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## Guide to MS416 Albert Bettie Papers

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Comments:

1939 – 1990 Span Dates, 1958 – 1969 Bulk Dates

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Guide to  
MS 416  
Albert Bettie papers

1939 – 1990 Span Dates,  
1958 – 1969 Bulk Dates,

2.5 inches (linear)

Processed by Armand J. Avila  
June 28, 2017

Donated by James and Richard Bettie.

Citation: Albert Bettie papers, MS416, 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**

Albert Frank Bettie, an engineer and longtime El Paso resident, was born on August 31, 1909 in Pueblo, Colorado. He attended New Mexico State University where he was one of the first cooperative engineering students at the school. Starting in 1934 he worked for the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), and later became Projects Superintendent and Chief-Operations Section. Before retiring in 1974 after 36 years at the IBWC, he worked on projects such as the International Amistad Dam and Reservoir, Falcon Dam, the Chamizal National Memorial, the Rio Grande Project, and many other projects along the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition to his career at the IBWC, Bettie was active in his church (Immanuel Baptist Church of El Paso) and was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers – Texas Section, the Fort Hancock Texas Masonic Lodge #1202, and the Westside Rotary Club. Bettie also served as president of the El Paso branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers from 1960 – 1961. He passed away on May 8, 2000.

## **Series Description or Arrangement**

The Albert Bettie papers were left in the order they were found in Special Collections. The papers are comprised of one box, organized into five folders. File one holds materials involving the Amistad Dam and Reservoir. File two holds materials involving the U.S.-Mexico border and the Rio Grande Project. File three holds materials involving Falcon Dam. File four holds materials from the El Paso Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Finally, file five holds materials involving the Chamizal National Memorial.

## **Scope and Content Notes**

The Albert Bettie papers date from 1939 – 1990, bulk dates 1958 – 1969. Types of records include maps, programs, brochures, photographs, newspaper clippings, promotional materials, government-issued booklets, correspondence, and film strips. As stated earlier, each folder generally focuses on a different topic or IBWC project. Photographs from the dedications of the Amistad Dam and Chamizal National Memorial both feature United States Presidents Richard M. Nixon and Lyndon B. Johnson, respectively.

## **Provenance Statement**

This collection was donated by James and Richard Bettie, May 2000. The collection

was brought to Special Collections by Raymond Daguerre.

## **Restrictions**

No deed of gift; no rights to this collection.

## **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish material from the Albert Bettie papers must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Albert Bettie papers, MS416, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

## **Notes to the Researcher**

See also:

Joseph Friedkin papers, MS555

International Boundary and Water Commission records, MS042

## Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Program: "Dedication of the International Amistad Dam and Reservoir"	September 8, 1969
1	1	<i>Amistad Recreational Area Fishing Guide &amp; Map</i>	undated
1	1	<i>Amistad Dam and Reservoir Project, Brochure</i>	undated
1	1	Letter of congratulations from President Richard M. Nixon	September 11, 1969
1	1	Booklet: <i>Amistad Dam and Reservoir Project</i>	1966 – 1967
1	1	International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico Press Release: "Mr. L.H. Henderson Retires"	February 27, 1969
1	1	Newspaper clipping: "Party Honors Retiring International Boundary and Water Commission Engineers"	February 28, 1969
1	1	Western Union telegram: L.H. Henderson	March 1, 1969
1	1	Program: "The Eagles at the Amistad Dam"	September 8, 1969
1	1	Newspaper clippings regarding Amistad Dam	1969
1	1	Brochure: <i>Amistad National Recreation Area</i>	1969
1	1	Photographs: The dedication of Amistad Dam, attended by U.S. President Richard M. Nixon and Mexican President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz	September 8, 1969
1	2	Photograph: Albert Bettle at the Presidio - Ojinaga International Bridge Monument	March 24, 1967
1	2	Photograph: El Paso Rio Grande Project O & M Personnel	April 1966
1	2	Photographs: International Boundary	1948

		and Water Commission Float, 1948 El Paso Centennial Parade	
1	2	Photographs: Miscellaneous	undated
1	2	Aniversario del Paso Souvenir Shares Certificate (2 copies)	1973
1	2	Pamphlet: <i>The Surrender of Santa Ana</i> by William H. Huddle	1974
1	2	Joseph Frank Friedkin International Boundary and Water Commission business card, signed and note	undated
1	2	International Boundary and Water Commission employee ID tag	undated
1	2	Photograph: Lowering of the Rio Grande bed at El Paso affected by the Rectification Project	November 1939
1	2	Pamphlet: <i>Welcome to Replica of Fort Quitman</i>	undated
1	2	Certificate of Recognition & Appreciation to Albert Bettle from the International Boundary and Water Commission	December 31, 1969
1	2	<i>Map of the International Boundary, United States and Mexico as established by the Treaties of 1848 and 1853 (3 copies)</i>	undated
1	2	Rio Grande Valley newspaper on Hurricane Beulah	October 20, 1967
1	3	Pamphlet: <i>Addresses by United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Mexican President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines on the Occasion of the Dedication of Falcon Dam</i>	October 19, 1953
1	3	Booklet: <i>Falcon Dam, International Boundary and Water Commission</i>	October 1953
1	4	Booklet: <i>Texas Section, American Society of Civil Engineers: History of the El Paso Branch, 1950 - 1990</i>	1990
1	4	<i>American Society of Civil Engineers Release: Selected Early El Paso History &amp; Civil Engineering Markers</i>	1990
1	4	Booklet: <i>Texas Section, American Society of Civil Engineers: History of</i>	1980

		<i>the El Paso Branch, 1950 - 1980</i>	
1	4	Envelope for Albert Bettel from the American Society of Civil Engineers, El Paso Branch	October 25, 1990
1	5	Brochure: <i>Chamizal National Park and Memorial</i>	1981
1	5	Periodical: <i>Amigos</i> Issue No. 3	November 1967
1	5	Program: "The Inauguration of the President Adolfo López Mateos Channel, attended by United States President Lyndon B. Johnson and Mexican President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz"	December 13, 1968
1	5	Newspaper clippings from the <i>El Paso Times</i> on the dedication of the Chamizal National Memorial by President Lyndon B. Johnson and Mexican President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz	October 1967
1	5	Map of Chamizal Area/Cordova Island, with present boundary, the proposed boundary 1963, and the 1852 previous survey boundary	circa 1963
1	5	Periodical: <i>Amigos Chamizal Special Edition</i> issue, with special ribbon from the dedication ceremony	October 28, 1967
1	5	<i>Hands Across the Border: The Story of Chamizal from the U.S. Department of State</i>	1967
1	5	Photographs: Meeting of the presidents at the Chamizal Memorial in Ciudad Juárez	1967