

Finding Aid for the

Charles Koon/Lawrence Welk Show Collection, 1958 – 1982

Los Angeles Public Library, Photo Collection



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Los Angeles, California

Contact Information:

Los Angeles Public Library
Photo Collection
630 W. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

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Processed by:

Valeria Barragan, June 2022

Descriptive Summary

Title

Charles Koon/Lawrence Welk Show Collection, 1958-1982

Collection Number

GPC_b0181 – GPC_b0186

Extent

3 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)

Repository

The Los Angeles Public Library, Photo Collection
630 W. 5th Street
Los Angeles, California 90071

Abstract

The Charles Koon/Lawrence Welk Show Collection consists of approximately 6,034 35mm mounted color slides and 500 3.5” x 5” color photographic prints, documenting week to week stage production of the television program, *The Lawrence Welk Show*. Images were presumably photographed by Don Keck, the official photographer of *The Lawrence Welk Show*, and maintained by Charles Koon, the Art Director for the entire run of the *Lawrence Welk Show*.

Physical Location

Housed in the “Cold Room” located on Lower Level 4 at Central Library.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction

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Restrictions on Access

This collection is stored on-site at the Central Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. It is open for research by appointment only.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Charles Koon Estate via Nicholas Koon, son of Charles Koon, November 8, 2021.

Preferred Citation

[Photographer (if given)], [Collection Name]/Los Angeles Public Library

Biography/History

The Lawrence Welk Show was a popular television variety program hosted by big band leader Lawrence Welk. The series aired locally in Los Angeles for four years, from 1951 to 1955, then nationally for another 16 years on ABC from 1955 to 1971, followed by 11 years in first-run syndication from 1971 to 1982. The program aired weekly on Saturday evenings.

Charles Koon (1929-2004) was an Art Director who served as the set designer for *The Lawrence Welk Show* for its entire run.

Scope and Content

The Charles Koon/Lawrence Welk Show Collection consists of approximately 6,034 35mm mounted color slides and 500 3.5" x 5" color photographic prints, documenting week to week stage production of the television program, *The Lawrence Welk Show*. The collection begins in October 1958, during its run on ABC concludes in April 1982 when the first run episodes of the show stopped being filmed. Images in the collection are generally shot from a distance, so the entire stage and sets are visible, along with performers, including the band. Television cameras can frequently be seen in the images.

Air dates are written on the slides or on the verso of the prints, though around 100 prints are undated.

Don Keck was the official photographer of *The Lawrence Welk Show* and he is therefore believed to be the photographer of the images in this collection.

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is organized by airdate. 35mm mounted slides are stored in boxes 181-185, and prints are filed in box 186.

Related Materials

Coakley, Mary Lewis. *Mister Music Maker, Lawrence Welk* (Doubleday, 1958). 789.14 W446Co

Govoni, Albert. *The Lawrence Welk story*. (Pocket Books, 1966). 789.14 W446Go

Sanders, Coyne Steven. *Champagne music : the Lawrence Welk Show*. (St. Martin's Press, 1985). 791.457 L424Sa

Schwienher, William K. *Lawrence Welk--an American institution*. (Nelson-Hall, 1980). 789.14 W446Sc

Welk, Lawrence, with Bernice McGeehan. *Ah-one, ah-two! : Life with my musical family*. (Prentice-Hall, 1974). 789.14 W446-1

Welk, Lawrence, with Bernice McGeehan. *My America, your America* (Prentice-Hall, 1976). 789.14 W446-2

Welk, Lawrence, with Bernice McGeehan. *Lawrence Welk's Musical Family Album*. (Prentice-Hall, 1977). 789.14 W446-3

Welk, Lawrence, with Bernice McGeehan. *Lawrence Welk's bunny rabbit concert*. (Youth Publications/Saturday Evening Post Co., 1977). 789.14 W446-3

Welk, Lawrence, with Bernice McGeehan. *This I believe*. (Prentice-Hall, 1979). 789.14 W446-4

Welk, Lawrence, with Bernice McGeehan. *You're never too young*. (Prentice-Hall, 1981). 789.14 W446-5

Zehnpfennig, Gladys. *Lawrence Welk, champagne music man*. (T. S. Denison, 1968). 789.14 W446Ze

Container List

- GPC_b181
 - Folder 01 – 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning October 11, 1958 – August 13, 1960.
 - Folder 02 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning August 13, 1960 – February 10, 1962.
 - Folder 02 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning February 10, 1962 – April 27, 1963

- GPC_b182
 - Folder 01 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning April 27, 1963 – April 4, 1964.
 - Folder 02 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning April 4, 1964 – March 13, 1965.
 - Folder 03 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning March 13, 1965 – January 22, 1966.
- GPC_b183
 - Folder 01 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning January 22, 1966 – December 10, 1966.
 - Folder 02 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning December 10, 1966 – November 4, 1967.
 - Folder 03 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning November 4, 1967 – August 31, 1968.
- GPC_b184
 - Folder 01 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning September 14, 1968 – August 2, 1969.
 - Folder 02 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning August 2, 1969 – September 26, 1970.
 - Folder 03 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning September 26, 1970 – October 29, 1971.
- GPC_b185
 - Folder 01 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning November 5, 1971 – February 10, 1975.
 - Folder 02 - 35mm mounted slides with air dates spanning February 17, 1975 – March 1, 1977. One slide with an imprint date of August 1977.
- GPC_b186
 - Photographic prints, measuring 3.5" x 5" with air dates spanning November 1976 – March, 1981.
 - Photographic prints, measuring 3.5" x 5" with air dates spanning April 1981 – January 1982.
 - Photographic prints, measuring 3.5" x 5" with air dates spanning February 1982 – April 1982. Approximately 100 undated prints.

