



DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
"Remembering Dallas' past builds her future"

Sloan Simpson papers (unprocessed collection) Finding aid

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Simpson, Elizabeth Laurenson

Title: Sloan Simpson papers

Dates: 1916-1970

Bulk Dates: 1940-1949

Quantity: .092 linear ft. and two oversized folders.

Abstract: Elizabeth Laurenson Simpson (1916–1996), better known as Sloan Simpson, was a fashion consultant, TV/radio personality, fashion model, and actor from Dallas, Texas. Simpson served as First Lady of New York City during the mayoralty of William O'Dwyer.

Identification: unprocessed, 2019.16

Language: The materials are in English.

Repository: Dallas Historical Society

Biographical Sketch

Elizabeth Laurenson Simpson was born to Eleanora Myer Simpson and William Sloan Simpson in Dallas, Texas on October 18, 1916. Known as Betty during her childhood, she grew up in Highland Park, Texas, a town in the Dallas suburbs. William Simpson, a colonel in the U.S. Army, served with President Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders during the Spanish–American War. He participated in the Battle of San Juan Hill. Simpson's grandfather, John R. Simpson, founded the Exchange Bank, which became the First National Bank of Texas.

During her childhood, Simpson studied at the Sacred Heart Convent in the Torresdale neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Beard School (now Morristown-Beard School) in Orange, New Jersey. She graduated from Highland Park High School in University Park, Texas. Simpson then completed her undergraduate studies at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri

Simpson worked as a TV and radio personality. In December 1953, she began hosting a radio program titled *The Sloan Simpson Show* on WOR, a radio station in New York City. The 25-minute talk show, which aired on weekday evenings at 9:05 pm, discussed fashion, current events, and celebrity gossip. The show aired nationally on the Mutual Broadcasting System, a national radio network, from 1954–1955. Simpson's TV show

with the same name, which ran on WOR-TV, began in January 1954. WOR-TV canceled the show in April of that year. Simpson also made guest appearances on other TV programs, including *Leave It to the Girls* (a talk show), *Let's Take Sides* (a debate show), and *One Minute Please* (a quiz show).

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, Simpson starred in roles in film and on TV. She played the character, Harriet Byrne, in the 1960 movie *The Pusher*. Simpson also made guest appearances on *The Phil Silvers Show* on CBS-TV and *Naked City* on ABC-TV.

After working as a fashion model for the John Powers agency, Simpson served as a fashion coordinator for Stern's, a regional chain of department stores in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. She then served as a fashion consultant for the Flemington Fur Company. Simpson supervised the company's fashion shows in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

In 1960, Simpson moved from the U.S. to Acapulco, a coastal city in Mexico near the Pacific Ocean. She worked as a clerk in a hotel dress shop. Simpson then served as a correspondent for *Women's Wear Daily*, a fashion magazine, and she worked as a tour representative for Braniff International Airways. Known by the community as the "First Lady of Acapulco," Simpson also ran a boutique.

Simpson married Carroll Dewey Hipp on November 10, 1938. After divorcing Hipp on September 23, 1943, she married O'Dwyer on December 20, 1949. O'Dwyer's aids received 250 telegrams of congratulation on the couple's wedding day, including one from President Harry Truman. Sent from Air Force One, Truman's telegram read, "Hearty greetings to you and to the woman of your choice and best wishes for long years of happiness." Simpson and O'Dwyer divorced in 1953. Sloan Simpson died in Dallas on November 22, 1996.

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sloan_Simpson

Scope and Contents Note

The collection is comprised of primarily photographs from Sloan Simpson's modeling career, magazine clippings, newspaper clippings, letters, advertisements, four scrapbooks, photographs taken by her father. Scrapbooks consist of childhood photographs and photographs from WWI.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into one series:
Series 1: Sloan Simpson Papers

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

Publication Rights: Permission to publish materials must be obtained from the staff of the Dallas Historical Society.

Copyright Statement:

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain copyright authorization.

Sensitive Material Statement:

Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in this collection without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications for which the Dallas Historical Society assumes no responsibility.

Index Terms

Subjects (Persons):

Simpson, William Sloan. [local]
O'Dwyer, William, 1890-1964. [lcnaf]
Hipp, Carroll Dewey. [local]
Simpson, John R. [local]

Subjects (Organizations):

Exchange Bank of Texas. [local]
First National Bank of Texas. [local]
Roosevelt's Rough Riders. [lcnaf]
Mutual Broadcasting System. [lcnaf]
John Powers Modeling Agency. [local]
Braniff International Airways. [lcnaf]
Stern's Departments Store, New York.[local]

Subjects:

San Juan Hill, Battle of, 1898. [LCSH]
The Sloan Simpson Show. (Television program)[lcnaf]

Leave It to the Girls. (Television program)[lcnaf]
Let's Take Sides. (Television program)[lcnaf]
One Minute Please. (Television program)[lcnaf]
The Phil Silvers Show. (Television program)[lcnaf]
Naked City. (Television program)[lcnaf]
The Pusher. (Motion Picture)[lcnaf]
Women's Wear Daily. [lcnaf]

Places:

Texas--Highland Park (Dallas)[lcnaf]
New York—New York. [lcnaf]

Document Types:

Photographs [aat]
Printed materials (object genre) [aat]
Negatives (photographs) [aat]

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Collection of the Dallas Historical Society, Sloan Simpson Papers.

Acquisition Information:

Gifted to the Dallas Historical Society by Thomas and Anna Bentson.

Processing Information:

The collection is unprocessed and has been rehoused in acid-free folders.

Description of Series

Series 1: Sloan Simpson papers, 1916-1970

Collection is comprised of primarily photographs from Sloan Simpson's modeling career, magazine clippings, newspaper clippings, letters, advertisements, four scrapbooks, photographs taken by her father. Scrapbooks consist of childhood photographs and photographs from WWI.