

## **S0719 Lowry, Willie Mae, "Gracy" (1916-2003) Scrapbook, 1957-1958**

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Willie Mae “Gracy” Lowry, a pioneer African-American female radio announcer and community servant. Gracy Lowery was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on April 28, 1916. She was the first female African-American radio announcer in St. Louis, and was a regular radio announcer at KATZ Radio Station for twenty-five years until her retirement. Gracy was an authority on popular music and the Blues.

Gracy’s industry tip sheet *Pierre’s Hit List* was once the most popular local trade paper in St. Louis. Gracy owned several successful businesses in the St. Louis area. She became the first national secretary for the African-American fraternal association National Association of Radio Announcers, which later became National Association of Radio and Television Announcers (NATRA). She was a columnist for *St. Louis American* newspaper, 1961-1963.

She was the recipient of many awards, General Chairman of National Association of Radio Announcer, 1962, Harmony Grand Chapter, O.E.S. Grand Public Relations Award 1989 and a former Board Member of the St. Louis Blues Society.

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