

**Collection 00040
The Little Shamrock Club**

**University of St. Thomas
Houston, Texas**

**Processed by
Nancy Vesey**

16 May 2016

Size: 5 inches

Inclusive Dates: 1948 - 1977

Processed by: Nancy Vesey

Historical Note

THE LITTLE SHAMROCK CLUB (IRISH HERITAGE SOCIETY)

The idea for The Little Shamrock Club was discussed in 1947 and by 1948 began to take form as an organization. On January 12, 1950, The Little Shamrock Club became an official organization and officers were elected – Bill Irwin, president and Frank Finnerty, treasurer. Objectives of the club as expressed in the Constitution included:

“to promote the friendship and companionship of all of its members by the promotion of social and cultural activities and to further the general Welfare of the University of St. Thomas.”

Father A.L. McConnell arranged with Glenn McCarthy to host a dinner – what was to become an annual affair – at the Shamrock Hotel for the March 17, 1950, St. Patrick Day celebration. Cost of the dinner was \$6.00. Bishop Christopher Byrne, bishop of the Diocese of Galveston, was the main speaker. Appropriate Irish music and entertainment completed the evening. Eventually dues were part of being a member and any surplus funds would be used for a “Little Shamrock Scholarship,” to be presented to a St. Thomas student, who met the necessary academic requirements.

St. Patrick’s Day – March 17 – occurred during the Lenten season. Because of the observances associated with Lent, in 1951 the Club decided to temporarily discontinue its annual dinner/meeting/celebration. However, as a result of Vatican II, Lenten observances were relaxed. On Sunday, March 16, 1969, the Club gathered in Welder Hall on the campus of the University of St. Thomas. Bill Morris, manager of the University cafeteria, did not wish to be outdone by the McCarthy’s; therefore, he, too, charged \$6.00 for the entire evening. In 1971, the festivities were moved from the University campus to the River Oaks Country Club.

In 1972, The Little Shamrock Club became the Irish Heritage Society of Texas. On March 11, 1973, the annual dinner meeting was held, honoring Fr. Vincent J. Guinan CSB, as its founder. (Fr. Guinan had died February 25 of that same year.) Proceeds from this event were directed to the Irish Collection in the Doherty Library of the University.

In 1978, the Irish Heritage Society cancelled its annual dinner meeting in order to join The Cara Society of Texas at its second annual dinner. (Cara=friend in Irish)

Scope and Content

The collection of the Heritage Society covers the period from 1972 to 1979. Subjects include:

- Agendas
- Correspondence
- Dinner Proceeds and Expenses
- Dinner Invitations
- History of the Club
- Minutes
- Poems

Acquisition Information

The files were obtained from members of the Little Shamrock Club.

Physical Condition

Most of the files are in good condition. Some of the papers have a small amount of rust on them from the fasteners that were used. Others are somewhat acidic which have turned the papers brown. No conservation work is planned.

INVENTORY

Box Folder

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| 2 | 1 | Agenda, Minutes, Poems, Invitations, 1948- 1950 |
| | 2 | History of the Club and Meetings, 1969 |
| | 3 | Memos, Agendas, Donors, Invitations to Join the Club, 1970 |
| | 4 | Dues, Correspondence, Facts, Dinner Proceeds and Expenses, 1971 |
| | 5 | Correspondence, Annual Dinner, Agenda, Invitations, Receipts
And Expenses, 1972 |
| | 6 | Patterns, Samples, Dinner Invitations, 1973 – 1977 |