



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Jean Bartel Miss America
1943 Photographs, 1943-1944

NMAH.AC.0902

Kiley Orchard

2008

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Jean Bartel Miss America 1943 Photographs
Date:	1943-1970, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0902
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Sports, Entertainment and Leisure
Creator:	Bartel, Jean (Creator)
Extent:	0.66 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Photographs of Jean Bartel during the Miss America Pageant in 1943 and her activities during her reign.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Jean Bartel donated this collection in 2005.

Separated Materials

Bartel donated her Miss America crown to the Museum's Division of Culture and the Arts (now Division of Cultural and Community Life). See accession number: 2005.3069.

Processing Information

Processed by Ramona Williamson (volunteer), Kiley Orchard (intern), 2008; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist, 2008.

Preferred Citation

Jean Bartel Miss America 1943 Photographs, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use. Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with gloves.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Jean Bartel was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1924. She was strongly encouraged by her parents to follow her dream of performing on Broadway. Bartel entered the Miss America Pageant in 1943 after she learned that the financial backer of Oklahoma, Horace Schmidlapp, was going to be a pageant judge. For the talent portion of the competition, she sang Cole Porter's *Night and Day* and won the title of Miss America.

During her reign as Miss America, Bartel was given many opportunities to combine her love for singing and traveling. Her talent was often used to entertain American troops. Bartel also was involved in a bond-selling tour and was honored by the United States Treasury Department as the individual who sold the most Series E Bonds that year. Women purchased most of the two and one half million dollars of these bonds.

After she relinquished the title, Bartel performed for radio and television traveling to South America, the Middle East, Europe, Canada, and in every state except Maine. Bartel was the first Miss America to star in a Broadway musical, *Of Thee I Sing*, in 1952.

Bartel met William J. Hogue while she was working for Japanese television and he was a consultant for the Mitsubishi Company. They were married in Kyoto, Japan, in 1970. Bartel continued to perform on the stage. She also worked for American television appearing in programs including *The Red Skelton Show*, *The Danny Thomas Show*, *Perry Mason*, *Robert Montgomery Theatre*, *The Ed Wynn Show*, *Stop the Music*, *The Milton Berle Show*, and *Broadway TV Theatre*. She also did television work in Paris, Cannes, London, Beirut, Athens, Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Scandinavia. Bartel received a special showing of *It's a Woman's World* at the Montreux International Television Festival in Switzerland in which she was the host and star. Other television and feature film work included *The Rockford Files* and *The Debtors*.

In 2001, Bartel lost her husband of thirty-one years. Bartel currently owns Jean Bartel and Associates, an international travel consultation firm. She resides in Los Angeles, California and continues to be active in church work, the Academy of Television Arts and Science, the Hollywood Radio and Television Society and in supporting the Veteran's Cemetery. Scope and Content: This collection primarily documents Bartel's reign as Miss America from 1943-1944. There are some photographs of the Miss America pageant including images of other contestants and Atlantic City, New Jersey. In addition, there are a few photographs of Bartel after her reign ended.

Scope and Contents

Series 1, Miss America Competition, 1943, consists of photographs taken during the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The photographs are arranged by the activity during the competition.

Series 2, Miss America Reign, 1943-1944, consists of photographs taken during the year Bartel served as Miss America and highlights her travels around the country. Notably featured is New York, where Bartel visited Leon and Eddie's nightclub, the Waldorf Astoria, Madison Square Garden, Stage Door Canteen, and the Empire State Building. Also included is a signed note from Eddie Davis, owner of Leon and Eddie's. Bartel is photographed visiting with various people and participating in a variety of events. The series ends as she crowns Miss America 1944, Venus Ramey. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Series 3, Post Miss America, 1954, 1970, undated, includes photographs taken after Bartel's reign as Miss America. The photographs mostly document her professional career as an actress. There is one photograph of her wedding in 1970. The materials are arranged in chronological order.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series.

Series 1: Miss America Competition

Series 2: Miss America Reign

Series 3: Post Miss America

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Beauty contestants
Beauty contests -- United States

Types of Materials:

Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1940-1950

Names:

National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Sports, Entertainment and Leisure

Container Listing

Series 1: Miss America Competition, 1943

Box 1	Swimsuits
Box 1	Evening gowns
Box 1	Talent
Box 1	Finalists in ethnic costumes
Box 1	Runway walk
Box 1	Newly crowned
Box 1	Court of Honor

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Series 2: Miss America Reign, 1943-1944

Box 1	New York, New York
Box 1	Bridgeport, Connecticut
Box 2	Boston, Massachusetts
Box 2	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Box 2	Washington, D.C.
Box 2	Richmond, Virginia
Box 2	Louisville, Kentucky
Box 2	Indianapolis, Indiana
Box 2	Ohio
Box 2	Buffalo, New York
Box 2	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Box 2	Saint Paul, Minnesota
Box 2	New Orleans, Louisiana
Box 2	Kansas City

[Miss America with Kansas City Office Staff of / Lever Brothers Co. / Nov. 16, 1943 \[in negative\] \[black and white photoprint\], 1943](#)

1 Item (8" x 10".)

Photographer: Anderson

Language: English.

Notes: AC0902-0000001.tif (AC Scan)

Silver gelatin on paper.

In Box 1, Folder 39.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment.
Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Jean Bartel, Miss America 1943, during her reign;
Anderson, photographer, based in Kansas City.

Names: Bartel, Jean

Lever Brothers Company

Topic: Beauty contests -- United States

Beauty contestants

Offices

Place: Women employees
Missouri -- 20th century
Kansas City (Mo.)
Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1940-1950 -- Black-and-white photoprints
-- Silver gelatin

Box 2	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Box 2	Lincoln, Nebraska
Box 2	Salt Lake City, Utah
Box 2	Los Angeles, California
Box 2	Atlantic City, New Jersey

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Series 3: Post Miss America, 1954, 1970, undated

Box 2	Image from Glamourama, 1954 September 3
Box 2	Image from performance of Sally, Los Angeles Philharmonic Auditorium, undated
	Bartel with Yves Montand
Box 2	Wedding, Japan, 1970

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