

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
K0322 (KA0611, KA0679, KA0841, KA0897, KA0937, KA0686, KA2450)
FRANK OLIVER WIZIARDE PAPERS

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@shsmo.org.

Introduction

Approximately 17 cubic feet.

The collection consists of newspaper clippings, audio-visual materials, correspondence, artifacts, magazines, photographs, posters, and other ephemera pertaining to the television and circus career of Frank Oliver Wizarde, who portrayed Whizzo the Clown in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Additional materials include genealogical documents related to the Wizarde family and family photographs.

Frank Oliver “Whizzo” Wizarde was born on July 25, 1916, in Westmoreland, Kansas, to circus performers, Jack Oliver and Laura Lulu Baldwin Wizarde. He performed with his family in the Wizarde Trio, and later the Wizarde Novelty Circus. From 1942 until 1946, Wizarde served in the United States Army during World War II. After the war, Wizarde became a radio announcer for KFEQ in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Wizarde debuted his television personality, “Whizzo the Clown,” with KMBC-TV in 1953 and program aired in 1954. The “Whizzo” character would be featured on KCMO-TV in Kansas City and then later WIBW-TV in Topeka, Kansas. The last airing of “Whizzo” took place on May 20, 1987.

Wizarde married Kitty Louise Handley. He died on September 11, 1987, in Johnson County, Kansas, and is buried at the Johnson County Chapel and Memorial Gardens in Overland Park, Kansas.

Donor Information

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by L. Michele Wizarde on August 18, 1990 (Accession No. KA0611). An addition was made on April 1, 1992 (Accession No. KA0679). An addition was made on November 29, 1994 by Michele Wizarde (Accession No. KA0841). An addition was made on April 23, 1996 by Garrett Tuck (Accession No. KA0897). An addition was made on January 7, 1997 by Teddy Dibble (Accession No. KA0937). An addition was made on November 2, 2000 by Herbert Hazelwood (Accession No. KA0686). An addition was made on January 18, 2018 by Teddy Dibble (Accession No. KA2450).

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.

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Related Collections

Whizzo, Ol'Gus and Me Collection (K1236)

Note

The videos in this collection are unviewable until converted to digital format.

Location Note

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

Box List

Box 1

1955, 1960-1971

Newspaper clippings, personal writings, personal and professional correspondence, Whizzo material, show instructions and ideas, promo flyers and pictures, 2 TV Guide magazines from 1955 and 1971

Box 2

1887-1950s

Pictures of Frank Oliver Wiziarde, his brother, Jack Wiziarde Jr., his father, Jack O. Wiziarde, his mother, Lou Wiziarde, their circus late 1920's and 1930's, World War II photos, newspaper clippings, circus contracts

Box 3

1950-1980s

Photos of Whizzo and promo shots for handouts, several photo albums containing Whizzo material

Box 4

1950-1970's

Documents concerning Whizzo and the Whizzo show, newspaper clippings, Whizzo promo material, correspondence, negatives, slides, and photographs, flyer to Frank Wiziarde and Wiziarde family

Box 5

Oversized

Masks, advertising posters, banners

Box 6-9

Various forms of Audio-Visual Materials

Box 10

Materials written by Frank, news releases, information regarding advertising on the show, clown philosophy, procedures for show, poems and songs
"So, You Want to Be a Clown?" booklet, 1978, lecture, "Whizzo, Working for and with Children, letter from Michele, "The Perils of Fanny," script "Why My Faith in Christ is Important to Me," 1958, notes, drafts

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White House Easter Egg Roll, correspondence, coloring books, photographs, materials, 1983
Correspondence, Wizarde collection at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, family background, especially Robert O. Wizarde, 1988-1989
Notebook, genealogical notes, photographs
Whizzo movie, "Santa's Christmas Circus," treatment notes, printed materials, sheet music, contract, 1966
Music, handwritten manuscript, copyright/royalty documents, 45 rpm records of "Whizzo, Your Clown Buddy," 1956
Family and personal materials, includes birth and death certificates, school records, wedding cards, 1916-1987
Log O'Life book for Michele, 1946
Photographs, 1920s-1980s
Photographs, "Mick"
Whizzo-Gram to advertisers
Worlds of Fun diplomas
Coloring books, large
Coloring books, small
Promotional postcards
Promotional photographs (2 folders)
"Whizzo the Clown," informational pamphlet with biographical information, background on the show
Leaflets, Whizzo advertising for birthday parties
Business cards
Hats, Whizzo's Wonderland
Photographs mounted for flip book
"Direction by Wizarde," placard
Sketches for Whizzo's Wonderland portable stage
Kansas license plate, reads "WHIZZO"
Buttons
Photographs, World War II and India
Autograph books, Frank, 1930, and Kit 1936, opera autographs, 1971
Clippings
Correspondence, Michele, 1992-1993
Ephemera, including playing cards
Circuses, stationery, photographs, mail and route list, 1909-1922
Speaker of the House, S&H employee magazine featuring article on Jack Wizarde, 1956
Wooden paddle with men's names

Box 11

Vol. 1 Photograph album, began as gift for Frank and Kit's first anniversary, then World War II show
Vol. 2 Clippings, photos, printed material re: Frank's army career, 1943-1949, also, some family photos
Vol. 3 Small album, Michele as a baby, 1946-1947
Loose photographs, small gray box

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Box 12

Whizzo Film, Tapes 1-15, 1979-1986

Box 13

Whizzo Film, Tapes 16-33, 1986-1987, no date

Box 14

Whizzo Film, Tapes 34-35, no date

Box 15

Oversize Artifact

Whizzo dog puppet

Box 16

Photographs

Box 17x5

Oversize

Roll 1

Santa's Christmas Circus with Whizzo the Clown, producer Byers
Jordan, no date