Finding Aid for the Frank Mitchell papers, ca. 1920s-ca. 1980s

Processed by Jennifer Myers and Julie Graham; machine-readable finding aid created by E. Graney and Julie Graham.
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Frank Mitchell papers,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1920s-ca. 1980s
Collection number: 279
Creator: Mitchell, Frank.
Extent: 2 boxes (1 linear ft.) and 1 flat box
Abstract: Frank Mitchell was a vaudeville and film actor. The collection consists of clippings, photographs, scrapbooks, business contracts and agreements, correspondence, souvenir programs, awards, and ephemera.
Language: Finding aid is written in English.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Performing Arts Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Restrictions on Access
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Frank Mitchell papers (Collection 279). Performing Arts Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.
Biography
Mitchell Freundlich was born in NY, NY on May 13, 1905. As a child he trained with the acrobatic team of the Novello Brothers. He began his career in vaudeville with Sim Moore, as Moore and Mitchell, performing acrobatic comics around the country (1924-25). Mitchell married a well-known singer in Chicago, Jeane Fields (ca. 1924). He headlined his next partner, Jack Durant, at the London Palladium (1929). The two appeared on Broadway in George White's comedy series of sketches Scandals and Earl Carroll's Vanities (1932-33). The team went on to appear in films including 365 Nights in Hollywood (1934), and She Learned About Sailors (1934). Mitchell appeared in numerous western films, often appearing as Canonball, the sidekick to Tex Ritter and Bill Elliott (1930s-40s). He performed in U.S.O Tours during WWII and enjoyed a television career including a recurring role in the television series Wagon Train (1960s). Mitchell received an honorary plaque for his roles in western films at the 1990 Golden Boot Awards. He died of a cardiac arrest in North Hollywood, CA on January 21, 1991.
Scope and Content
Collection consists of material related to the career of actor Frank Mitchell. Includes clippings, photographs, scrapbooks, business records, souvenir programs, and ephemera. Also includes sketches for Mitchell and Durant. The scrapbooks and clippings cover both Mitchell's individual career and his association with and Jack Durant. Photographs include personal snapshots and motion pictures stills including Lone Star Vigilantes (1934) and North of the Rockies (1942).
Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Business Files
2. Clippings
3. Memorabilia
4. Photographs
5. Scrapbooks
6. Script Material
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Mitchell, Frank--Archives.
Motion picture actors and actresses--Archival resources.

Business Files

Box 1, Folder 9  
Correspondence, contracts and agreements ca. 1927-1938
Note
With notes from Sid Grauman and Burns and Allen.

Box 1, Folder 12
Box 1, Folder 13
USO documents and thank you letters ca. 1943-1946
Correspondence, contracts and agreements ca. 1946-1988
Note
With notes from Jerry Lewis.

Clippings

Box 1, Folder 2
Mitchell and Durant clippings scrapbook belonging to Jane Mitchell 1924-1925
Note
For Sim Moore and Frank Mitchell; Mitchell and Durant; and Jane Mitchell.

Box 1, Folder 3
Box 1, Folder 4
Box 1, Folder 5
Box 1, Folder 6
Box 1, Folder 7
Box 1, Folder 8
Box 3, Folder 3
Box 3, Folder 4
Mitchell and Durant clippings no date
Mitchell and Durant clippings ca. 1924-1929
Mitchell and Durant clippings ca. 1932-1939
Mitchell and Durant clippings ca. 1940s-1950s
Mitchell clippings ca. 1960s-1984
Mitchell and Durant clippings from magazines and trades ca. 1934-1979
Mitchell and Durant scrapbook pages of clippings ca. 1930-1937
USO Tour clippings ca. 1944

Memorabilia

Box 1, Folder 10
National Vaudeville Artists Fund Thirteenth Annual Benefit Performance Year Book 1929 - program 1929 April 21
Box 1, Folder 11
Billboard Theatrical Index 1931-1932
Note
Billboard Index of the New York Legitimate Stage - Season 1931-1932

Box 1, Folder 14
Box 1, Folder 15
Mitchell performances or appearances - programs and ephemera ca. 1929-1955
Comedians vs. Leading Men: Worlds Greatest Baseball Game - Mitchell appearance no date
Note
See also Box 2 folder 22 for possible related photographs

Box 1, Folder 16
Personal ephemera ca. 1929-1990
Note
Includes identification.

Box 2, Folder 1
Mitchell public appearances - programs ca. 1950-1988
Note
With cast autographs of the Western Film Fair.
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Personal ephemera 1991 Jan 29 |
|                | Note |
|                | County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, In Memoriam to Frank Mitchell. |
| Box 3, Folder 1 | Laff Parade publicity ad for Mitchell and Durant no date |
| Box 3, Folder 2 | Lone Star Vigilantes - lobby cards (11 oversize items) ca. 1953 |
|                | Note |
|                | Mostly photoduplications. |

### Photographs

| Box 2, Folder 4 | Newspaper press plate of Mitchell no date |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | Advance to the Rear negatives (4 items) no date |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | Wagon Train (television series) photograph (1 item) no date |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | She Learned About Sailors photographs (1 item) Film released 1934 |
|                | Note |
|                | Mitchell, Lew Ayres and Jack Durant in photograph. |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Music is Magic photographs (1 item) Film released 1935 |
|                | Note |
|                | Mitchell, Jack Durant, Eddie Dunn, and Alice Faye in photograph. |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Six Lessons from Madame LaZonga photographs (1 item) ca. 1940 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Big House Blues photograph (1 item) ca. 1941 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Land of the Outlaws photographs (1 item) ca. 1941 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Lone Star Vigilantes photographs (12 items) ca. 1941, 1942 |
|                | Note |
|                | Mitchell, Bill Elliot, Tex Ritter, Budd Buster and Virginia Carpenter in photographs. |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | North of the Rockies photographs (5 items) Film released 1942 |
|                | Note |
|                | Mitchell, Bill Elliot and Tex Ritter in photographs. |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Scaramouche photographs (1 item) Film released 1952 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Kismet - photographs (1 item) Film released 1955 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Advance to the Rear photographs (4 items) ca. 1964 |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | Rhythm of the Rio Grande photograph (1 item) Film released 1940 |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Moore and Mitchell; Novello Brothers - photographs (4 items) ca. 1918-1927 |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | Jane Mitchell (wife) - photographs (2 items) no date |
| Box 2, Folder 20 | Mitchell and Durant photographs (18 items) ca. 1920-1936 |
| Box 2, Folder 21 | Mitchell portraits (36 items) ca. 1920-1965 |
| Box 2, Folder 22 | Personal photographs (13 items) ca. 1923; 1934; 1937; 1940; 1944 |
|                | Note |
|                | Includes: Milton Berle, Eddie Quillian, Billy Gilbert and Lionel Stander, among others. |
|                | Robert Taylor at Comedians v. Leading Men Baseball Game; Lon Chaney Jr. at Comedian vs. Leading Men Football Game. |

| Box 2, Folder 23 | USO Tour photographs (43 items) ca. 1943-1946 |
| Box 2, Folder 24 | USO Tour photographs (30 items) ca. 1943-1945 |
| Box 2, Folder 25 | Unidentified stills Mitchell performances (5 items) ca. 1940-1964 |
| Box 2, Folder 26 | Key Stone Cops photographs (12 items) ca. 1965-1967 |
|                | Note |
|                | Mitchell, Stan Lawson, Tippi Hedron, Mary Pickford in photographs. |
Photographs

Box 2, Folder 27
New Three Stooges photograph (7 items) ca. 1975
Note
Mitchell, Joe De Rita and Paul "Mousie" Garner in photographs.

Box 2, Folder 28
Box 2, Folder 29
Box 3
Appearances at reunions and events photographs (19 items) ca. 1980-1990
Mitchell personal photographs (4 items) ca. 1934-1988
Earl Carroll, Atlantic City Aug 1931 photograph (1 oversize item) 1931 Aug
Note
Appears to be Nixon's Apollo Theater.

Box 3
Mitchell and Durant photograph (I oversize item) - Dead in the Room and Off the Record: The Boys of 36 Hotel Biltmore 1936 Oct 28
Note
James Farley dinner in honor of President Roosevelt.

Box 3, Folder 8
Mitchell and Durant portraits (15 oversize items) ca. 1926-1941
Note
With inscribed photographs from Rubinoff, Maurice Chevalier, Ted Lewis.

Scrapsbooks

Box 3, Folder 5
This is Your Life? by Janie Mitchell - scrapbook pages - 1 of 3 ca. 1927-1966
Note
Photographs and clippings.

Box 3, Folder 6
This is Your Life? by Janie Mitchell - scrapbook pages - 2 of 3 ca. 1928-1950
Note
Photographs and clippings.

Box 3, Folder 7
This is Your Life? by Janie Mitchell - scrapbook pages - 3 of 3 ca. 1929-1966
Note
Photographs and clippings.

Script Material

Box 1, Folder 1
Mitchell and Durant - sketches no date
Note
Mostly Mitchell and Durant. With script titled A Pair of French Heels by Howard Emmett Rogers dated 1931 April 14.