



Peter J. LaValle Papers, 1958-1966

Descriptive Summary and Abstract

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| Creator: | Peter J. LaValle |
| Title: | Peter J. LaValle Papers |
| Dates: | 1958-1966 |
| Abstract: | Correspondence, minutes, reports and a menu from Gaido's restaurant pertaining to the establishment of the Texas Maritime Academy, located in Galveston, with the help of legislators and local businessmen. The correspondence documents the efforts to get both national and state support for the Academy, the appointment of the Board of Visitors as advisors, and attempts to recruit male students from the high schools. Correspondents include: Joseph Jefferson Burris (Texas State Navy); George W. Anderson, Jr. (Admiral, U.S. Navy); Rear Admiral Sherman B. Wetmore; Captain Bennett Dodson (first superintendent of the Texas Maritime Academy); and Earl Rudder (President of Texas A&M University). |
| Location: | MC026 |
| Size: | .42 linear feet. 1 box. |
| Language: | English |
| Repository: | Jack K. Williams Library, Archives and Manuscripts, Texas A&M University at Galveston. Phone: 409-740-4560; Email: LIBRARY@tamug.edu |
| Preferred Citation: | Title of item. Box #, Series #. Peter J. LaValle Papers. Jack K. Williams Library, Archives, and Manuscripts, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX. |
| Donor: | Peter J. LaValle |

Biographical Note

Peter J. LaValle, judge and Texas representative, was born on November 24, 1927. LaValle served as a representative in the Texas House of Representatives from January 13, 1959- December 1961. During his time as a representative, he served on the House Appropriations Committee and worked with the Legislative Budget Board to add funding for a maritime academy to the budget. He also worked closely with Aaron Robert "Babe" Schwartz and other individuals to create the Texas Maritime Academy, which is currently

the Texas A&M University at Galveston campus. In 1962 the Governor of Texas and President of Texas A&M University authorized the creation of the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston. LaValle died on November 26, 2005. Peter J. LaValle's surname is sometimes spelled "LaVelle" in news articles and other sources.

Sources:

"Peter La Valle." *Legislative Reference Library of Texas*. Legislative Reference Library of Texas, n.d. Web. 19 Oct 2015. <http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/legeleaders/members/memberdisplay.cfm?memberID=1084>
Canon, Stephanie Jeter. "Celebrating Sea Aggies: A&M-Galveston Turns 50." *Texas Aggie: Official Magazine of the Aggie Network* March-April (2012): 49-55. Web 19 Oct 2015.
http://www.tamug.edu/news/2012articles/Celebrate_Sea_Aggies_Fifty_Years.pdf

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of papers produced or collected by LaValle. These documents were created as a result of the work to establish a maritime academy in Texas. This collection mainly consists of correspondence and materials sent with the correspondence, such as senate bills, house bills, and budgets. It also includes some ephemeral items related to the establishment of the academy such as invitations, brochures, and a menu from Gaido's restaurant. It is divided into three series: correspondence, clippings, and printed material.

The documents exclusively cover the subject of the establishment of the Texas Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas.

Organization of the Papers

- Series 1. Correspondence
 - Subseries 1. 1958-1966
 - Series 2. Clippings
 - Subseries 1. Newspaper clippings
 - Series 3. Printed Material
 - Subseries 1. Gaido's Menu
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Restrictions

Access: No restrictions.

Usage Restrictions: Access to fragile materials may be limited. Some materials may not be reproduced and travel to the collection may be necessary. Contact Jack K. Williams library for more information.

Administration Information

Provenance: Gift of Peter J. LaValle, date unknown.

Rights: Copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their

descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

Processed by: Alexandra Mitchell and Samuel Chivers, 2015. Dawn Letson, 2013.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box 1

Series 1: Correspondence

Arranged by year into one subseries, consisting of letters and emails to and from LaValle, as well as e-mails where he was cc'd. There is also correspondence to and from various other people, but which had information pertinent to LaValle. In order to maintain the original order created by LaValle, any relevant attachments were left with the correspondence. The correspondence files are in the form of e-mail, typed letters, handwritten notes, and faxes. Various other documents have been included in the subseries, such as statements from Captain Dodson and the 58th Legislature and Sherman's recruitment letters to High School Graduates, so as not to disrupt the original filing order from the donor. Subjects covered are extensive and include: Board of Visitors, Board of Directors, Legislative Budget Board, establishment and legislation of the maritime academy, appropriation for the maritime academy, financial and income summary, appropriation of backers, sponsors and funding, appropriation and establishment of Texas A&M University at Galveston, invitations and thank you Letters for various events, graduates of A&M and the maritime industry, acquiring faculty, students and funding, maritime academy dedication, public dedication, propeller club, property and land use, regulations and dealings, Pelican Island Land Acquisition and Use, House of Representatives, 1964 cruise, and the State of Maine Cruise. Correspondents include: E. Kirkham, S. Wetmore, A.R Schwartz, E. Rudder, Cpt Dodson.

1.1 Correspondence

- 1.1.1 1958
- 1.1.2 1960
- 1.1.3 1961
- 1.1.4 1962
- 1.1.5 1963
- 1.1.6 1964
- 1.1.7 1965-1966
- 1.1.8 Miscellaneous (undated)
- 1.1.9 LaValle death correspondence with Curley

Series 2: Clippings

Various news clippings pertaining to LaValle's achievements or life events.

2.1 News Clippings

- 2.1.1 1960-1964

Series 3: Printed

Contains a menu from Gaidos to commemorate a lunch held for state legislators by the Galveston committee in realtion to the appropriation of the Texas Maritime Academy.

3.1 Gaidos Menu

3.1.1 Menu

*Note- due to the size of the collections and their designation as priority evacuation items, MC026, 027, and 029 share a box.