	Poster for election of Congressman W.R. Smith	about 1920s – 1930s
1	7	Ration books with coupons and tokens	about 1943
1	8	Clipping on former El Paso Herald newsboys (copy)	about 1940s – 1950s
Map Drawer W1	1	El Paso Herald-Post, article on street name changes and historic names	July 12, 1957
1	9	Print of International Bridge over the Rio Grande	about 1950s

1	10	Transcript of lecture and discussion at the El Paso County Historical Society by Dr. John H. McNeely, <i>The Impact of the Mexican Revolution on the Two Border Communities</i>	April 26, 1962
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Series II. Real estate and legal material

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	11	Field notes, property surveys, legal material, and other real estate records	about 1915 – 1950s
1	12	Correspondence	1916 – 1959
1	13	Reports	about 1920s, about 1940s
1	14	Possible silica gel holder used for photostat	about 1950s

Series III. Maps

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	15	Map of New Mexico (in book, fragile)	about 1914
1	16	El Paso, Texas maps	about 1936, about 1940s – 1959
Map Drawer W1	1	El Paso, Texas, Study for Off-Street inspection, Santa Fe Bridge	December 26, 1951
1	17	Sectional aeronautical charts for El Paso, Douglas, Phoenix, and Roswell	1963 – 1965

Series IV. Photographs

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
2	1	Possible Stevens family photographs	about 1880s, 1940s
2	2	Group photograph, possibly a party after commencement at El Paso School for Girls (found in Shakespeare program)	about 1916
2	3	Bar scenes, not identified	about 1910s – 1920s
2	4	Scenes from El Paso – Juarez bridge	December 1949

Series V. Publications

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
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2	5	Booklet, <i>The State of New Mexico vs. The State of Texas</i> (Supreme Court case)	about 1911
2	6	<i>El Paso, What It Is and Why</i> , Chamber of Commerce of El Paso	about 1910s – 1920s
2	7	<i>First Presbyterian Recipes</i> (recipe booklet)	about 1910s – 1920s
2	8	Booklet, <i>The State of New Mexico vs. The State of Texas</i> (Supreme Court Case)	October 1926
2	9	<i>The Proposed Development and Use of Elephant Butte Hydro-Electric Power</i>	July 1928
2	10	<i>Proposed Joint Power Development Agreement Between El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and Elephant Butte Irrigation District of New Mexico Covering the Proposed Development and Use of Hydro Electric Power</i>	August 1928
2	11	<i>New Mexico, An Undeveloped Empire</i> , Special Supplement New Mexico Highway Journal	about 1929
2	12	<i>Telephone Directory, El Paso and Vicinity</i>	1935
Map Drawer W1	1	<i>Come to Fort Davis 'The Mile High Town'</i>	about 1930s
2	13	Advertisement for Hotel Limpia, Fort Davis, Texas	about 1930s – 1940s
2	14	<i>Association of Pioneer Women, El Paso, Texas</i> (membership book)	1945
2	15	Planning Progress El Paso City Plan Commission, No. 5, <i>The Chamizal: A Description</i> , John A. Hovel, Jr.	February 18, 1960
2	16	<i>Pioneers</i> (booklet on early El Paso)	1961
2	17	Clipping on bear (publication not identifiable)	about 1980s – 1990s