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Guide to the Wayne and Bette Morse collection on the Kenley Players

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Guide to the Wayne and Bette Morse collection on the Kenley Players, 1966-1995, bulk 1969-1981 UASC.017

Finding aid prepared by David Brownell

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October 01, 2012

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	University Archives and Special Collections
Creator - Collector	Morse, Bette Rogge
Creator - Collector	Morse, Wayne H.
Title	Wayne and Bette Morse collection on the Kenley Players
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1969-1981
Date [inclusive]	1966-1995
Extent	1.7 Linear feet (4 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	The Wayne and Bette Morse collection on the Kenley Players, a traveling theater company founded by John Kenley (1906-2009), is an accumulation of programs and organizational documents related to activities and performances of the Kenley Players in Dayton, Ohio, between 1966 and 1995.

Preferred Citation

[Item title]. Wayne and Bette Morse collection on the Kenley Players, 1966-1995. University Archives and Special Collections, University of Dayton Libraries, Dayton, Ohio.

History of the Kenley Players

Stage performer and producer John Kenley was renowned for bringing large Broadway shows to small towns throughout the Midwest. Between 1940 and 1995, his Kenley Players performed over 500 plays across Ohio and Pennsylvania. The Kenley Players began performing at Dayton's Memorial Hall in 1957 and returned from 1966 through 1983, eventually presenting their final season in 1995. Performances often included famous television and film actors, with Dayton shows featuring figures such as Mickey Rooney, Ed Ames, Burt Reynolds, Florence Henderson, and Betty White. Kenley was 103 years old when he died in Cleveland, Ohio on October 23, 2009.

A local television talk show host, Bette Rogge Morse interviewed many of the performers who came to Dayton for Kenley Players productions. She also appeared as an actress in several of the productions.

Wayne Morse's advertising firm, Morse/Stotter/Plummer (later Morse, Stotter & Associates), handled advertising for the Kenley Players.

Scope and Contents

The Wayne and Bette Morse collection on the Kenley Players includes a wide range of materials related to the theater company's operations and performances at Memorial Hall in Dayton, Ohio. Included are programs and playbills, correspondence, agency documents, advertisements, flyers, and black-and-white photographs and head shots. The collection fills two boxes.

Arrangement

The materials are arranged in folders, alphabetically and then chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Archives and Special Collections, 2011

Revision Description

Finding aid finalized by Rachel Bilokonsky, March 2012

Access to Materials

The materials in this collection are open and accessible to the public for use in the University Archives and Special Collections reading room.

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Acquisition Information

Wayne H. and Bette Rogge Morse donated this collection on the Kenley Players on December 12, 2002.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by David Brownell in 2011.

Related Materials

Related Material

Bette Rogge Morse papers. University Archives and Special Collections, University of Dayton Libraries, Dayton, Ohio.

Search Terms

Corporate Name(s)

- Kenley Players

Personal Name(s)

- Kenley, John

Subject(s)

- Memorial Hall (Dayton, Ohio)
- Performing arts--Ohio--Dayton
- Theater--Ohio--Dayton

Collection Inventory

Box	Folder	
1	1	Advertising records, 1973-1995
1	2	Advertising records, 1995
1	3	Biographical information on cast members, 1971
1	4	Miscellaneous programs, undated
1	5	News clippings, 1969-1980
1	6-8	Photographs, 1971, undated
1	9	Programs, 1966
2	1	Programs, 1967
2	2	Programs, 1968
2	3-4	Programs, 1969
2	5-6	Programs, 1970
2	7	Programs, 1971
2	8	Programs, 1972
2	9	Programs, 1973
3	2	Programs, 1975
3	3	Programs, 1976
3	4	Programs, 1977
3	5	Programs, 1978
4	1	Programs, 1978-1979
3	1	Programs, 1974
4	2	Programs, 1979
4	3	Programs, 1980
4	4	Programs, 1981
4	5	Programs, 1982
4	6	Programs, 1983
4	7	Programs, 1987
4	8	Programs, 1995