Guide to the Cal McKinley Collection of Tune-Dex Cards

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 28, 2022. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f13s4g

Table of Contents

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Contributor:	Goodwin, George
Creator:	McKinley, Cal, 1918-1989
Collector:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center
Title:	Cal McKinley Collection of Tune-Dex Cards
ID:	MS-00616
Date [inclusive]:	1943-1950
Physical Description:	0.45 Linear Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Cal McKinley Collection of Tune-Dex Cards spans from 1943 to 1950 and contains a collection of index cards called Tune-Dex Cards that provide the lyrics and melodies of popular tunes from the late 1940s.

Preferred Citation

Cal McKinley Collection of Tune-Dex Cards, 1943-1950. MS-00616. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Biographical Note

Musician Cal McKinley was born on December 13, 1918. McKinley was a guitarist during the Big Band Era. McKinley toured with the Andrew Sisters and the Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey Bands. He also did guitar work in Bing Crosby and Bob Hope movies, and did studio work for Decca Records. A native of Chicago, Illinois he moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1967. He was active in Las Vegas as a talk show host and later he portrayed the bumbling character "Vinnie Van Gogh" in television commercials. He passed away on September 9, 1989.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Historical Note

In May 1942, George Goodwin, a radio station director released the first Tune-Dex cards. They were printed on 3" x 5"cards. Goodwin provided lyrics, melodies, and chord symbols as well as copyright information. Professional musicians could subscribe and get the cards by mail. The subscriber had no choice in the cards they received, however they were always the popular music of the day. Goodwin promoted the cards until 1963 when poor health forced his retirement.

According to Barry Kernfeld's book, *The Story of Fake Books*, by the 1950s gangsters were duplicating the Tune-Dex information into bound fake books with prices between $10 to $25.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Scope and Contents Note

The Cal McKinley Collection of Tune-Dex Cards spans from 1943 to 1950 and contains a collection of index cards called Tune-Dex Cards that provide the lyrics and melodies of popular tunes from the late 1940s.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Arrangement

The cards are divided alphabetically, but not within each letter.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See Reproductions and Use on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2010 as a gift of Cal McKinley's estate; accession number 2010-013. Materials were collected by the director of the Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center and transferred to Special Collections.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Joyce Moore in 2010. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hana Gutierrez revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Hana Gutierrez entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

Revision Description

The finding aid was revised by Hana Gutierrez to bring it into compliance with DACS. July 2014

Names and Subjects

- Popular music -- Twentieth century
- Big band music