



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K1246

Zena Shenk Kearney (1910-1995) Collection

1922-1993

2 cubic feet, twelve cassette tapes

Scrapbooks, athletic programs, correspondence and clippings related to the career of Kearney, a performer and teacher of piano and organ, and organist at events such as the NAIA and Big 8 and the Kansas City Athletic games.

BIOGRAPHY:

Zena Evelyn Shenk was born to Milo B. and Ethel M. Shenk on October 16, 1910, in Norborn, Missouri. The family soon moved to Kansas City, where she began piano lessons when she was three years old. Zena attended Manual High School, where she was a member of many academic and social groups, as well as ROTC. Throughout, she continued to perform and compete as a pianist and accompanist. Zena began teaching piano at age fourteen, and throughout her life, her students were like children of her own. From 1934 to 1943 she performed under her married name of Dicus and then returned to her maiden name until marrying Tom Kearney, who died in 1965.

In addition to teaching up to eighty pupils each week in her home and at Jenkins Music Company, Zena played organ in several restaurants in the area. She was also a fixture at Kansas City Athletics home games, NAIA basketball tournaments, and NCAA track and field championships. She was a member of the Kansas City Musical Club, American Guild of Organists, and musicians unions in Kansas City and Los Angeles. After her retirement, Zena traveled extensively, and in 1992, she moved to Denver and established the Zena Kearney Music Company. She recorded several tapes with a great-nephew and continued to perform for nursing homes and churches. Zena Shenk Kearney died on December 19, 1995, at the age of 85.

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from the subject's niece, Alvena Blatchely, as accession KA906 on June 21, 1996.

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Specific item; folder number; *Zena Shenk Kearney (1910-1995) Collection* (K1246); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

The collection contains straight runs of NAIA and Big 8 programs for the events for which Kearney played organ. She also saved her passes, billing correspondence, and clippings. She kept extensive scrapbooks documenting her own career and activities, as well as the accomplishments of her students. There is a folder of correspondence and greeting cards which also contains miscellaneous materials.

INVENTORY:**BOX 001***ATHLETIC EVENTS*

- Folder 1.1 American Basketball League - program only, 1961-1962
- Folder 1.2 NAIA Basketball, 1962
- Folder 1.3 NAIA Basketball, 1963
- Folder 1.4 NAIA Basketball, 1964
- Folder 1.5 Big 8 Basketball, 1964
- Folder 1.6 NAIA Basketball, 1965
- Folder 1.7 NAIA Basketball, 1966
- Folder 1.8 NAIA Basketball, 1967
- Folder 1.9 NAIA Basketball, 1968

- Folder 1.10 NAIA Basketball, 1969
- Folder 1.11 NAIA Basketball, 1970
- Folder 1.12 NAIA Basketball, 1971
- Folder 1.13 NAIA Basketball, 1972
- Folder 1.14 NAIA Basketball, 1973
- Folder 1.15 NAIA Track and Field, 1966
- Folder 1.16 NAIA Track and Field, 1967, 1968
- Folder 1.17 NAIA Track and Field, 1969
- Folder 1.18 NAIA Track and Field, 1970
- Folder 1.19 NAIA Track and Field, 1971
- Folder 1.20 NAIA Track and Field, 1972, 1973
- Folder 1.21 NAIA Track and Field, 1974
- Folder 1.22 Big 8 Track and Field, 1963-1964
- Folder 1.23 Big 8 Track and Field, 1965
- Folder 1.24 Big 8 Track and Field, 1966
- Folder 1.25 Big 8 Track and Field, 1967
- Folder 1.26 Big 8 Track and Field, 1968
- Folder 1.27 Big 8 Track and Field, 1969
- Folder 1.28 Big 8 Track and Field, 1970
- Folder 1.29 Big 8 Track and Field, 1971
- Folder 1.30 Big 8 Track and Field, 1972
- Folder 1.31 Big 8 Track and Field, 1973
- Folder 1.32 International Track Association, 1973

SCRAPBOOKS (removed from binders)

- Folder 1.33 Scrapbook 1
- Folder 1.34 Scrapbook 2
- Folder 1.35 Scrapbook 3
- Folder 1.36 Scrapbook 4
- Folder 1.37 Scrapbook 5, part 1 - script for entertainment at Butler Manufacturing Company's builders' meeting, 1957
- Folder 1.38 Scrapbook 6, part 2 - script continued

BOX 002

- Folder 2.1 Special scrapbook 1 - concerning students, 1961-1965

- Folder 2.2 Special scrapbook 2 - concerning students, 1956-1973
 - Folder 2.3 Special scrapbook 3 - concerning students, 1955-1965
 - Folder 2.4 Special scrapbook 4 - concerning students, 1956-1987
 - Folder 2.5 Special scrapbook 6 - United Way, 1956-1972
 - Folder 2.6 Scrapbook (unnumbered)
 - Folder 2.7 Scrapbook (unnumbered)
 - Folder 2.8 Scrapbook (unnumbered)
 - Folder 2.9 Correspondence (including letter from Frank Sinatra), greeting cards, c. 1951-1993
 - Folder 2.10 Promotional poster
- Remainder of box - twelve cassette tapes