



Elinor Fox Kamen Papers (K0944)

Collection Number: K0944

Collection Title: Elinor Fox Kamen Papers

Dates: 1940-1943

Creator: Kamen, Elinor Fox

Abstract: The papers consist of scripts of the radio program "Women in the News," which Kamen hosted, wrote, and produced. The script pages are numbered, with edits and notations hand written on the margins. There are additional miscellaneous scripts for other radio programs that Kamen worked on, including "The Little Red Schoolhouse." Additionally, this collection has personal and business correspondence and fan mail for the programs in which Kamen worked.

Collection Size: 0.5 cubic foot
(13 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. 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. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University 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.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Elinor Fox Kamen Papers* (K0944); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Ben Bortnick on February 28, 2007 (Accession No. KA1506).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Elinor Fox Kamen Papers can be found in the following collections:

William James Ryan Papers, 1914-1996 (K0457)

Notes: Collection is associated with the Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City.

Processed by: Processed by Mimi Loran, March 2017

Biographical Note:

Elinor Fox Kamen was born on June 11, 1911. Elinor married Morris Fox in 1932, and together they had a daughter. Following the death of her husband in 1939, Elinor entered the field of radiobroadcasting as a way to support herself and her daughter, Linda. Her first position was with a local radio station, KITE. While there, she worked on several programs including an advice program under the pseudonym Elinor Allen.

Elinor then went to work for station WHB, and hosted the children's quiz show, "The Little Red Schoolhouse." The show featured students from local Kansas City schools. While at WHB, Elinor also wrote, produced, and hosted the radio program "Women in the News," under the pseudonym Alice Gay. On this program, Elinor interviewed local career women. Some of the women interviewed worked on assembly lines or worked for the war effort. She also occasionally interviewed famous women of the day, such as Gypsy Rose Lee, when they were in Kansas City.

Elinor later left the field of radiobroadcasting and started her own advertising agency. She married Morris Kamen in 1949. Elinor passed away on March 9, 2006.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following four series:

- Correspondence
- Fan Mail
- Marketing and Advertising
- Radio Scripts

Scope and Content Note:

Correspondence

This series contains a small selection of personal and business correspondence. The business correspondence contains items regarding her radio broadcasts and shows.

Fan Mail

This series contains a selection of letters written by fans of the radio shows that Elinor hosted. There is fan mail for her advice program addressed to Elinor Allen, and fan mail for her "Women in the News" program addressed to Alice Gay. These letters were often thank you letters for

advice or for her work in talking about women in the workplace. The letters often asked questions regarding the stories Kamen had recently done.

Marketing and Advertising

This series contains radio and paper-advertising materials related to Elinor's shows "The Little Red Schoolhouse" and "Women in the News."

Radio Scripts

This series, which makes up the bulk of the collection, consists of several months of scripts for the WHB program "Women in the News." These scripts detail the interviews that Elinor had with women of Kansas City who worked unusual jobs for women at that time. Many of these scripts have annotations and corrections on them from Elinor. Additionally, there are partial scripts for "Army Mail Call," "The Little Red Schoolhouse," and an unaired program called, "Trails of the Trappers."

Container List:

f. 1-2	Correspondence
f. 1	Personal, no date
f. 2	Business, 1940-1943
f. 3-4	Fan Mail
f. 3	Elinor Allen, 1940
f. 4	Alice Gay, 1942
f. 5-6	Marketing and Advertising
f. 5	"The Little Red Schoolhouse," 1941
f. 6	"Women in the News," 1942
f. 7-13	Radio Scripts
f. 7	"Army Mail Call," no date
f. 8	"The Little Red Schoolhouse," no date
f. 9	"Miscellaneous," no date
f. 10	"Trails of the Trappers," no date
f. 11-13	"Women in the News," 1942

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