

# Texas A&M University at Galveston

Jack K. Williams Library

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## Delbert D. Sprague Papers (T/S Texas Clipper 1965 Cruise Records)

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**Creator:** Sprague, Delbert D.  
**Title:** Delbert D. Sprague Papers (T/S Texas Clipper 1965 Cruise Records)  
**Date:** 1965  
**Abstract:** Master electrician and former student of the Texas Maritime Academy (TMA) at Texas A&M University at Galveston. Consists of a collection of records from the first voyage of the training ship, Texas Clipper, during the 1965 cruise, including the crew List, a deck plan, , a billet and station card, and brochures and post cards from the various stops of the voyage, including Halifax, Nova Scotia; Copenhagen, Denmark; Southampton, England; Edinburgh, Scotland; Hamilton, Bermuda; and Miami, Florida. A blueprint of the air conditioning systems for the American Export Vessels which pertained to four ships, one of which was the SS Excambion that became the Texas Clipper was probably used in Sprague's role as electrician on the ship. In addition, there is an article about the Texas Maritime Academy in the *Port Houston Magazine* and a patch from the N/S Savannah, a rare nuclear-powered ship visited by the TMA cadets on February 10, 1963, while it was in dry dock at Todd Shipyards in Galveston.

**Location:** MC 35  
**Size:** .25 linear feet.  
**Repository:** Jack K. Williams Library, Archives and Manuscripts, Texas A&M University at Galveston. Phone: 409-740-4560; Email: [LIBRARY@tamug.edu](mailto:LIBRARY@tamug.edu)  
**Donor:** Delbert D. Sprague, 2014.

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### Source of the Collection

In 2011, the Rosenberg Library held a book signing for Dr. Stephen Curley on the publication of his book, *The Ship That Would Not Die*. Del Sprague attended the meeting and gave his Texas Maritime Academy collection to Dr. Curley. In 2014, Dr. Curley gave the box of materials to the

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## Content Description

### **T/S Texas Clipper: 1965 Summer Cruise (Voyage #1)**

- Fd.1            Crew List – T.S. Texas Clipper, Texas Maritime Academy, 1965  
[Ship Locations]: room numbers listed by deck and other rooms, 1965.
- Fd. 2            Blueprint for American Export Vessels including the SS Excambion (previous name of the Texas Clipper.) The blue print shows the location of the Fan Room Locations for Air Conditioning Systems. Mr. Sprague worked as an electrician on the first cruise.
- Fd. 3            Billet and Station Card: Training Ship Texas Clipper, Cruise #1, 1965. Card listing Mr. Sprague's name, room no., Electricians Rm. B Deck, and emergency information.
- Fd. 4            Brochures and post cards for locales visited on the 1965 Summer Cruise.

### **Miscellaneous TMA materials**

- Fd. 5            Texas Maritime Academy article in the *Port of Houston Magazine* reprint, 1962?
- Fd. 6            Brochure: Jack Tar Hotel, Galveston. Del Sprague probably lived at the hotel with other midshipmen.

### **N/S Savannah**

- Fd. 7            N/S Savannah Patch, 1963. The Savannah was a nuclear-powered ship. On February 10, 1963, the Texas Maritime Cadets had the privilege of touring the Savannah while the ship was in dry dock at Todd Shipyards on Pelican Island near Galveston. (See Stephen Curley, *Aggies by the Sea*)