Gene Quaw Collection, 1921-1951

Overview of the Collection

Creator          Quaw, Gene
Title            Gene Quaw Collection
Dates            1921-1951
Dates            1921 1951
Quantity         .2 linear feet
Collection Number Collection 400, MtBC, us (collection)
Summary          The Gene Quaw Collection consists of an autographed tribute album, some printed items, and 106 black and white photographs taken of Quaw, his band members, and friends in Yellowstone National Park, most of which are circa 1921-1922. The printed materials in the collection consist of a copy of Yellowstone, along with a mimeograph lyric sheet for the song dated March 4, 1947, a business card for Quaw as pianist for the "Lone Star Trio" at Old Faithful Inn, and a program for a formal recital at Mammoth Hot Springs, September 11, 1921. The original hand carved wooden cover for the autographed tribute album has been retained with the collection.

Repository       Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections
Montana State University-Bozeman Library
Merrill G Burlingame Special Collections
P.O. Box 173320
Bozeman, MT
59717-3320
Telephone: 406-994-4242
Fax: 406-994-2851
spcoll@www.lib.montana.edu

Access Restrictions This collection is open for research.

Languages        English
Sponsor          Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Biographical Note

Eugene Cole "Gene" Quaw was born in Belgrade, Montana on March 6, 1891. His family moved to Bozeman around 1896 and Gene attended local schools before graduating from Montana State College (Montana State University) in 1910. While growing up he worked as a piano player at the Bozeman Opera House under musical director Louis Leo Howard and early displayed a talent for music composition. Gene worked as a band leader and composer after his graduation from college in Bozeman and also studied at the University of Minnesota, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Arizona, and Louisiana State University where he worked as the recreation director for twenty years until his retirement in 1961. During the 1920s, he conducted a dance orchestra for several summers at Yellowstone National Park, and he also worked for the Paramount motion picture company as a composer for cartoon features. Gene's published musical scores include: Under Any Old Moon at
All (1909), Twilight Time (1920), Old Man Jazz (1920), Nobody Else (1923), The Rose of Sigma Chi (1924), Yellowstone (1937) Song of the Engineers (1942), and Dream Girl of Sigma Chi (1948). Gene Quaw died in Bozeman, Montana on December 17, 1968.

Content Description

The Gene Quaw collection consists of a autographed tribute album, some printed items, and 106 black and white photographs taken of Quaw, his band members, and friends in Yellowstone National Park, most of which are circa 1921-1922. The photographs are almost all informal snapshots of Yellowstone scenes and the outdoor performance stage at the Canyon Hotel where Quaw and his band performed with the "Canyon Hotel Follies" during the summer of 1922. Some photographs appear to have been taken much later, showing Quaw holding a copy of his score for Yellowstone which was not published until 1937. The autograph album was presented to Quaw in late 1951 after he had performed a special concert in Bozeman, Montana for many long-time residents, many of whom recalled his work in Yellowstone. Those who attended the concert put together the album which contains many tributes to Quaw as a musician and friend. Among the signers are Bozeman musician Louis Leo Howard and architect Fred F. Willson. The printed materials in the collection consist of a copy of Yellowstone, along with a mimeograph lyric sheet for the song dated March 4, 1947, a business card for Quaw as pianist for the "Lone Star Trio" at Old Faithful Inn, and a program for a formal recital at Mammoth Hot Springs, September 11, 1921. The original hand carved wooden cover for the autographed tribute album has been retained with the collection.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Autographed tribute album, photographs, and printed ephemera pertaining to Gene Quaw were donated to Montana State University by Gene Quaw, Doris Wilson, and Mrs. Richard C. Day, all of Bozeman, Montana in 1966 and 1972.

Processing Note

This collection was processed 2011 August 19

Detailed Description of the Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Wooden cover</td>
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### Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**
- Concerts-Montana-Bozeman
- Concerts-Wyoming-Mammoth Hot Springs
- Dance orchestras-Yellowstone National Park-Photographs
- Hotels-Yellowstone National Park-Photographs

**Personal Names:**
- Howard, Louis Leo
- Quaw, Gene-Archives
- Quaw, Gene-Yellowstone
- Willson, Fred Fielding, 1877-1956

**Corporate Names:**
- Canyon Hotel (Yellowstone National Park)-Photographs
- Lone Star Trio
- Old Faithful Inn (Wyo.)

**Geographical Names:**
- Yellowstone National Park-Songs and music
- Yellowstone National Park-Photographs

**Form or Genre Terms:**
- Autograph albums
- Photographs-Yellowstone National Park
- Scores

**Other Creators:**
- **Personal Names:**
  - Quaw, Gene-Yellowstone
  - (creator)

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Kim Allen Scott, 2011

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http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv60729