Finding aid of the Edward Finney / Tex Ritter Papers 93.237

Autry National Center, Autry Library
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**Title:** Edward Finney / Tex Ritter Papers

**Identifier/Call Number:** 93.237

**Contributing Institution:** Autry National Center, Autry Library

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 3.5 Linear feet / 4 boxes

**Date (bulk):** Bulk, 1938-1939

**Date (inclusive):** 1938-1939

**Abstract:** The collection is primarily publicity files of Ed Finney, mostly regarding Tex Ritter. Primarily covers the early part (1938-39) of Ritter's career with Monogram and Grand National. Some material dates through the 1940's and also covers other actors Finney was handling.

**creator:** Finney, Edward F.

**Biographical note**
Edward Finney was a talent scout and producer for Grand National Studios, when he "discovered" Tex Ritter and signed him to a contract in 1936. Grand National Studios produced "B" Westerns. Between 1936 and 1938, when the studio folded, Ritter and Finney made 12 features together. They both then moved to Monogram in 1938. In 1941, Ritter signed on with Columbia studios. By the time he left Monogram's employ, he and Finney had made a total of 32 B Western movies together.

**Access**
Collection is open for research. Appointments to view materials are required. To make an appointment please visit http://theautry.org/research/research-rules-and-application or contact library staff at rroom@theautry.org. An item-level inventory is available from library staff.

**Biographical note**
Tex Ritter was born Woodward Maurice Ritter on January 12, 1905. He was an American country music singer and motion picture actor popular from mid 1930s into the 1960s. Ritter first appeared on radio, hosting and appearing in such western shows as "The Lone Star Rangers" and "Cowboy Tom's Roundup." In 1936, Ritter moved to Los Angeles. His motion picture debut was in "Song Of The Gringo" (1936) for Grand National Pictures. Ritter later made "singing cowboy" movies for Universal Pictures and Producers Releasing Corporation. January 2, 1974, Ritter passed away in Nashville, Tenn. (Source: Wikipedia)

**Acquisition**
Purchased from Suzanne Licht (Edward Finney's daughter)

**Processing history**
Processed by Library and Archives staff and Jeanette Berard, March 2000.

**Use**
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**Scope and contents**
Publicity files of Ed Finney, mostly regarding Tex Ritter. Primarily covers the early part (1938-39) of Ritter's career with Monogram and Grand National. Some material dates through the 1940's and also covers other actors Finney was handling. There are some materials on Tex Ritter and the Northwesterners. The bulk of the material is press clippings, exploitation material, still photos, and movie documentation. There are two boxes of files, some loose photographs in a binder, and some additional materials.

**Preferred citation**
Edward Finney / Tex Ritter Papers, 1938-1939, Autry National Center, Los Angeles; 93.237; [folder number] [folder title] [date].

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Grand National Pictures.
Monogram Pictures Corporation.
Northwesterners (Musical group).
Ritter, Tex
Brochures
Catalogs
Correspondence
Film stills
Man from Texas (Motion picture : 1939) Motion picture actors and actresses
Photographs
Pioneers (Motion picture : 1941)
Posters
Programs
Rhythm of the Rio Grande (Motion picture : 1940) Ridin' the Cherokee Trail (Motion picture : 1941) Roll Wagons Roll (Motion picture : 1940) Rollin' Westward (Motion picture : 1939)
Scores
Scripts
Sheet music
Sing Cowboy Sing (Motion picture : 1937) Song of the Buckaroo (Motion picture : 1938) Song of the Gringo (Motion picture : 1936) Tex Rides with the Boy Scouts (Motion picture : 1937) Trouble in Texas (Motion picture : 1937) Utah Trail (Motion picture : 1938)
Box 1

Physical Description: 21.0 folders

Contents

Folder 1:
93.237.10 Monogram PR sheet of ‘clipping’ from the LA Times, reviewing “Ridin’ the Cherokee Trail” no date. 36 copies. 93.237.11 Monogram PR sheet of ‘clipping’ from the Hollywood Reporter, reviewing “Ridin’ the Cherokee Trail” no date. 5 copies. 93.237.12 PR sheet for “Song of the Buckaroo,” in Spanish. 2 copies.)

Folder 2:

Folder 3:

Folder 4:

Folder 5:
93.237.20 Mark Studio Tex Ritter 5 prints, Unidentified possibly from Utah Trail, 9 120 contact prints, 1 4x5 print “Could I haunt a house” (possibly Ed Finney?) double exposure by Dick Palmer.

93.237.20 Three 4x5 contact prints (they don’t overlap...) from envelope developed for W. Hunter, Nov. 26, 1940. 4x5 Photo of Tex and another man (Finney?)

93.237.20 Thirty-one 4x5 prints, snow/winter scenes with elk herd. Possibly Utah Trail stills.

Note: All negatives from folder five are located in Box 3 of this collection.

Folder 6

Folder 7
93.237.22 Two (2) 8x10 negatives numbered 3844-pub-5, 3844-pub-6 shows Group in front of Parry Lodge, smaller group with Tex Ritter at center. 93.237.22 One (1) 8x10 negative, Sing Cowboy, Sing, 606. 93.237.22 One (1) photo 8x10, The Northwesterners signing contract for Monogram Pictures. 93.237.22 Three (3) photos 8x10, one is unidentified, others are TR 4-18 Tex Ritter in Sundown on the Prairie, 607-13 Comics Horace Murphy, Snub Pollard and Tex - Riders of the Rockies. 93.237.22 Suggestions to improve Westerns. Apparently from exit polls taken at theaters across the West. 93.237.22 Letters and Contracts for Ritter’s Personal Tour—July 1939. 93.237.22 The 49er, Slim Andrews publicity book, with photos of Slim and Tex. 93.237.22 Box office receipts and tour report, 1939. 93.237.22 July 1939 Ritter Tour. Letters sent from Finney to Ritter, notice to extend the tour through Sept. Two copies of a contract purchasing rights to a story “Hi diddle-diddle” from Andrew L. Stone and Frederick Jackson by Andrew Stone Productions. The Letterhead is pasted over a Republic Pictures letterhead. March 1943.

Folder 8
Box 2
Physical Description: 10.0 folder
Contents
Folder 1
Four (4) 8x10 negatives (Eastman nitrate film base) Tex, White Flash, the Northwesterners in front of TWA plane. Print of this negative has handwritten note identifying this as a publicity shot of Tex coming from New York to make his first movie for Monogram.
Folder 2
Folder 3
Song Hits, Vol. 3, no. 4, Sept. 1939. Tex Ritter is featured on pp. 18-19, with songs, photos, and biography. 6 copies. Folder 4
Publicity file, clippings, letters, columns for trade journals for 1938 Ed Finney projects. Not all are about Tex Ritter; includes biographies for Carmen LaRoux, Horace Murphey, Salvadore Damino, Rosa Turick, Carlos Villarias, George Cheseboro, Denver Dixon, Charles King, Jr., Karl Hackett and Martin Garralaga.
Folder 5
Publicity file, reviews and clippings, most for 1938, some in Spanish. Folder 6
File, Roll Wagons Roll. Contains scores, dialog continuity, SAG contracts.
Folder 7
Publicity file, clippings, memos, correspondence about Dorothy Fay (Southworth) for 1938-1939. One is in Spanish. Folder 8
Publicity file, press clippings. Covers Tex Ritter, Northwesterners, Dorothy Short, Mary Ruth, Where the Buffalo Roam, Little Tenderfoot and Song of the Buckaroo. Folder 9
Publicity file, press clippings, mostly 1939 review notices for Ritter films.
Folder 10

Box 3: Negatives from Box 1, Folder 5
Physical Description: 3.0 folder
Contents
Folder 5, #1:
Sixteen (16) negatives, each in a separate envelope Mark Studio Tex Ritter Five (5) prints, Unidentified possibly from Utah Trail, 9 120 contact prints with 18 120 negatives (probably nitrate film base), 1 4x5 print “Could I haunt a house” (possibly Ed Finney?) double exposure by Dick Palmer.
Folder 5, #2:
Seven (7) negatives, each in a separate envelope Three (3) 4x5 contact prints and seven (7) negatives (they don’t overlap) from envelope developed for W. Hunter, Nov. 26, 1940. 4x5 Photo of Tex and another man (Finney?)
Folder 5, #3:
Thirty-two (32) negatives, each in a separate envelope Thirty-one (31) 4x5 prints, 32 4x5 Agfa Super Pan Press negatives (nitrate film base) winter scenes with elk herd. Possibly Utah Trail stills.
Box 4

Contents
Poster - Texas Dan wanted dead or alive.
Poster - Elect Tex Alden for Mayor.

Photographs in envelopes: Trouble in Texas 8x10 prints, # 604 (1937) Headin' for the Rio Grande 11 8x10 prints, # 603 (1937) Arizona Days 4 8x10 prints, # 602 (1937) Sing Cowboy Sing 6 8x10 prints, # 606 (1937) Mystery of the Hooded Horsemen 6 8x10 prints, # 608 (1937) Tex Rides with the Boy Scouts (?) 3 8x10 prints, # 605 (1938) Tom Emerson’s Mountaineers 7 8x10 prints

Photographs in album:
Song of the Gringo 50 8x10 prints, 1-51 (1936) Roll Wagons Roll 4 8x10 prints, 3 of posters, (1940) Unidentified miscellaneous movie PR stills, 7 8x10 prints Miscellaneous non-movie PR stills, 14 8x10 prints, includes images of Tex’s arrival in Hollywood for his first Monogram picture. Close up of Movie poster for Trouble in Texas, 1 8x10 print PR still for Tex Rides with the Boy Scouts, 1 8x10 print

Boots and Saddles logo card.