HISTORY

The Press Club of New Orleans was founded February 14, 1958. Its stated purpose was to “promote the journalism profession and provide opportunities for its members to communicate with each other, and the general public, through exchanges of information and participation in professional development activities.”

A list of Charter Members reads like a “Who’s Who” of the local communications field of that day. All major media are represented along with public relations and advertising practitioners from major companies, corporations and institutions.

The Press Club successfully maintained a clubhouse from 1959 until the early 1970’s. The clubhouse served as a gathering place for the members. It included a bar with food service, meeting room, card room and office.

In The Club’s first year of existence the Annual Journalism Awards Program, to recognize professional achievement among the local media, was established. The program has become an important annual event and has been expanded to include recognition for those members working in the field of public relations.

The Club has consistently organized and sponsored professional development and information programs for its members and other segments of the community. Foremost among these are the Newsmaker Luncheons, Judicial Seminars, Media Spectrum, Silver Scribe and High School Journalism Workshop. The social aspect of bringing members together was never neglected and a pattern of annual and special social events evolved.

On March 4, 1966 a group of Press Club members founded the Gridiron Club as a separate and independent corporation. Its purpose was to produce the annual Gridiron Show and publish the annual “Grit” to spoof elected officials and community leaders. This annual fundraising event provided an important portion of The Press Club’s
operating budget. The Gridiron Club was established as a separate corporation to protect The Press Club from litigious action by persons “roasted” in the annual show. In 1996 The Gridiron Club and The Press Club agreed to formally merge with the former serving as a standing committee of The Press Club.

On October 8, 1998 The Press Club Board of Directors voted unanimously to establish the Archives of Loyola University as the permanent repository of the Club’s records and archival material. The material was formally presented to Loyola at the Club’s Annual Awards Dinner May 15, 1999.

Additional material and artifacts in the collection were presented to the University by past presidents and active members of The Press Club and The Gridiron Club.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Press Club of New Orleans Collection has been arranged in six series: Organization and Membership Documents; Minutes; Professional and Social Activities; Publications; Photographs; and Memorabilia.


The most valuable information is found in the Organization and Membership Documents (Series I) and Board Minutes (Series II).
SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES I  
Documents  
1958 - 1994  

SERIES II  
Minutes  
1957-1966; 1975-1997  
Press Club Board minutes are complete for the period stated above.

SERIES III  
Activities  
1959 - 1998  

SERIES IV  
Publications  
1963 - 1999  
SERIES V

Photographs
1959 - 1994  Box 8
Photographs cover a range of Press Club and Gridiron Activities including: Past Presidents, Clubhouses, Newsmaker Luncheons, Gridiron Show, Social events, Awards Program, Silver Scribe, Club Guests and Miscellaneous.

SERIES VI

Memorabilia
1966 - 1996  Boxes 9 and 10
Collection includes commemorative items from Press Club and Gridiron Club. Items included are: Inscribed Beer Glass, T-Shirt, Mug, Gridiron Show Frying Pan for Producer, Gridiron Pin, Eight Ball, and Gridiron Binder listing members and Gridiron Show participants.
CONTAINER DESCRIPTION

SERIES I  Documents

Box 1  1. Press Club Articles of Incorporation, Charter, Bylaws 1958-1989
2. Gridiron Club Articles of Incorporation, Charter, Merger Agreement, 1966-1996
3. Gridiron Club Bylaws 1966
5. Charter membership list, past president list, board lists 1958 - 1989
7. Annual meeting notices 1986-1999
8. Correspondence, news clippings on theft incident 1979
9. News clippings on officers
11. History Earlier Press Club 1914-1923

SERIES II  Minutes

Box 2  1. Board Minutes 1959-1962
2. Board Minutes 1963-1965
3. Board Minutes 1966
4. Board Minutes 1974-1975
5. Board Minutes 1976
9. Board Minutes 1983

Box 3  1. Board Minutes 1984-1985
2. Board Minutes 1986
3. Board Minutes 1987
4. Board Minutes 1988
5. Board Minutes 1989-1990

SERIES III  Activities

Box 4  1. Judicial Media Seminars 1978, 1979, 1999
5. Silver Scribe 1978-1986
8. Annual Awards Program 1958
9. Annual Awards Program 1959
10. Annual Awards Program 1960
11. Annual Awards Program 1961
12. Annual Awards Program 1962
13. Annual Awards Program 1963
14. Annual Awards Program 1964
15. Annual Awards Program 1966
16. Annual Awards Program 1967
17. Annual Awards Program 1968
18. Annual Awards Program 1970
19. Annual Awards Program 1971
20. Annual Awards Program 1972
22. Annual Awards Program 1975
23. Annual Awards Program 1978
25. Annual Awards Program 1980
27. Annual Awards Program 1982
28. Annual Awards Program 1983
29. Annual Awards Program 1984
30. Annual Awards Program 1985
31. Annual Awards Program 1986
32. Annual Awards Program 1987
33. Annual Awards Program 1988
34. Annual Awards Program 1989
35. Annual Awards Program 1990
36. Annual Awards Program 1991
37. Annual Awards Program 1992
38. Annual Awards Program 1993
39. Annual Awards Program 1994
40. Annual Awards Program 1995
41. Annual Awards Program 1996
42. Annual Awards Program 1997
43. Annual Awards Program 1998
44. Annual Awards Program 1999
45. Annual Awards Program 2000
46. Annual Awards Program 2001

Box 5 1. Social events notices and clippings
2. Hosted social event invitations
3. Gridiron Club certificates & membership cards
4. Gridiron Show 1962
5. Gridiron Show 1963
6. Gridiron Show 1963
7. Gridiron Show 1964
8. Gridiron Show 1965
9. Gridiron Show 1966
10. Gridiron Show 1967
11. Gridiron Show 1968
12. Gridiron Show 1969
14. Gridiron Show 1971
15. Gridiron Show 1972
16. Gridiron Show 1973
17. Gridiron Show 1975
18. Gridiron Show 1976
19. Gridiron Show 1977
20. Gridiron Show 1978
21. Gridiron Show 1979
22. Gridiron Show 1980
23. Gridiron Show 1981
24. Gridiron Show 1982
25. Gridiron Show 1983
26. Gridiron Show 1984
27. Gridiron Show 1986
28. Gridiron Show 1987
29. Gridiron Show 1988
30. Gridiron Show 1991
31. Gridiron Show 1993
32. Gridiron Show 1994
33. Gridiron Show 1995
34. Gridiron Show 1997
35. Gridiron Show 1998
36. Gridiron Show 1999
37. Gridiron Show 2000

SERIES IV  Publications

Box 6  
1. Press Club Newsletter 1974-1977
Box 7  Gridiron Show Newspaper “The Grit” 1963-2000
Large Photograph: Press Club Inaugural Polka Game

SERIES V  Photographs

Box 8  1. Past Presidents
2. Clubhouse Interior
3. Newsmaker Luncheons
4. Gridiron Shows
5. Social Events
6. Annual Journalism Awards Programs
7. Silver Scribe Workshops
8. Working Press TV Show
9. Personalities: members and guests
10. Miscellaneous

SERIES VI  Memorabilia and Souvenirs

Box 9  Mug: Press Club Membership Drive
Jax Beer Glass: Used at Clubhouse c1965
T-Shirt: 36th annual Gridiron Show 1996
Lapel Pin: Gridiron Club Members
Badge for Gridiron Ushers

Box 10  Gridiron Club Binder: Record of members & show participation
Paperweight: Gridiron eight-ball
Plaque: Gridiron Show Producer 1964
Frying Pan Awards: Gridiron Show Producer 1978 & 1979