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## **Guide to the Miss Billy Riley Papers MS 215**

Finding aid prepared by Alison Hennessey

Collection processed as part of grant project supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) with generous funding from The Andrew Mellon Foundation.

San Diego History Center Document Collection

1649 El Prado, Suite 3

San Diego, CA, 92101

619-232-6203

May 17, 2012

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**Title:** Miss Billy Riley Papers

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS 215

**Contributing Institution:** San Diego History Center Document Collection

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 0.25 Linear feet(1 box)

**Date (inclusive):** 1965-2000

**Abstract:** The collection contains materials related to the tourism promotion activities of civic leader Miss Billy Riley.

**creator:** Riley, Billy, Miss

**Scope and Content**

The collection contains materials related to Miss Billy Riley's contribution to promoting tourism in Downtown San Diego and the Gaslamp Quarter. The collection includes correspondence regarding local hotel/motel tax propositions in the 1960s and 1980s. Awards and articles highlight Riley's civic involvement in promoting and expanding tourism in San Diego, especially Downtown.

**Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

**Conditions Governing Use**

The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.

**Processing Information**

Collection processed by Alison Hennessey on May 17, 2012.

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**Preferred Citation**

Miss Billy Riley Papers, MS 215, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA.

**Arrangement**

Collection materials are arranged by subject.

**Biographical / Historical Notes**

Born in Erick, Oklahoma, Miss Billy Riley, as she prefers to be known, moved to San Diego in 1944. She became a civic leader in San Diego after becoming the first woman manager of a major hotel, the Half Moon Inn on Shelter Island, in the 1960s. She would later become part owner. In 1967 she was the first female president of the San Diego Hotel-Motel Association. She was also the first woman director of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce in 1968. Her civic contributions to San Diego ranged from fighting litter to forging a better relationship with Mexico to co-chairing the 1968 World Surfing Olympics. Miss Billy Riley moved back to Oklahoma in 1979 before returning to San Diego. In 1981, she then joined the restoration and renovation efforts at the Horton Grand Hotel. In 1985, she was the first woman to serve on the Board of Directors of the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau. She also served on the Gaslamp Quarter Council and Old Town Chamber of Commerce. In the early 1990s she moved to Dallas, Texas where she remarried and lived for a few years before again returning to San Diego. Miss Billy Riley has six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**Separated Materials**

Original photographs separated to Photograph Collection.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Accession number 2001.042.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Center City Association (San Diego, Calif.).

Half Moon Inn (San Diego, Calif.).

Horton Grand Hotel.

Reagan, Ronald

Riley, Billy, Miss

San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau.

San Diego Convention Center.

Soroptimist International Association.

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Awards  
Gaslamp Quarter (San Diego, Calif.)  
Hotels -- California  
San Diego (Calif.)  
Tijuana (Baja California, Mexico)  
Tourism

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- Box-folder 1:1      **Propositions C and A correspondence, 1965 March 5-1983 November 8 and undated**  
    **Includes:**  
    Correspondence regarding Proposition C, circa 1965, and Proposition A, circa 1983
- Box-folder 1:2      **Awards and invitations, 1983 May 9-1999 October 14 and undated**  
    **Includes:**  
    "26th Annual Downtown Improvement Awards" (poster blueprint) 1989 (in Oversize Collections D4)  
    "Alonzo Award, Billy Riley" (blueprint) undated (in Oversize Collections D4)
- Box-folder 1:3      **Articles related to and written by Miss Billy Riley, 1965 June 20-2000 March 20 and undated**  
    **Includes:**  
    Letter to the Editor by Miss Billy Riley
- Box-folder 1:4      **Photographs (copies), undated**  
    **Includes:**  
    Ronald Reagan  
    Tijuana, Mexico  
    Renovation and restoration of Horton Grand Hotel
- Box-folder 1:5      **Miscellanea, 1999 September 4 and undated**  
    **Includes:**  
    Facsimile transmittal sheet from Pattie Roscoe to Terry Cahill regarding the death of Walter Palmer  
    Pamphlet on the First San Diego Courthouse in Old Town