

WDAF Radio Studio Photographs (P42)

Introduction

This collection contains three oversize photographs of the WDAF Radio Studio from the 1920s and 1940s-1950s. The station began broadcasting on June 2, 1922, from the basement of the old *Kansas City Star* building at 18th and Grand.

Descriptive Summary

Title: WDAF Radio Studio Photographs

Dates: 1920s-1950s

Size: 4.25 linear feet, 1 OS folder

Collection Number: P42

Donor Information

Gift, 2020, Don R. Crawley.

Citation Note

WDAF Radio Studio Photographs (P42), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Related Collections: Additional information about WDAF radio and television may be found by searching the local history collection at www.kchistory.org.

Historical Sketch

WDAF Radio began broadcasting on June 2, 1922. The station is recognized as the first in Kansas City. Owned by *The Kansas City Star*, the station originally broadcasted from the newspaper's headquarters at 18th and Grand with the aid of two large radio towers constructed on the roof. WDAF soon became an affiliate of the National Broadcasting Company (NBC). In 1949, the *Star* branched into television with the launch of WDAF-TV on channel four. The newspaper sold both stations in 1958.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of three oversized, black and white photographs of the WDAF radio studios and its staff. Two of the photos are dated from the 1920s. The third photo appears to have been taken later, perhaps in the 1940s or 1950s.

The photographs are large-scale copies. When the copies were made and where the originals are is unknown. Each photo measures approximately 32.5 in. x 22.5 in.

Collection Inventory

1. Photograph, caption: "A picture of the WDAF Radio studio in the early twenties."
2. Photograph, caption: "The staff of WDAF in 1925 numbered five persons. At the microphone, Dean Fitzer, announcer, who later became manager of WDAF. Seated, Don Johnson, chief engineer. Seated at piano, Ralph Patt, announcer. Standing behind Patt, V. S. Batten, remote control engineer. Standing, Martin McKiddy, secretary."
3. Photograph, no caption. Image includes two women standing at a microphone. A man sits at a piano behind them. Another man can be seen through the window into the next room.

Processed by Kate Hill, Senior Archivist, September 2020.