Guide to the

Rodney J. Guilbeaux, Jr. Collection

1965

1.67 linear feet

Collection Number 257

Prepared by Kathie Bordelon
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CITATION: The Rodney J. Guilbeaux Collection, Collection No. 257, Box number, Folder number, Archives and Special Collections Department, Frazar Memorial Library, McNeese State University.

Archives and Special Collections Department
Frazar Memorial Library
McNeese State University
Biographical Sketch

Rodney John Guilbeaux Jr. (1927-2007), also known as the “Black Cajun,” was born in Kaplan, La., and served during World War II as a junior-grade lieutenant radio officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine. While living in New Orleans, he worked as a district manager in the circulation department for the Times-Picayune Publishing Co. He owned and operated the Gulf Coast Store in Holly Beach, La., and then worked as an advertising manager for Wise Southwest Builder Publications in Sulphur. He worked 31 years for the Borden Co., from which he retired as general sales manager. In his later years, he was secretary for the Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage Board. Rodney was a member of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and served as Eucharistic minister at Holy Trinity Church in Holly Beach, Our Lady of Assumption Church in Johnson Bayou, and Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Sulphur.

Guilbeaux was a past president or chairman of the board of the following organizations: Cameron Parish Chamber of Commerce, Lake Charles High Noon Lions Club, Louisiana Lions Eye Research Foundation, Louisiana Lions’ League for Crippled Children, Better Business Bureau of Southwest Louisiana, Southwest Louisiana Safety Engineering Society, Calcasieu Area Safety Council, International Order of Alhambra, and Our Lady’s School Organization.

Guilbeaux served as district governor for District 8-0 for Lions International and was a board member of the Southwest Louisiana Restaurant Association, Calcasieu United Appeals, West Cameron Port Commission, Environmental Development Task Force in LA, and St. Louis High School Board.

Guilbeaux was a radio announcer for MSU basketball and the Sweet 16 basketball tournament. He also coached the St. Charles Academy girls’ softball team and the VFW “Vets” Dixie Youth baseball team in Sulphur. For his work in youth recreation, he was inducted into the Wall of Honor of the Sulphur Parks and Recreation.

Guilbeaux was an early proponent for the prevention of coastal erosion in Louisiana. He was an active member of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, and received a Coastal Stewardship Award in 1998 for his work in that area. He was instrumental in securing the breakwater systems along La. Highway 82 in Cameron Parish. For his work in promoting the parish and for his erosion-prevention efforts, Cameron Parish named him Citizen of the Year in 1997. Guilbeaux was a KPLC-TV Weather Watcher for Constance Beach.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains one scrapbook plus additional loose photographs representing the historical record of the Southwest District Fat Stock Show and Rodeo in Lake Charles in 1965. Guilbeaux was co-chair of the event, along with Ed Prendergast. The scrapbook contains newspaper clippings from area newspapers and many photographs of events, contests, television and rodeo stars.
### Container List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1965 (Jan.-March) Scrapbook assembled by Rodney Guilbeaux while publicity chairman for the Southwest District Fat Stock Show and Rodeo, includes newspaper clippings, photographs</td>
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