This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City. If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shs.mo.org.

**Introduction**
Approximately 0.25 cubic foot.

The Bernice Tate Burwell Collection consists of scrapbooks and photographs concerning the Kansas City, Kansas, branch of the Horner-Kansas City Conservatory of Music from the 1920s and 1940s. The photographs are primarily of the dance department performances, faculty, and students.

Bernice Tate was born in George and moved with her family to Kansas City, Kansas. After graduating from Central High School, she married Guy Burwell in 1905. Bernice Burwell worked as a sales manager for Edison Phonograph and Record Company before becoming field secretary for the Horner Institute of Fine Arts in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1922, Burwell became the manager of the Kansas City, Kansas, branch of the Horner Institute of Fine Arts after its opening.

In 1926, the Horner Institute merged with the Kansas City Conservatory of Music to form the Horner-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. Burwell established the junior department at the Kansas City, Missouri, branch in 1929, and organized the Plaza branch of the school in 1930, as well as helped to formulate the curriculum for a short-lived college affiliated with the Conservatory.

In the late 1930s, William Volker helped Burwell find financial backing to purchase from the Conservatory the soon-to-be-closed Kansas City, Kansas, branch at 747 Minnesota Avenue. Burwell operated the school, retaining the Conservatory name and teachers, until 1950, when she sold it to a local music company. Burwell then worked several years as sales agent for the Charis garment company before retiring. During her lifetime, Burwell wrote and produced several musical shows and in the 1930s hosted a KCKN (Kansas City, Kansas) radio show promoting the Kansas City Philharmonic. Burwell was active in the Women’s Chamber of Commerce, the Women’s Committee of the Philharmonic, the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), and Phi Mu Gamma, a national fine arts sorority. Burwell died in 1960 in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Donor Information**
The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Helen Burwell Gale on August 11, 1987 (Accession No. KA0433).

**Copyright and Restrictions**
The Donor has given and assigned to the University of Missouri all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor’s works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.
K0234 (KA0433)
BERNICE TATE BURWELL COLLECTION

Related Collections
Burwell-Tate Family Papers (K0233)

Location Note
The collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

Box List

Box 1
Helen Burwell Gale, Diploma, 1926
Helen Burwell Gale, Wedding Notices, 1936
Scrapbook, Newspaper Clippings, 1912-1939 (2 folders)
Loose Materials from Scrapbook, 1921-1942 (2 folders)
Notes, Bernice Burwell’s KCKN (Kansas City, Kansas) Radio Broadcasts and Speeches
Lambda Phi Delta Fine Arts Fraternity Booklet, 1927
Photographs
    Conservatory Faculty, 1928-1930
    Students, 1935-1945, undated (2 folders)
    Performances, No Conservatory-Affiliated, 1923-1935

Oversize
Volumes II, IV, and Unidentified