



Summary Information

Title: Edwin Nelson Collection

Collection Number: 1991:004

Creator: H. Edwin Nelson

Collection Dates: c. 1926-1990s

Extent: 2.5 cubic feet (5 boxes)

Language: English

Collection Abstract:

Edwin Nelson grew up in Diboll, Texas and worked at the Temple-White Company handle factory. His collection consists of clippings, writings, reminiscences, publications, and artifacts that he created, collected, and compiled which document Diboll and Angelina County's history, concentrating on community and industry.

Repository:

The History Center
102 N. Temple
Diboll, TX 75941
936-829-3543
www.thehistorycenteronline.com

Author/Processing Information: Processed by Matt Gorzalski in January 2012.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Hyman Edwin Nelson was born on August 20, 1912 in Nacogdoches, Texas to Fred and Ora Nelson. He is the brother of Kenneth Nelson, who also worked for Southern Pine Lumber Company. His family moved to Diboll after his father took a job as Southern Pine Lumber Company's time keeper. Nelson's father, however, had several jobs over a short period, moving the family to Jacksonville (Texas), Arkansas, and Nacogdoches again, before settling in Diboll permanently in 1923. He graduated from Lufkin High School in 1931. Nelson was connected with Diboll's Believe it or Not Café that reportedly once served outlaws Clyde Barrow and Raymond Hamilton in early 1934. The café was built in 1928 by Edwin's father Frederick Noel Nelson. It was named after the "Ripley's Believe it or Not" newspaper series, and Nelson worked at the café and miniature golf course in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

After graduation Nelson worked for the Southern Pine Lumber Company in sawmill number 2 before working in the company time office. He married Mary Gertrude Smith in 1936. He later took a job at the Temple-White Company handle factory, which manufactured wood handles for brooms, mops, and other tools. Nelson served in the United States Navy during World War II before returning to his job at the handle factory. He lived in Diboll the remainder of his life and died on January 3, 2008.

Collection Scope and Content:

The Edwin Nelson Collection consists of clippings, writings, reminiscences, publications, and artifacts created, collected, and compiled by Edwin Nelson documenting his interest in the history of Diboll and East Texas. The bulk of the collection is writings and reminiscences similar to oral history recollections, in which Nelson writes on numerous topics of his choosing. The topics are mostly concerned with the history and folklore of Diboll, the Southern Pine Lumber Company, the Texas South-Eastern Railroad Company, Temple-White Handle Factory, East Texas logging and lumber industry, logging camps, historic East Texas buildings, the Temple family, influential members of the Diboll community such as T. L. L. Temple and "Professor" Will Jackson, East Texas railroads, and Angelina County. The clippings reflect Nelson's interest in these topics as well. The collection also contains many United States Navy magazines such as *Naval Personnel* and *All Hands* collected during Nelson's service in World War II.

Arrangement: This collection is arranged and described at the collection level.

Subject Terms

Topics

- Company stores -- Texas -- Diboll
- Company stores -- Texas, East
- Logging railroads -- Texas -- Diboll
- Logging railroads -- Texas, East
- Lumber camps -- Texas, East
- Lumber trade -- Texas -- Diboll
- Lumber trade -- Texas, East
- Railroads -- Texas -- Diboll
- World War, 1939-1945

Corporate Names

- Southern Pine Lumber Company
- Temple-White Company, Inc.
- Texas South-Eastern Railroad Company
- United States. Navy.

Personal Names

- Barrow, Clyde, 1909-1934
- Temple, Arthur, 1894-1951
- Temple, Arthur, Jr., 1920-2006
- Temple, H. G. (Henry Gresham), 1885-1948
- Temple, Thomas Lewis Latane, 1859-1935
- Thompson, Clyde
- Walker, Watson, d. 1929

Family Names

- Temple family

Genres

- Clippings (Newspapers, books, etc.)

Locations

- Angelina County (Tex.)
- Angelina County (Tex.)
- Diboll (Tex.)
- Diboll (Tex.) -- History
- Diboll (Tex.) -- Social life and customs

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Acquisition Information: Accession 1985:004 was donated on April 29, 1985 and accession 1987:001 was donated in October of 1987. These donations were combined with accession 1991:004, which was donated on October 28, 1991. The final accession 1999:075 was donated on October 28, 1999.

Custodial History: Edwin Nelson created, compiled, and collected these materials over the course of his life and donated them to The History Center at times in the 1980s and 1990s.

Citation: Edwin Nelson Collection, c. 1926-1990s, 1991:004, The History Center, Diboll, Texas

Separated Material:

The oversize records are stored on the oversize shelves. The panoramic photograph is stored in map cabinet 1 drawer 6.

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Bibliography:

Collection Inventory

Box 1

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|-----------|---|
| Folder 1 | Memories and Reminiscences on Diboll, Sawmills, Baseball, and Angelina County, undated |
| Folder 2 | Reminiscences of Diboll, Temple family, Southern Pine Lumber Company, Texas South-Eastern Railroad, Believe it or Not Café, and W. T. Carter, undated |
| Folder 3 | Reminiscences of the Texas South-Eastern Railroad and Health Remedies, undated |
| Folder 4 | Reminiscences of Diboll Community, Southern Pine Lumber Company, Schools, East Texas, Nelson's Career, undated |
| Folder 5 | Reminiscences on Southern Pine Lumber Company and Diboll Garden Club, undated |
| Folder 6 | Reminiscences on Diboll Community Members and Southern Pine Lumber Company, undated |
| Folder 7 | Reminiscences on Diboll History and Community, undated |
| Folder 8 | "Clock Talk" on Christian Topics, undated |
| Folder 9 | Diboll Fire Signals, Diboll History, Clippings, undated |
| Folder 10 | Material for Free Press to Print – Early Diboll History, T. L. L. Temple, Sawmill Work, undated |

- Folder 11 Writings on Building Bridges from Lufkin to Fastrill, undated
- Folder 12 Emporia Cemetery and Community, undated
- Folder 13 "No Special Train" Letter to the Editor by Arthur Temple
- Folder 14 Reminiscences on Southern Pine Lumber Company, Old Library, Company Scrip, c. 1962-1988
- Folder 15 Clippings on Diboll and Southern Pine Lumber Company, c. 1970s-1990s
- Folder 16 Clippings on East Texas History and Diboll History, 1982-1997

Box 2

- Folder 1 Clippings on Commissary and Manning, Ryan Chapel Church Essay, Diboll Map, Certificates, 1989, undated
- Folder 2 Edited *Cornbread Whistle* Pages, 1993
- Folder 3 National Forest Map of Texas with Circled Sawmill Towns, undated
- Folder 4 Senate Resolution 517 and City of Diboll Resolution Honoring William James Jackson, 1967
- Folder 5 Correspondence (Navy) and General Letters and Letterhead, 1943-1946, 1961, undated
- Folder 6 Photograph of H. G. Temple, 1940s
- Folder 7 Photograph of Watson Walker, 1920s
- Folder 8 *Coast Guard History*, 1972
- Folder 9 *The Bluejacket's Manual*, 1940
- Folder 10 *Naval Personnel*, November-December 1943; April-June 1944
- Folder 11 *Naval Personnel*, July, October 1944; January, March, May 1945

Box 3

- Folder 1 *All Hands*, June-July, December 1945
- Folder 2 *National Aviation News*, December 1944 – June 1945
- Folder 3 *National Aviation News*, June 1945 – December 1945
- Folder 4 *National Aviation News*, January-February 1946, undated

Box 5

- Item 1 Southern Pine Lumber Company Scrip (2 boxes), undated
- Item 2 Detex Watchclock
- Item 3 Stutz Bearcat Wooden Wheel Spoke

Oversize Box 1

- Folder 1 Clippings on Diboll History, 1947, 1952, 1966
- Item 1 Temple Cotton Oil Company Baseball Calendar, July 1952
- Item 2 Temple-White Calendar, December 1956
- Item 3 "Diboll Years Ago" by Edwin Nelson
- Item 4 Commissary Stores of the Piney Woods
- Item 5 Temple-White Company Posters (3), c. 1960s

Map Cabinet 1

- Drawer 6 Southern Pine Lumber Company Employee Panoramic, c. 1926-1928