

Mrs. Sam Ray Album (SC222)

Introduction

The Mrs. Sam Ray Album consists of a three ring album containing handwritten notes, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other ephemera documenting the friendship of Mildred Kittel Ray and Peggy Smith. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Peggy Smith
Title: Mrs. Sam Ray Album
Dates: 1987- December 2010
Size: 0.92 linear feet, 1 box
Collection Number: SC222

Donor Information

Gift, 2011, Peggy Smith.

Citation Note

Mrs. Sam Ray Album (SC222), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Related Collections: Many of Mildred Ray's newspaper columns and accompanying postcards were published in a two volume set, *Post Cards from Old Kansas City, 1980, 1987* (MVSC Q 977.8411 R26P.) Her extensive postcard collection is available in SC58 Mrs. Sam Ray Postcard Collection, of which many items have been digitized. Additional materials regarding Mrs. Ray are available in SC3 Advertising Card Collection, SC63 Vertical Files Special Collections, and the Missouri Valley Special Collections local history collections.

Biographical Sketch

Mildred Kittell Ray ("The Postcard Lady") was born in Halstead, Kansas, on September 22, 1895. She attended school at Westport High in Kansas City, Missouri, graduated from Canyon City High School in Colorado, and attended the Kansas State Teachers' School in Emporia. After teaching in several Kansas City schools, she married Sam Ray in 1918 and the couple had three children. Mrs. Ray wrote a weekly column for the *Kansas City Times* and *Kansas City Star* entitled "A Postcard from Old Kansas City" that was based on the historical images of Kansas City found in her extensive postcard collection; her thoroughly researched and highly popular column ran from 1968 to 1991. When she died in 1996 at the age of 100, Mrs. Ray's

collection of postcards was left to the Missouri Valley Room where she conducted most of her research. The album's creator, Peggy Smith, was a librarian in the Missouri Valley Room with whom Mrs. Ray developed a rapport while researching her columns and the two remained friendly in the years after her column ended.

Scope and Content Note

The Mrs. Sam Ray Album consists of a three ring album containing handwritten notes, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other ephemera documenting the friendship of Mrs. Sam Ray and Peggy Smith. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Collection Inventory

Scrapbook, 1987-December 2010

Index

Anderson, Mark
 Barnett, Katie
 Benton's
 Boutros, David
 Burke, Peg
 Busby, Marjean
 Carolyn (Mrs. Ray's granddaughter)
 Central High School
 Conrad, Mary
 Crayton, Rasheeda
 Dolan, Mary Alice
 Drew, John Philip
 Dunn, Pauline
 Elliott, Jane
 Esther
 Findley, Wayne
 Fisher, Annie Taylor
 Gaskill, Marion
 Gates, Sandra
 Geischen, Ona
 Heritage League
 Ingman, Mary
 Kingswood Manor
 Kinney, Marge
 Ledford, Joe
 Leisenring, Jan
 Magerl, Barbara
 National Button Society
 North Kansas City Hospital
 Parsons, Flossie
 Patty

Petticoat Lane
Ray, Mildred Kittel
Ray, Dick
Ray, Elise
Ray, Sr., Samuel Hawkins (Sam)
Ray, Jr., Sam
Ray, Shirley
Ray-Sherry, Judy
Scholfield, Matthew
Shouse, Betty
Smith, Peggy
Stephenson's
Stroud's
Tatum, Celia
Taylor, John
Toy and Miniature Museum
Wicken, Sue (Wicker)
Wright, Virginia

Processed by Melissa Horak-Hern, Special Collections Associate, March 2015