

McLean County Museum of History

WLS Barn Dance Collection

Processed by
Amanda Weissgerber
Spring 2015

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1930-52
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also Photos-Subject-WLS Radio Station-Barn Dance Photos-Subject-Gofarth Earl-WLS Band

Brief History

WLS Radio's National Barn Dance was one of the most popular and longest running programs on radio. The show blended music, comedy, and down-home theatrical skits that lasted well over five decades. The National Barn Dance debuted on April 19, 1924, the first Saturday night after WLS signed on the air. WLS also produced a live, touring version of the program, which was performed throughout the Midwest. The live WLS National Barn Dance performed in McLean County several times through the 1930s to 1950s.

Scope

The collection includes Pantagraph advertisements and articles promoting local WLS National Barn Dance performances as well as seven WLS Family Albums dated from 1930 to 1950.

Box and Folder Inventory

General

Folder 1: Pantagraph Clippings

- 1.1 Advertisement, WLS National Barn Dance at the Bloomington Coliseum, 26 November 1930, for November 29, 1930, performance
- 1.2 Advertisement, WLS Barn Dance at the Majestic, 18 November 1932, for the Thanksgiving Week 1932 performances
- 1.3 Try Outs for Community Talent, WLS Barn Dance Show, Normal Masonic Lodge Hall, 1 December 1935, for the December 3 and 4, 1935, performances
- 1.4 Advertisement, WLS National Barn Dance at the Majestic, 19 October 1936, for the October 20, 1936, performance
- 1.5 Scrap Rubber, Metal to Admit Public to Show, 20 June 1942
- 1.6 Advertisement, WLS National Barn Dance at Illinois State Normal University, McCormick Gymnasium, 20 June 1942, for the June 27, 1942, performance
- 1.7 Advertisement, WLS Barn Dance, Infantile Paralysis Benefit Show at I.S.N.U Gym, 18 January 1943 for the Monday, January 25, 1943, performance
- 1.8 County Opens Drive on Polio with Barn Dance Monday, 24 January 1943
- 1.9 Advertisement, WLS Radio Barn Dance Stars at Bloomington High School Auditorium, 21 January 1948, for the January 27, 1948, performance

Folder 2: General

- 2.1 Keystone Barn Dance Program Guide, Meet the Radio Folks. Includes section on WLS National Barn Dance.
- 2.2 My Breakfast Club Diary by Don McNeill, 1949 Yearbook, ABC Chicago. 63pp.

Family Albums by Year

Family Album, 1930

WLS Family Album, The Happy Radio Home, 1930 edition, 50 pp

Family Album, 1931

WLS Family Album, 1931 edition, 50 pp

Family Album, 1935

WLS Family Album, 1935 edition, 48 pp

Family Album, 1936

WLS Family Album, 1936 edition, 48 pp.

Family Album, 1937

WLS Family Album, 1937 edition, 56 pp plus portrait silhouettes (4 pp)

Family Album, 1938

WLS Family Album, 1938 edition, 48 pp

Family Album, 1939

WLS Prairie Farmer Family Album, 1939 edition, 48 pp

Family Album, 1940

WLS Family Album, 1940 edition, 56 pp

Family Album, 1941

WLS Family Album, 1941 Prairie Farmer's Centennial Year edition, 52 pp

Family Album, 1942

WLS Family Album, 1942 edition, 48 pp

Family Album, 1943

WLS Family Album, 1943 edition, 56 pp

Family Album, 1944

WLS Family Album, 1944 edition, 48 pp

Family Album, 1948

Prairie Farmer WLS Family Album and Almanac, 1948 edition, 56 pp

Family Album, 1949

Prairie Farmer WLS Family Album and Almanac, 1949 edition, 48 pp

Family Album, 1950

WLS Family Album, 1950 edition, 48 pp.

Family Album, 1951

WLS Family Album, 1951 edition, 48 pp.

Family Album, 1952

Prairie Farmer WLS Family Album, 1952 edition, 56 pp.