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## MS667 Bernardo Villegas Collection

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Guide to  
MS 667  
Bernardo Villegas collection

1922 – 1923 Span Dates

2.5 inches (linear)

Processed by Abbie Weiser  
May 30, 2017

Donated by Dr. Robert Villegas.

Citation: Bernardo Villegas collection, 1922 – 1923, MS 667, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department  
University of Texas at El Paso

## **Biographical Sketch**

Born in El Paso, Dr. Bernardo Villegas (1898 – 1993) was a graduate of the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy, a mining engineer, and an optometrist. Villegas attended Aoy School and then Alamo School and San Jacinto School. After graduating from El Paso High School, he enrolled at the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1918. While at the School of Mines, Villegas joined the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) and majored in mining (the only major offered at the time). He paid his tuition by working part-time at the local Post Office. Upon his graduation in 1922, he took a job with the United Verde Copper Company in Arizona, moved to Detroit for a position at a gas company, and then worked as a mining engineer in El Tigre, Sonora. During the Great Depression, Dr. Villegas opened a chain of exchange houses in Ciudad Juárez. After becoming seriously ill due to a burst appendix, he decided to become an optometrist at the urging of his father-in-law (also an optometrist) and attended the Los Angeles School of Optometry and the Southern College of Optometrists in Memphis. Dr. Villegas opened his optometry practice at 120 S. Mesa Street in the late 1930s and then established the Franklin Optical Company with one of his sons in 1955. Dr. Villegas and his wife, Consuelo Olivares Villegas, had four children.

[Sources: Oral History, Dr. Bernardo Villegas, Number 420; *El Paso Herald-Post*, October 20, 1972]

## **Series Description or Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in chronological order.

## **Scope and Content Notes**

The Bernardo Villegas collection dates from 1922 – 1923. The records are arranged in chronological order. Types of records include Bernardo Villegas's Texas State School of Mines diploma, a clipping, and legal documents.

## **Provenance Statement**

Donated by Dr. Robert Villegas on May 23, 2017.

## **Restrictions**

None.

## **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish material from the Bernardo Villegas collection must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Bernardo Villegas collection, MS 667, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

## Notes to the Researcher

See also:

Bernardo Villegas oral history, Number 420.

UTEP collection, MS001.

*The Flowsheet* (yearbooks)

## Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Bernardo Villegas's diploma, Texas State School of Mines	31 May 1922
1	2	Clipping about recent School of Mines graduates [fragile, on board]	18 June 1922
1	3	Notarized document verifying diploma information	29 December 1923

