

THE PRESS CLUB OF NEW ORLEANS ARCHIVES

5.4 Linear Feet

Louise S. & Edgar J. Monroe Library
Loyola University New Orleans
Department of Special Collections and Archives

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.

Material in the collection dates between 1957 and 2001.

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 Box 1

Press Club and Gridiron Club Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; Press Club lists of Charter Members, Presidents and some Boards; Clubhouse Rules; Audited Financial Statements 1961, 1977, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994; Annual Meeting Notices; and Records pertaining to an employee theft incident. Also miscellaneous correspondence and material on members.

SERIES II

Minutes

1957-1966; 1975-1997 Boxes 2 and 3

Press Club Board minutes are complete for the period stated above.

SERIES III

Activities

1959 - 1998 Boxes 4 and 5

Professional and Social Activities arranged by event include: Judicial Media Seminar, Newsmaker Luncheons, Media Spectrum, Silver Scribe, Working Press TV Program, High School Press Institute and Miscellaneous Social Activities. Gridiron Shows from 1962 through 1999 with the exception of 1985, 1989, 1990, 1992 and 1996. Notices, invitations, tickets, programs, news clippings on each event.

SERIES IV

Publications

1963 - 1999 Boxes 6 and 7

Press Club Newsletters published for the membership span the years of 1974 - 1999. "The Grit" published by The Gridiron Club and distributed at the annual Gridiron Show from 1963 through 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
 4. Audited financial statements 1961, 1977, 1987-1994
 5. Charter membership list, past president list, board lists 1958 - 1989
 6. Clubhouse rules, rental agreements, promotion brochures 1957-1987
 7. Annual meeting notices 1986-1999
 8. Correspondence, news clippings on theft incident 1979
 9. News clippings on officers
 10. Miscellaneous correspondence, press releases, brochures 1984-1997
 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
 6. Board Minutes 1977-1978
 7. Board Minutes 1979-1980
 8. Board Minutes 1981-1982
 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
 6. Board Minutes 1991-1992
 7. Board Minutes 1993-1994
 8. Board Minutes 1995-1997

SERIES III Activities

- Box 4
1. Judicial Media Seminars 1978, 1979, 1999
 2. Miscellaneous workshops and seminars 1982-1998

3. Newsmaker Luncheons 1982-1998
4. Media Spectrum 1977-1983
5. Silver Scribe 1978-1986
6. Working Press TV Show 1959-1960
7. High School Press Institute 1979-1994
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
21. Annual Awards Program 1974
22. Annual Awards Program 1975
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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
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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
 2. Press Club Newsletter 1978-1980
 3. Press Club Newsletter 1981-1984
 4. Press Club Newsletter 1985-1993
 5. Press Club Newsletter 1994-1995
 6. Press Club Newsletter 1996-1999

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