



The Wittliff Collections

Southwestern Writers Collection
Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection

Alkek Library | Texas State University-San Marcos

Jovita González Mireles Papers

1921-1993
Bulk (1930-1975)

Collection 033

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Jovita González Mireles
Title:	The Jovita González Mireles Papers
Dates:	1921-1993 (bulk 1930-1975)
Abstract:	Printed material, correspondence, financial and legal documentation, handwritten notes, books and other published material, photographs, artifacts, and sound recordings document the education, teaching careers, and personal and financial lives of Jovita González Mireles and Edmundo E. Mireles.
Identification:	Collection 033
Extent:	15 boxes (10 linear feet)
Language:	English
Repository:	Southwestern Writers Collection, Wittliff Collections, Alkek Library, Texas State University-San Marcos

Biographical Sketch

Jovita González was born near the Texas-Mexico border in Roma, Texas, on January 18, 1904. Her father was a teacher and her mother a housewife. Her family moved to San Antonio so that the children could be educated in English. After high school, González earned a teaching certificate and taught in Rio Grande City while earning money for college. She attended The University of Texas at Austin for a year, but due to a lack of funds returned to San Antonio to attend Our Lady of the Lake College where she was able to obtain a scholarship. In the summers she continued to study Spanish at The University of Texas, and it was in the summer of 1925 that she met J. Frank Dobie. Dobie shared González's interest in the folklore of the Texas-Mexican border and encouraged her to write down the stories. She did so, and some were published in the *Folklore Publications* and the *Southwest Review*.

Dobie was not only supportive of González's writing, but he provided references for her scholarships, underwrote bank loans for her, and he and his wife invited her to dinners in their home. González was also very involved with the Texas Folklore Society which Dobie helped resurrect in 1922. She gave several lectures at the annual meetings and published articles in some of the journals. With Dobie's endorsement, González was elected to served as the Texas Folklore Society's vice president in 1928, and as president for two terms from 1930 to 1932. After receiving her B.A. from Our Lady of the Lake in 1927, she taught for two years at Saint Mary's Hall, an Episcopal school for girls, until she was awarded the Lapham Scholarship to conduct research along the border and to work on an M.A. at The University of Texas. Her M.A. research resulted in a Rockefeller grant award in 1934. It was during this time that she may have started work on her novel *Caballero* which was published posthumously in 1996.

While at UT Austin, González met her future husband, Edmundo E. Mireles, who was born in La Ciudad de Hidalgo del Parral, Mexico on December

28, 1905. He was raised by his grandmother in Sacramento, Coahuila, Mexico and came to the United States at the age of seven to live with his father in San Antonio. He later returned to Mexico with his father to fight in the Mexican Revolution, and was wounded. Back in Texas he attended the San Antonio Junior College, and The University of Texas at Austin where he received a B.A., with a Greek major and Latin minor. He obtained his masters in Spanish in 1953 from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.

E.E. Mireles and Jovita González were married in 1935 in San Antonio, and then moved to Del Rio where he was principal of San Felipe High School and she taught English. In 1939, they relocated to Corpus Christi where Mr. Mireles organized the Spanish program in the elementary grades of the public schools. Working together, Mr. and Ms. Mireles wrote two sets of books, *Mi libro español* and *El español elemental*, for the teaching of Spanish in the grade schools. In 1943, Mr. Mireles helped to create the Pan American Council dedicated to the study of Spanish, Latin America and its people. The Council supported the public schools in the organization and functioning of their own Pan American Clubs. Mr. Mireles also served as president of the LULAC Council No. 1. Ms. González Mireles continued until her retirement to teach Spanish and Texas History at W.B. Ray High School in Corpus Christi. During this time she also directed *pastorelas*, pageants and Christmastime *posadas* with Mexican children in the community. E.E. Mireles is considered by many to be the father of bilingual education, because of his role as an advocate for teaching Spanish in the public schools of Corpus Christi. Both Mr. and Ms. Mireles continued as educators and advocates of Spanish language teaching in public schools until they retired. Jovita González Mireles died in 1983, and E.E. Mireles died in 1987.

Few scholars took notice of Jovita González Mireles' work until Teresa Palomo Acosta and Cynthia Orozco helped to renew interest in her at the 1990 "Mexican Americans in Texas History" conference in San Antonio. This renewed interest led to the posthumous publication of her two novels *Caballero* in 1996 and *Dew on the Thorn* in 1997. For further information on Jovita González Mireles and Edmundo E. Mireles see *Dancing with the Devil: Society and Cultural Poetics in*

Mexican American South Texas by José E. Limón, *Dew on the Thorn* and *Life Along the Border: A Landmark Tejana Thesis* by Jovita González (edited by María Eugenia Coterá), *Gente Decente* by Leticia Garza-Falcón, and *Native Speakers: Ella Deloria, Zora Neale Hurston, Jovita Gonzalez, and the Poetics of Culture* by María Eugenia Coterá.

Scope and Content Note

Printed material, correspondence, financial and legal documentation, handwritten notes, books and other published material, photographs, artifacts, and sound recordings, 1921 to 1993 (bulk 1930-1975), created and maintained by E.E. Mireles and Jovita González Mireles, and further maintained by their friend and employee M. (Maria) Isabel Cruz who inherited the material after Mr. Mireles' death, help to document the education, teaching careers, and personal and financial lives of E.E. Mireles and Jovita González Mireles.

The collection has been arranged into fourteen series: Education, Teaching, Correspondence, Daybooks/Notebooks, Minutes, Financial Papers, Legal Materials, Medical Records, Photographs, Clippings, Postcard Collection, Artifacts, Books/Published Material, and Sound Recordings. These series are based on the original order of the materials when present, order was created by the cataloger for the materials that lacked it.

Mr. and Ms. Mireles' masters theses, included in the Education Series, are of particular interest, because they document the areas of their graduate studies. Ms. González was awarded the Rockefeller grant in 1934 for the research she did for her thesis. In the Correspondence Series the letters to Mr. Mireles from Ms. Mireles while she was away in Mexico offer insight into their personal relationship. The beginnings of the Pan American Council of Texas is documented in the Minutes Series. This council, started by E.E. Mireles in 1943, worked to support the Spanish program in the Corpus Christi public schools where Pan American Clubs had already been started. Among the books in the Books/Published Material Series are *The Voice of the Coyote* by J. Frank Dobie and

Finding Literature on the Texas Plains by John William Roger and J. Frank Dobie, both of which are inscribed by Dobie to Ms. Mireles. The Clippings Series documents the legal and political issues pertaining to education in Texas, racial discrimination, and local Corpus Christi news. Some aspects of Mr. and Ms. Mireles' careers are not fully documented. For example, there are no drafts of any of their writings, and there is limited material on Ms. Mireles' teaching career.

Series Description

Series I: Education, 1921-1963

Box 1

This series documents the higher education of both E.E. Mireles and Jovita González Mireles through records of school work which contain the dates of attendance, grades and classes taken. Their Masters theses are also included in this series and offer insight into the topics of their studies. Ms. González's thesis, "Social Life in Webb, Starr, and Zapata Counties," is of particular interest; as a result of it she was awarded the Rockefeller grant in 1934.

Series II: Teaching 1934-1993, n.d. (bulk 1934-1971)

Box 1

This series contains material that helps to illustrate Mr. and Ms. Mireles' life-long teaching careers. Mr. Mireles' career in particular can be traced through his teaching contracts, and his Texas Teacher Retirement System statements in this series.

Series III: Correspondence, 1930-1975, n.d.

Box 2

This series includes both correspondence belonging to E.E. Mireles and Jovita González Mireles, as well as correspondence between them. Of particular interest are the letters from Ms. Mireles to Mr. Mireles during the summer of 1956, while she was away in Mexico, which offer insight into their relationship.

Series IV: Address Books/Daybooks/Notebooks, 1946-1963, n.d.

Box 2

An address book belonging to Jovita González Mireles contains a signed contract between Jovita González and Margaret Eimer (Eve Raleigh) for the novel "All This is Mine," [*Caballero*] "a historical novel of the border during the Mexican War," May 30, 1939. Also in this series are E.E. Mireles daybook and balance sheets.

Series V: Minutes, 1943-1951
Box 3

This series contains material that documents the start of the Pan American Council of Texas which was briefly called the Pan American Council of Corpus Christi. The Council was started in 1943 by E.E. Mireles to work with the Spanish program in the Corpus Christi public schools where Pan American Clubs had already been started. The Coastal Bend Television Co. minutes, also in this series, document E.E. Mireles' participation in its beginnings.

Series VI: Financial, 1931-1980
Box 3

This series documents the financial life of E.E. Mireles and Jovita González Mireles from appliances purchases and routine utility payments to E.E. Mireles' student loans.

Series VII: Legal, 1935-1993 (bulk 1935-1978)
Box 3

The legal series contains legal documentation for both E.E. Mireles and Jovita González Mireles. Of particular interest are the papers related to E.E. Mireles' cousin Maria Luisa Hinojosa Ramirez, which document the process through which a Mexican national had to go to legally immigrate to the USA.

Series VIII: Medical, 1973-1975
Box 3

This small series consists mostly of medical records and receipts for Jovita González Mireles.

Series IX: Photographs, 1957-1975, n.d.
Box 3

The majority of the snapshot style color, and black and white photographs in this series are unidentified. One image of particular interest included in this series is a matted photograph of E.E. Mireles at age twenty-six which is inscribed to Jovita.

Series X: Clippings, 1943-1987
Box 4

The clippings in this series pertain to educational issues in Texas, legal and political news, discrimination, as well as local Corpus Christi news. There are also several obituaries including that of Mr. Mireles.

Series XI: Postcard Collection, n.d.
Box 5

The postcard collection is made up of mostly travel post cards consisting of photographs and drawings of locations, hotels, and art works.

Series XII: Artifacts, n.d.

Boxes 5; 11-15

The Artifacts series consists of items which most likely belonged to Ms. Mireles rather than Mr. Mireles, including a sewing box, two wooden boxes with floral decorations, a woman's hat, glove and handkerchief, a key to the Mireles' ranch, and a photograph of Ms. Mireles' sister.

Series XIII: Books/Published Material, 1934-1966, n.d.

Boxes 6-10

In this series are the books *The Voice of the Coyote* by J. Frank Dobie and *Finding Literature on the Texas Plains* by John William Roger and J. Frank Dobie both of which contain personal inscriptions from Dobie to Jovita González Mireles. There are also three volumes of the *Silver Spur*, the yearbook from W.B. Ray High School where Ms. Mireles taught. These yearbooks offer a glimpse into her experience there as a teacher.

Series XIV: Sound Recordings, 1969, n.d.

Box 16

This series consists of two unidentified magnetic tape reels [both tape reels have been transferred unto compact discs for patron use] and two phonographs of mariachi music.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Open for research.

Preferred Citation

Jovita González Mireles Papers, Southwestern Writers Collection, Wittliff Collections, Texas State University-San Marcos

Acquisition Information

Purchased from M. (Maria) Isabel Cruz, 1998.

Processing Information

Emily Painton, Nov. 1998. Inventory revised June 2009 (KS)

Notes to Researchers

The majority of Edmundo E. Mireles and Jovita González Mireles papers and manuscripts are housed at Texas A & M University at Corpus Christi, Bell Library, Special Collections & Archives. Further papers belonging to Edmundo E. Mireles and Jovita González Mireles

can be found at the University of Texas at Austin in the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Education, 1921-1963

Box Folder

Jovita González Mireles, 1921-1930; 1962-1967

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | University of Texas grade sheets, 1921-1927 (2 sheets). |
| | 2 | Class notes, 1962-1967. |
| | 3 | Masters Thesis, "Social Life in Webb, Starr, and Zapata Counties," |
- August, 1930. The University of Texas

Framed Art Bachelor or Arts framed diploma
Cabinet

Edmund E. Mireles, 1927-1953

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | University of Texas grade sheet, 1927-1930
San Antonio Junior College grade sheet, 1927-1928 and vaccination
Certificate, 1927. |
| | 5 | Masters Thesis, "The Teaching of Spanish in Texas Schools," |
- Summer 1952. El Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| | 6 | Maestro en Artes en Lengua Española diploma, El Instituto
Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, 1953. |
|--|---|---|

Series II: Teaching, 1934-1993, undated. (bulk 1934-1971)

Jovita González Mireles, undated

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 7 | Student's paper, "Historia del Idioma Español," by Edwardita
Watts. |
| | 8 | Grant application for Mexican American Folklore Series for Radio |

Edmund E. Mireles, 1934-1971

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| 1 | 9 | Teaching contracts, Texas Teacher Retirement System statements
and membership application, textbook contract, 1934-1968. |
| | 10 | Corpus Christi Public Schools Certificate of Merit, 1971. |

Series III: Correspondence, 1930-1975, undated.

Box Folder

2 1 **Jovita González Mireles,**

Incoming

Basore, Joe N. (Hot Springs Village), undated.

[Gonzalez], H., undated.

Robertson, Mary, March 6, 1974.

S____, Maritere, May 30, 1954. Enclosed: two b/w photographs, "Carretas de las fiestas típicas," and "Juchitecas atviadas."

Whitmyre, Hilda, October 1, 1974 Whitmyre, Hilda, postmark March 14, 1975.

2 2 Outgoing (all to Edmundo E. Mireles)

July 11, 1954

July 23, [1955]

July 4, 1956

July 8, [1956]

July 10, [1956]

August 2, 1956

August 4, 1956

August 6, 1956

2 3 Edmundo E. Mireles – incoming

2 4 Jovita González Mireles and Edmundo E. Mireles - incoming

Series IV: Daybooks/Notebooks, 1939, 1946-1982, undated.

2 5 Address Book with two laid-in photographs; a newspaper clipping, "Night of Grito," from the Corpus Christi *Times*; and a signed contract between Jovita González and Margaret Eimer (Eve Raleigh) for the novel "All This is Mine," [Cabellero] "a historical novel of the border during the Mexican War," May 30, 1939.

6 E.E. Mireles' Daybook, 1946

7 E.E. Mireles' Balance Sheets, 1950

8 Small notebook with notes, 1976-1982

Series V: Minutes, 1943-1951

Box Folder

- 3 1 Pan American Council of Corpus Christi, March 17, 1943
- 2 Pan American Council of Texas Board of Directors, April 12, 1943
- and organization constitution and by-laws.
- 3 Coastal Bend Television Co., 1951

Series VI: Financial, 1931-1980

- 3 4 Bank Records
- 5 Loans
- 6 Purchases
- 7 Student Loans (E.E. Mireles)
- 8 Utilities
- 9 Assorted

Series VII: Legal, 1935-1993 (bulk 1935-1978)

- 3 10 Voter registration: Jovita González Mireles and E.E. Mireles
- 3 11 Marriage certificate, July 30, 1925; birth certificates for E.E. Mireles
- and
- Jovita González Mireles; E.E.'s immigration and citizenship papers
- 3 12 Immigration papers for Maria Luisa Hinojosa Ramirez (E.E.
- Mireles' cousin)

Series VIII: Medical, 1933, 1975.

- 3 13 Medical documents and receipts, 1933, 1975

Series IX: Photographs, 1957-1966, undated.

- 3 14 "Pre-school English," 5 negatives, 1959
- Unidentified gas station, undated
- Unidentified women (2) on porch
- In memoriam card for Adela G. Mireles, 1974
- "Party at Nita Clark's, Sept 1960"
- Servico Medina truck, 4 b/w photographs, undated.
- Unidentified castle, undated
- [E.E. Mireles] playing pool, 1966
- E.E. Mireles portrait, c. 1930s

Series X: Clippings, 1943-1987.

Box Folder

- Box 4 Newspaper clippings, mostly related to education, politics, and Mexico.

Series XI: Postcard Collection, undated.

Box 5 Approximately 300 postcards; most blank.

Series XII: Artifacts, undated.

Box 5 Sewing Box
Box 11 Large Wooden Box with Poinsettia Decoration
Box 12 Medium Wooden Box with Raised Floral Decoration
Box 13 Photograph of Jovita González Mireles' sister Tula
Box 14 Hat, glove, oval box, handkerchief
Box 15 Key to Mireles' ranch

Series XIII: Books/Published Material, 1934-1966, undated.

6 1 Bookplate: A. Plaza
6 2 *The Texas Observer*, April 18, 1963 (2 copies).
6 3 *Guide to Presidio of La Bahia and Cultural Displays*
6 4 *Rodale's Quinto Lingo*, Feb. 1966
6 5 *Prevention*, May 1967

6 6 *Vidas Minimias*

7 1 *Santa Anna: El Dictador Resplandeciente*
7 2 *A Ranger Legacy: 150 years of Service to Texas* by D.E. Kilgore
7 3 *The Voice of the Coyote* by J. Frank Dobie
7 4 *Al Filo Del Agua Novela* by Agustin Yañez

8 1 *An American Mexican Frontier* by Paul S. Taylor
8 2 "With His Pistol in His Hand" *A Border Ballad and Its Hero* by
Americo Paredes
8 3 *The True Facts About the Expropriation of the Oil Companies' Properties*
in Mexico by Government of Mexico
8 4 *Diamonds for the King* by Sister Mary Xavier

9 1 *Regional Dances of Mexico* by Edith Johnston
9 2 *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather
9 3 *The Complete Works of Shakespeare*

Series XIII: Books/Published Materials, continued

Box Folder

10 1 *Finding Literature on the Texas Plains* by John William Rogers and J.
Frank Dobie
10 2 *Silver Spur* Vol. I, 1951, W.B Ray High school
10 3 *Silver Spur* Vol. II, 1952, W.B. Ray High school

10 4 *Silver Spur* Vol. VI, 1956, W.B. Ray High school

Series XIV: Sound Recordings, 1969, undated

10 5 **Subseries A. Magnetic Tape**

1 compact disc for patron use only
1 archival copy not for patron use

Subseries B. Phonographs

16 1 Pedro Infante, *Serie de homenaje a Pedro Infante*
16 2 Jorge Negrete