

Richard Corliss Photograph Collection

This photograph collection contains a local free-lance photographer's images of selected individuals known both locally and nationally. It also includes scenes of some local news events.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Richard Corliss
Title: Richard Corliss photograph collection
Dates: circa 1945-1960
Size: 2 boxes, 46 photographs
Location: P32

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Additional physical form available: Photographs have been digitized.

Acquisition information: Gift, Richard Corliss, July and November 2001, Accession #2001-41.

Custodial history: The photographs in this collection represent only a small portion of the personal collection of Mr. Corliss and were selected by the MVSC manager at the time of donation.

Citation note: Richard Corliss photograph collection (P32), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Richard Corliss was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1915. He moved to Kansas City in 1944 to work for Pratt and Whitney. After purchasing a camera from a departing World War II soldier he started photography as a hobby. After the war he moved to Denver, Colorado. He returned to Kansas City in 1950 and began working as a free-lance photographer, selling photographs to various publications including the *Kansas City Star* and *Independence Examiner*. By his own report, he became well known among the news community and was often called in the middle of the night with tips about accidents and catastrophes.

Scope and content note

This small collection consists mainly of black and white prints in varying sizes, with the majority being 8"x10" and some mounted. There are also two color photographs. The photos in this collection were held by Richard Corliss at his home until he donated them to the Library, along with numerous personal and artistic photographs. The photographs, shot between approximately 1945 and 1960, are of local personalities and visiting celebrities, accidents, disasters and other news events. Notable are several photographs of the Truman family after their return to Independence. This collection contains no negatives.

Mr. Corliss supplied identifying information about people, places and dates on the back of most photographs. Because of the length of time between when the photographs were shot and when they were documented, there are some with incomplete information and others with some apparent inaccuracies. Where possible, these annotations were enhanced or corrected by research. Some

photographs, however, could not be fully identified. Of particular interest in the collection are photographs of Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Collection Inventory

Box 1 - Folder #1

- # 1 - Vice-President Harry S. Truman offering his condolences to James M. Pendergast, at the funeral of his uncle, Tom, in 1945, 8x10, b&w.
- # 2 - Harry S. Truman, "Chili at Dixon's", Kansas City Press Photographers dinner at Dixon's Chili Parlor, photographer identified as Charles Brenneke, December 9, 1957, 8x10, b&w.
- #3 - Newsmen in Research Hospital waiting room during Truman hospitalization, June 1954. On reverse "Picture taker unknown", 7x9, b&w.
- #4 - Print-out of Truman's admission to Research Hospital, June 19, 1954, 8x10, b&w.
- #5 - President and Mrs. Truman returning to Independence from Washington, 1952, 8x10, b&w.
- #6 - Harry and Bess Truman leaving church at daughter Margaret's wedding, 8x10, b&w.
- #7 - Contact prints, (4) of Jack Benny and Harry Truman at piano 1950's and one of Truman at University of Kansas City, ca. 1950's, 8x10, b&w.
- #8 - Harry and Bess Truman greeting woman as returning to Independence from Washington, D.C., 8x10, b&w. (One smaller print also)
- #9 - President Truman at 50th anniversary of University of Kansas City Law School with Kansas City Mayor John Gage and Law School Dean Clarence Decker, June 1945, 8x10, b&w.
- #10 - President Truman speaking at 50th anniversary of University of Kansas City Law School, 8x10, b&w.

Box 1 - Folder #2

- #1 - Eleanor Roosevelt at Kansas City Municipal Airport, 8x10, b&w, Smiling (2 copies)
- #2 - Eleanor Roosevelt at Kansas City Municipal Airport, 8x10, b&w Serious
- #3 - President Eisenhower at Union Station with unidentified aide, (possibly presidential campaign of 1956), 8x10, b&w.
- General Eisenhower at airport with unidentified general, ca. 1940's, 8x10, b&w.
- #5 - Mamie Eisenhower at Kansas City Auditorium, ca. 1950's, 8x10, b&w.
- #6 - Stan Musiel speaking to Jewish youth, 8x10, b&w.
- #7 - General Jonathan Wainwright at Press Conference, Hotel Muehlebach, 1945, 8x10, b&w.
- #8 - General Jonathan Wainwright possibly at airport, 1945, 8x10, b&w.
- #9 - Dwight D. Eisenhower speaking at Kansas City Auditorium, probably during presidential campaign of 1952 (September 20?), 8x10, b&w.
- #10 - Additional shot of Eisenhower, probably same visit with Herman Langworthy, 8x10, b&w.

Box 1 - Folder #3

- #1 - Aerial view of tornado damage at Holmes Park, (Bannister Road and Hickman Mills Drive or Highway 71), 1946 (incorrectly dated on back), 8x10, b&w.
- #2 - Shell of burned 809 Grand building, taken from adjacent Gas Building the morning after the fire, 8x10, b&w.

- #3 - Fire at Kuhlman Diecasting, ca. 1950, 8x10, b&w.
- V.J. Day celebration in downtown Kansas City shot from 12th and Main, looking west, August 15, 1945, 8x10, b&w.
- #5 - Mayor H. Roe Bartle greeting volunteers at midtown fire scene, 1958, 8x10, b&w.
- #6 - Car accident, ravine off Manchester Trafficway, ca. 1952, 6x9, b&w.
- #7 - Aerial view Truman Road and Winchester, 1945, 8x10, b&w.
- #8 - Aerial view of Independence Airport 1945-46, 8x10, b&w
- #9 - Aerial view of Independence Airport 1945-46, airshow, , 8x10, b&w.
- #10 - TWA Overhaul Base Fairfax Airport, 1946, 4x6, b&w.
- #11 - Doll under beam, Armourdale, Kansas, 1951 Flood. 8x10, b&w.
- #12 - Actress Angela Lansbury in unidentified location, 4" x 5", b&w.

Box 2

- #1 - Panoramic shot of Armourdale, Kansas, 1951 flood, 7x32, b&w.
- #2 - Lowering equipment for Hallmark Distribution Center in Liberty, ca. 1973, approx. 7 ½ x9 ½, color, mounted.
- #3 - Inside of Hallmark printing presses, 11x14, b&w, mounted.
- #4 - Inside of Hallmark printing presses, 11x14, b&w, mounted.
- #5 - Aircraft, shot from Kansas City Municipal Airport, 11x14, b&w, 2 mounted together.
- #6 - Dwight D. Eisenhower visit to Kansas City, probably September 1952 , with Langworthy, 14x19, b&w, mounted.
- #7 - Three men in boat, Mill Street Bridge, Armourdale, Kansas, 1951 Flood, 10 ½ x 13 ½, mounted.
- #8 - Downtown Kansas City, 12th Street, looking west from Grand ca. 1961, 12x17, b&w, mounted.
- #9 - Car in ravine off Manchester Trafficway, ca. 1952, 16x20, b&w (duplicate of #26).
- 809 Grand – burned building, 10 ½ x13 ½ , b&w, mounted. (duplicate of #22)
- #11 - Missouri State Capitol, 11x14, color.
- #12 - Harry S. Truman with Thomas Hart Benton during painting of murals at Truman Library, 16x20, b&w, mounted.

Processed by MVSC Department Manager Mary Beveridge, December 2001.