

Baylor University . The Texas Collection

Harry Raymond Morse Jr. Collection. Inclusive: 2000, Bulk: 2000

Summary Information

Creator	Morse Jr., Harry R., 1927 - 2008 Brogdon, Kathryn Pierce, Kenneth
Extent (quantity/size)	1 document box
Language	English
Abstract	The Harry Raymond Morse Jr. Collection includes four cassette tapes containing oral history interviews related to the Waco Tornado of 1953 May 11.

Subjects

McLennan County (Tex.) -- History. / Texas -- History. / Tornadoes -- Texas -- Waco. / Waco (Tex.) -- History -- 20th Century. / Waco (Tex.) -- History.

Administrative Information

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Preferred Citation When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

Harry Raymond Morse Jr. Collection, Accession #3833, Box #1, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information Described by Adina Johnson and released on 2012-12-20.

Scope and Content

The Harry Raymond Morse Jr. Collection was acquired via one gift from Kathryn Brogdon in 2010 October. The collection contains two audio interviews recounting the Waco Tornado of 1953 May 11. The interviews are contained on four cassette tapes, and were recorded in 2000.

Administrative/Biographical History

The Harry Raymond Morse Jr. Collection contains two oral history interviews with long-time Waco citizens recounting the Waco Tornado. The first interview is with Harry Raymond Morse Jr.. Harry was born on 1927 January 4 in Waco, Texas. He attending Texas A & M University and served in the Navy during World War II. Morse worked as an engineer in the aircraft industry for over forty years. After experiencing the Waco Tornado of 1953 May 11, Morse invented a Tornado Protection System. This system, for which Morse held a patent, stabilized the interior pressure of a building during a tornado, preventing damage. Harry Morse Jr. died on 2008 October 29 in Waco, Texas.

The second interviewee is with Kenneth Pierce. Kenneth was born on 1935 March 24 in Waco. He worked for 13 years as a Maintenance Technician at Baylor's Penland Hall. Prior to that position, he worked as a brick mason. Kenneth Pierce died on 2004 May 24, in Waco.

Both men witnessed the Waco Tornado of 1953 May 11. The Waco Tornado was an F5 storm that struck Waco at 4:36pm. It hit the heart of downtown Waco, destroying hundreds of buildings, injuring 1,097 people, and killing 114. It is the 11th deadliest tornado in U.S. history (as of press time) and tied for the deadliest tornado in Texas history. These interviews would be an excellent resource for any researcher interested in the Waco Tornado and its impact on the community.

Related Resources

Related citations

Roy Sylvan Dunn, "Tornadoes," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed December 03, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

"Harry Raymond Morse Jr.'s Obituary in Waco Tribune-Herald." *Waco Tribune-Herald*, n.d., accessed December 03, 2012.

"Kenneth Pierce: Obituary." Oakcrest Waco Funeral Home, May 24, 2004, accessed December 03, 2012.

Joshua Lietz "The Waco Outbreak." TornadoHistoryProject.com, 2012, accessed December 03, 2012.

Harry R. Morse Jr. "Tornado Protection System". Waco, TX, September 3, 1996.

Storm Prediction Center. "The 25 Deadliest U.S. Tornadoes." National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center, n.d., accessed December 03, 2012.

Archival Arrangement

Harry Raymond Morse Jr. Collection was unprocessed prior to this finding aid. The four cassette tapes were labeled, dated, and numbered. The original order of the tapes was kept.

Currently, the Harry Raymond Morse Jr. Collection is arranged in one series: I. Audio Recordings. It is housed in one document box

Series 1: Audio Recordings. 2000

Summary Information

Extent (quantity/size)	1 document box
Media	Cassette tape

Administrative/Biographical History

This series includes four cassette tapes containing two oral history interviews related to the Waco Tornado of 1953 May 11. The interviewees are Harry Raymond Morse Jr. and Kenneth Pierce. This is the only series in the collection. It is in good condition.

Item List

Box 1. Folder 1. Audio Recordings: Waco Tornado: Harry Morse Jr.: Tape 1, 2000 June 26
Box 1. Folder 2. Audio Recordings: Waco Tornado: Harry Morse Jr.: Tape 2, 2000 June 26
Box 1. Folder 3. Audio Recordings: Waco Tornado: Harry Morse Jr.: Tape 3, 2000 June 26
Box 1. Folder 4. Audio Recordings: Waco Tornado: Kenneth Pierce, 2000 August 4.