



93-0022

Sherman B. Wetmore

Papers, 1950-[1976]; 17.5 inches

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Mostly records of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce's Merchant Marine Academy Committee, which Rear Admiral Wetmore chaired.

A maritime training academy was proposed at an informal gathering at the Galvez Hotel following the National Maritime Day banquet, May 21, 1958. Edward Schreiber, the Galveston Chamber of Commerce's president, appointed a committee to investigate the likelihood of establishing an academy at Galveston. Emmett O. Kirkham, personnel director of Todd Shipyards, served as its first chairman. Wetmore took over as chair in January 1959.

The committee investigated the likelihood of obtaining backing for the school from either the University of Texas or Texas A & M College as well as the legislation necessary to establish it. On March 3, 1959, committee members visited Texas A & M College to press their case. There, they were given copies of an act of the State Legislature in 1931, "Article 291 b., Nautical School Authorized; Management by Board of Directors of Agricultural & Mechanical College." However, a rider to the act forbade the appropriation of state funds to support a maritime academy.

On March 27, 1959, the state legislature deleted the rider. Funding for a Texas Maritime Academy was appropriated in the 1961 state legislative session.

Several parts of this collection merit attention. An overview of the creation of Texas Maritime Academy is found in Historical Features. Five notebooks entitled "Establishment of Texas Maritime Academy" contain correspondence with Texas A & M College, the U.S. Maritime Administration, and Ralph A. Leavitt (president of the board of trustees of Maine Maritime Academy), in addition to minutes and other materials. Their contents have been foldered. Wetmore's document, "The Need for a Maritime Academy in Texas," is also found in this collection.

SHERMAN B. WETMORE  
PAPERS  
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Box	FF	Subgroups	Dates
1	1	Galveston Chamber of Commerce. Merchant Marine Academy Committee Historical Features The Establishment of the Texas Maritime Academy 1958/1962	
	2-8	Research Materials (include catalogs of other merchant marine training academies and federal documents concerning the merchant marine)	1950-62
	9-10	Establishment of Texas Maritime Academy	
2	1-2	Vol. 1	1958-61
	3-4	Vol. 2	1959-61
	5-9	Vol. 3	1959-62
	10-11	Vol. 4	1959-62
3	1-3		
	4-7	Vol. 5	1958-62
4	8-12	"The Need for a Maritime Academy in Texas"--First, Second & Final Drafts (includes issues of the Chamber newsletter <b>Treasure Isle</b> containing his committee reports)	1959-68
	1-2	Agencies of Public Education-- Legislative Budget Recommendations	1962-63
	3		
	4	Texas. Maritime Academy Master Plan--Moody College of Marine Sciences & Maritime Research	1974
	5	Printed Matter	1976, [1960s-70s]

