

TYLER BRIDGES PAPERS

(Mss. 4899)

Inventory

Compiled by
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Updated by
Brad Wiles (2009)

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2004

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SUMMARY

Size 14.5 linear feet

Geographic Locations Louisiana

Inclusive Dates 1882-2001

Bulk Dates 1992-2000

Languages English

Summary Newspaper articles, court records, and transcripts of wire taps compiled by Tyler Bridges as research for his book, *Bad Bet on the Bayou: The Rise of Gambling in Louisiana and the Fall of Governor Edwin Edwards*.

Access Restrictions None

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Citation Tyler Bridges Papers, Mss. 4899, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Stack Location(s) UU:296-308, L:36, OS:B

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Tyler Bridges graduated from Stanford University with a degree in political science. Throughout the 1980s he worked as a reporter, freelancing in South America for the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and others. He has also written for *George*, the *New Republic*, and the *Washington Monthly*. From 1989-1996, he was a reporter for the *Times-Picayune* (New Orleans, La.), during which time he reported on David Duke's politics and his involvement with the Ku Klux Klan. This eventually led to Bridges's first book, *The Rise of David Duke* (1994).

Bridges is currently the Lima bureau chief for the Miami Herald, where he has been part of a team that won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting and the 2001 for deadline reporting. He covered the legalization of gambling in Louisiana from 1992-96 for the *Times-Picayune*, and eventually wrote the book *Bad Bet on the Bayou: the Rise of Gambling in Louisiana, and the Fall of Governor Edwin Edwards*; it took five years to pen. He conducted interviews of more than 100 people and reviewed thousands of articles and documents in order to accurately represent events.

Bad Bet on the Bayou tells the story of gambling legalization in a comprehensive way, beginning with an account of the history of Louisiana gambling, and concluding with the last third of the book illuminating the investigation and trial of Edwards.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The topic of Bridge's research for *Bad Bet on the Bayou* was the political corruption involved with gambling in Louisiana and the involvement of Governor Edwin Edwards and his associates. Therefore, the files Bridges accumulated cover the participants, events, legal evidence, and history that led up to legalized gambling in Louisiana in the 1990's and the eventual fall of Governor Edwards.

Most items are dated in the 1990s, although some date into the 1970s, 1980s, and 2000. Documents consist of photocopied news articles, correspondence, legal evidence, phone and wire taping transcripts, court papers, and witness testimony. Included are video and audio cassettes containing relevant programming, interviews, or witness testimony. Many of the news articles come from the *Baton Rouge Advocate* and *Times Picayune*, including Bridges' own work, but other local and national news contributed to his research. Some correspondence is written to Bridges, some among the subjects of his research. Not all correspondence is original; much of it consists of photocopies. Legal evidence includes affidavits in support of applications for search warrants, examination of witnesses for federal bankruptcy trials and the United States vs. Sebastian Salvatore et al; and transcripts of telephone conversations that either take place at Frank's Deli, or involve the 15th Riverboat License Scheme. Video and audio cassettes include more research in the form of taped interviews and news coverage of Louisiana gambling, riverboats, casinos, Edward's trial coverage, and those involved with the gambling scandal.

SERIES LIST AND DESCRIPTION

Series I. Topical files, 1882-2001 (11.5 linear feet)

Because these were working files for the research conducted by Tyler Bridges in the writing of his book, *Bad Bet on the Bayou*, the contents of these folders were not relabeled or reorganized, other than to make sure the contents for each subject were arranged chronologically. Materials contained in these files consist of photocopies of newspaper articles written by Tyler Bridges, printouts of *Times Picayune* news articles (as well as other local and national media), Senate bills, and correspondence to Tyler Bridges and those featured within his book, with the majority of items being the media coverage.

Information in this series pertains to the involvement of Marty Chabert, Harry F. Connick, Sherman Copelin, Jimmy Davis, Edward J. Debartolo, Candy Edwards, Governor Edwin Edwards and his children, Cleo Fields, Governors Mike and Murphy Foster, Jerry Fowler, Wendall H. Gauthier, Chris Hemmeter, Richard Ieyoub, Eddie Jordon, Carlos Marcello, Gus Mijalis, Daniel P. Robinowitz, Louis Roussel III and others. Although the overall focus of the materials involves statewide gambling in Louisiana, the topical files contain concentrated information on development of casinos, efforts for a land based casino in New Orleans, in which Harrah's finally emerged the winner; video gaming, history of the Louisiana lottery, the Edwin Edwards trial, Capitol Gaming International, the Gambling Control Board, and the Riverboat Gaming Commission.

The files labeled "Edwin Edwards" are a sizeable subject and contain articles from numerous news organizations that cover the corruption investigations in general, interviews, and information pre and post trial. Included is a copy of the 1998 federal indictment against Edwin Edwards et al for violations of the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act, etc., and a folder of "Investigation Documents" that contains a copy of the federal indictment of Cecil Brown, James Fred Hofheinz, and Guy Thompson. The files specifically for the Trial (2000) are comprised of news coverage and are over one linear foot.

Files labeled "Gambling" are primarily for the year 1996 and include media coverage of the gambling situation in Louisiana at that time. Files also exist with a much broader date range that provide a history of gambling in Louisiana. Similarly with the Riverboat files, which were primarily composed during 1994-1995.

Some items were organized by Bridges according to what book chapter they pertain, although a chapter labeled "A House of Cards" does not appear in the finished book. There is one oversize folder containing photocopies of the *Times-Picayune* index for the years 1992-1996, covering the topics of "Tyler Bridges" and "Casinos".

(Note: Please see the Container List for a thorough listing of all the topical files included within this series.)

Series II. Legal documents, 1991-1997 (2 linear feet)**Subseries 1. General, 1991-1997 (1.5 linear feet)**

Contains affidavits in support of application for search warrants for the O'Acres Lounge, the law office of Cleveland, Barrios, Kingsdorf and Casteix; the office of Joe Wood and Associates, Formosa Computers, the law office of Hoffman, Sutterfield, Ensenat & Bankston; residence of Larry S. Bankston and Lynn Naebbers Bankston, and the residence of Joe Wood and Johnnie Lynn Berry. These pertain to the chapter "Web of Deceit" in *Bad Bet on the Bayou*.

Examination of witnesses in the United States Bankruptcy Court matter of Louisiana Route Operators, Inc., jointly administered with World Wide Gaming, Inc. Included are examinations of Jerry Flynn, Gary Simpson, and S. Bart Jacka (1994), and a telephone deposition of Christopher Tanfield regarding the Louisiana Economic Development and Gaming Corporation Inquiry (1995).

Witness testimony in the case of United States of America vs. Sebastian Salvatore, et al. Those being questioned include, Christopher Tanfield, Riley Blackwelder, Paul Morbito, Richard McHenry Jr., and Frank Ragano (1995). Court documents in the United States Bankruptcy Court matter of Rosalind Louise Graham (1996).

Subseries 2. Transcripts, 1992-1997 (.5 linear feet)

Transcripts of telephone conversations involving Paul Morabito, Philip Gagliano, Sebastian Salvatore and others, recorded at Frank's Deli (1992-1993). Transcripts of telephone conversations involving Edwin Edwards, Stephen Edwards, Edward Debartolo and others, regarding the 15th Riverboat License Scheme (1996-1997).

Series III. Audio and Visual materials, 1992-2000 (1 linear foot).

14 VHS cassettes (**arranged chronologically**) of footage that Bridges used as research material:

House casino vote – TV broadcast WBRZ (1992)

WWL-TV Casino Coverage (1992-1995)

Newsmakers: Chris Henner; Interview with George Ryan (21 March 1993)

60 Minutes: Edwards the gambler and his role in the land casino (21 March 1993)

Grand Palais Casino Presentation (7 June 1993)

Gambling Licenses; Riverboat Hearing (Baton Rouge). Final 7 licenses awarded (6/18/1993)

Riverboat Gambling / West Bank, after the 18 June 1993 license vote

Gretna Casino Belle, 1993 – Presentation shown to Riverboat Casino Commission

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River City. Robinowitz sues Hemmeter; Deal to sell boats falls through (29 Sept. and 5 Oct. 1995)

Channel 4 Series: When the House Folds (Feb. 1996)

Chris Hemmeter interview (13 Feb. 1996)

Series: When the House Folds (25-28 Feb. 1996)

Edwards verdict, etc. (9 May 2000)

Edwards verdict (9 May 2000)

38 Audio cassettes (**arranged alphabetically by name**) of information that Bridges used as research material:

Title	Date
Interview with Riley Blackwelder – All of side A, most of Side B	1998 July 27
Interview with Aaron Broussard – side A only	1998 July 29
Interview with Representative Peppi Bruneau – All side A, 2/3 of Side B	1998 July 31
Interview with Max Chastain – tape 1	1998 July 26
Interview with Max Chastain – Tape 2 of 2	1998 July 26
Interview with Freddy Cleveland	2000 May 21
Interview with Steve Irwin	2000 May 24
Interview with Freddy Cleveland	2000 May 21
Edwin Edwards, French Quarter Speech (on CD-R)	1993 Jan 27
Edwin Edwards	1995 March 27
Edwin Edwards – tape 1	1998 Feb 3
Edwin Edwards tape – ½ of one side	1998 Feb 3
Edwards at Koch and Unglesby – ½ of side A	1998 Feb 4
Interview with Edwin Edwards	1998 Feb 11
Interview with Edwin Edwards at his home	1998 July 30

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Interview with Calvin Fayard, Jazzville – side A only	1999 Nov 11
Hemmeter – unveiling	1992 April 29
Hemmeter – Tulane	1992 Nov 17
Chris Hemmeter on Scoot show	1993 Mar 16
Jazzville	1992 Nov 5
Interview with Steve Irwin (2-3)	2000 May 24
Interview with Steve Irwin (4)	2000 May 27
Interview with Sid Moreland (1)	2000 May 24
Interview with Bernie Klein	1998 June 4
Interview with Ron Lenczycki (1-2)	1998 Sept 26
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Interview with FBI agent Rick McHenm (Worldwide)	1999 Dec 1
Interview with Sid Moreland (2-3)	2000 May 27
Interview with Sid Moreland (4)	2000 May 27
Interview with Ken Pickering	1998 June 11
Interview with FBI agent Rick Richard (Worldwide)	1999 Jan 29
Dan Robinowitz – press conference (on CD-R)	1993 Jan 28
Dan Robinowitz – interview	1995 Nov. 30
Dan Robinowitz – land and riverboat casinos – tapes 1-2	1996 Sept 7
Dan Robinowitz – land and riverboat casinos – tapes 3-4	1996 Sept 7
Dan Robinowitz – land and riverboat casinos –tape 5	1996 Sept 7
Mike Rose	1994 Nov 15

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Interview with Gerard Thomas – almost all of Side A	1998 July 28
David Tyree Show “Daniel Robinowitz on the closing of Harrah’s Casino	1995 Nov 30
David Tyree Show “What is the future of gaming in our city now that River City has closed?”	1995 June 19
Interview with Joe Whitmore and Walter Wolfe – State Police (Worldwide)	1999 Nov 30

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers. **Note:** Personal names appearing in Series I *may* also appear as the subject of witness testimonies or wiretapping in documents located in Series II, or be mentioned in interviews in Series III.

Index terms**Series**

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Broussard, Aaron	III
Brown, Cecil (1943 -)	I
Bruneau, Peppi	III
Button, Graham	I
Capital Gaming International	I
Casinos – Law and legislation - Louisiana	All series
Casinos – Louisiana	All series
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Chabert, Marty	I
Chandler, Dan	I
Cleveland, Barrios, Kingsdorf, Casteix law firm	II.1
Cleveland, Freddy	III
Connick, Harry F.	I
Copelin, Sherman	I
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