



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Charles W. Koerner RKO Studios Scrapbook

NMAH.AC.1432

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Charles W. Koerner RKO Studios Scrapbook
Date:	1923-1953
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1432
Creator:	Koerner, Charles W., 1896-1946 (Creator)
Extent:	0.25 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Rebecca Renish, 2017

Preferred Citation

Charles W. Koerner RKO Studios Scrapbook, 1923-1953, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Koerner (1896-1946) was born in New Orleans to Louis Novinsky and Doris Juanita Jennie Warren. He attended Shattuck Military Academy in Faribault, Minnesota. He enlisted in the Army in Havre Hill, Montana (1917-1918). In 1920 he married his first wife Doris Clark (1897-1926) in Great Falls, Montana. In 1931 he married his second wife, Vivian L. Calvin (b. 1905).

After the war he was a projectionist in Montana and worked as a branch manager for Jensen and Von Herbery, owners of a Pacific Northwest chain of theatres. In 1925 became part owner and general manager of the George Mann circuit of theatres in Northern California. After the sale of the George Mann circuit, Koerner became a personal representative to Harold B. Franklin, president of Radio Keith Orpheum Corporation (RKO). Koerner eventually served in positions from RKO in the Southwest, up state New York, and New England and West Coast divisions. In 1931 he became associated with RKO Theatres and was their New England division manager. In 1939, he became general manager of RKO Theatres with offices in New York.

Koerner died in 1946 in Los Angeles of acute leukemia.

Sources

Montana, Military Records, 1904-1918. Salt Lake City, UT, USA: FamilySearch, 2019.

"C.W. Koerner, Head of RKO Theatre Circuit Ex-Manager Dies," New York Times (1923-); New York, N.Y. [New York, N.Y.]. 04 Feb 1946: 22

Scope and Contents

A scrapbook documenting Charles W. Koerner's career as head of RKO Pictures in the 1940s. The scrapbook contains letters, a telegram, photographs, programs, a menu, clippings, and ephemera. Some portions of the scrapbook date from before Koerner's time with RKO, including his high school years, and portions are from after his death, possibly compiled by his wife, Vivian.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Motion picture industry
- Motion picture studios -- California -- Hollywood
- Motion pictures

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence -- 1940-1950
- Menus -- 1940-1950
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- 1940-1950
- Programs -- 1940-1950
- Scrapbooks -- 1940-1950
- Telegrams

Names:

- Brunoy, Blanche, 1915-2005
- RKO Pictures.

Container Listing

Box 1, Box 1	Correspondence, 1942, 1945, undated
Box 1, Box 2	Photographs, 1923-1945 Notes: File folder consists black and white photographs--portraits of Charles Koerner; a farewell party for Koerner, manager of the First National Pictures (1923); Koerbner at a cocktail party with other RKO executives and Blancehtte Brunoy (1945); unidentified images; and one scrapbook page detailing Koerner's high school football activities at [Shattuck Military Academy] in Fairbault, Minnesota.
Box 1, Box 3	Ephemera, 1939, 1941, 1946 Notes: Includes a farewell party program for Koerner at the Cocoanut Grove (1939); menu (1941) for the New York Luncheon welcoming Charles Koerner; and <i>Greater Amusements</i> (1946) with news of RKO Pictures.
Box 1, Box 4	Newspaper clippings, 1926, 1938-1946