

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Biographical Sketch | 2 |
| Scope and Content | 3 |
| Series Notes | 4 |
| Container List | 5 |
| SERIES I: MATCHBOOKS | 5 |
| SERIES II: DOCUMENTS | 5 |
| A: Periodicals | 5 |
| B: Newspaper Clippings | 6 |
| C: Flyers | 6 |
| D: Postcards | 6 |
| E: Correspondence | 6 |
| F: Other | 7 |
| SERIES III: Photographs | 7 |

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Olene Trust Crowley Collection was gifted in Fall, 2012 to the Gay and Lesbian Archives of Mid-America (GLAMA) by Crowley.

Olene Trust Trolinger was born in November 1917 in Garden City, Missouri, to John and Grace Trolinger. She married Mr. Crowley in 1943, although the marriage did not last and she has lived on her own ever since. When she first came to Kansas City she worked at National Photo by the early 1950s. The Crowley's had one son, Mack, who grew up to become a barber/cosmetologist. He and his wife, Linda, has one son, Dennis, and one daughter, Denise. Mack died at age 53 from cancer. At the time of her donation and oral history interview, Ms. Crowley was 94-years-old, turning 95 on November 20.

Crowley first worked as a cocktail hostess at the Trocadero Club, about 1962 (she mentioned Frank Giamalva who is identified on one of her photographs of that club). One day she got a call from John Tucillo, owner of the Jewel Box Lounge, who invited her to cover for her good friend, Helen Armstrong. Crowley ended up working as a cocktail hostess for Mr. Tucillo at all of his clubs for more than 27 years. Local female impersonator, Bruce Winter (aka. Melinda Ryder), said, "Olene was petite and always wore jump suits with hip pads and was all decked out to the nines, so she fit right in with the other drag queens and EVERYONE loved her to death. We're still friends. And, I was friends with her grandson, Dennis Crowley, many years ago."

- David W. Jackson

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Crowley collection dates from the 1960s to 1980s, and includes photographs and printed materials printed by and/or relating to the establishments and performers at various Kansas City bars/night clubs, including: the Jewel Box, Cat Balleu, Yum Yum Club, Pink Garter, Trocadero Club, and Arabian Nights (aka "The Tent"). Included are photographs of Crowley with coworkers and friends with an emphasis on impersonator's snapshots and publicity head shots; printed material about and by various clubs (including a cocktail napkin from The Inferno, postcards from the Jewel Box, souvenir match books for several clubs; and, a couple of local magazines, including two copies of Town Squire with Jewel Box impersonators on the cover as a feature story); calendars Crowley kept of her tips; and, a small selection of matter relating to Kansas City Jazz favorites, Bettye Miller and Milt Abel, as well as bass player, Roy Johnson, whom Crowley "went with" for many years (Crowley said Johnson was in Lionel Hamptons' band at Truman's 1948 Inauguration). Much of the material had previously belonged to Crowley's friend, Mike Sackett, and included information and images of him and his partner John Tod Hunter.

- David W. Jackson

Note: See also the GLAMA-Chris Collins Collection, MS228, for more items related to the Jewel Box.

SERIES NOTES

SERIES I: MATCHBOOKS

Contained in Box 1; Includes 32 Matchbooks from many local Kansas City establishments, as well as locations all across the country. Featured in this collection are Matchbooks from the three nightclubs formerly located in the 3200 block of Troost Ave.: Jewel Box Lounge, Cat Balleu, and Yum-Yum.

SERIES II: DOCUMENTS

Contained in Box 2. Folders 1-4; Includes a few local periodicals, some newspaper clippings, flyers from local venues and events, a couple postcards, and other miscellaneous documents.

SERIES III: PHOTOGRAPHS

Contained in Box 2, Folders 5-10; Includes 177 Photographs featuring Crowley herself, Mike Sackett and John Tod Hunter, various performers from the venues at which Crowley worked, and many other personal photos from over the years in Kansas City.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I: MATCHBOOKS

| Box | Description |
|-----|--|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cat Balleu (2).- Yum-Yum – Strip-O-Rama (3).- Jewel Box Lounge (2).- The Leather Bottle.- Silver Spur Motel.- The New Wishbone Restaurant.- Flamingo Cocktail Lounge.- Fu Manchu's.- The Strawberry Patch.- Katco Rubber & Supply Co.- Orscheln.- Fanny's.- Plaza Inn.- KCL Corporation.- Victoria Station.- The Arabian Nights.- The Famous Flamingo Room.- Stork Club.- Hotel Tulsa.- Bess Eiler's Restaurant.- Shangri-La.- Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn.- Tony Racino's Bar.- Caruso's.- The Westerner.- Bon Soir.- Hotel Staller.- Holiday House. |

SERIES II: DOCUMENTS

| Box | Folder | Description |
|-----------------------|--------|--|
| A: Periodicals | | |
| 2 | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kansas City Alternate News (Volume 5, Number 35, July 6, 1984), 57 pp.- Kansas City Key (November 3-December 7, 1972), 31 pp.- Kansas City Town Squire (March, 1976), 47 pp. (2 copies). |

Box **Folder** **Description**

B: Newspaper Clippings

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|---|---|--|
| 2 | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ads (Count Basie and his Orchestra; Mr. Ty Lindstrom; New Year's Eve Parties; Trocadero Club; John Todhunter/All Star Femme Mimics; Honey Harlowe/John Todhunter; Club Juana; Tangerine (9); Jazz Concert.- "Law Called Unfair: Off Stage Into Kitchen" (KC Star, April 7, 1974).- "Jewel Box Unparalleled" (The Scout, April 19, 1974).- "Bettye Miller, 49, Dies" (KC Star, March 1, 1977).- "Jazz Constellation Fainter Without Bettye" (March 2, 1977).- "Going Out [about Bettye Miller]" (KC Times, March 4, 1977).- "Musical Tribute [to Bettye Miller]".- "Kansas City Speaks – Olene Crowley" (KC Speaks, November 15, 1984).- "Jazz Singer's Daughter Brings Sounds to Life" (KC Times, January 18, 1985).- Incomplete Article about Count Basie (KC Star, August 31, 1997).- Picture of Tangerine and others.- Obituary of John Todhunter (photocopy).- "Change of Pace puts Dollars in the Coffers, Sparkle in the Air".- "Jazz Queen's Farewell with Happy Notes". |
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C: Flyers

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bash for Bettye.- A Benefit for Sadie (Michael Sackett).- Bill Haley and his Comets.- Boobs Diamond with Mr. Todd Hunter.- "The Boys with the Bulges".- Pink Garter.- Mr. Ty Lindstrom (2). |
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D: Postcards

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 2 | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jewel Box Lounge (3 copies).- Club My-O-My, to Olene Crowley from "Ron, Carol and Helen". |
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E: Correspondence

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 2 | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Letter to Mike Sackett [Bartender at The Jewel Box].- Letter to Crowley from "Sue, Lowell, and Emma".- Christmas Card to Mike from Tangerine?- New Year's Party Invitation; Party Invitation (2). |
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Box Folder Description

F: Other

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|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bettye and Milt Request Card.- \$1 Coupons for Arabian Nights Restaurant (9).- Poem about Frank Gimalva.- Cocktail Napkin: The Fabulous Inferno Show Lounge.- Booklet for Funeral of Russell D. Sackett.- Notice for the 1986 Pink Garter Picnic.- Rehearsal Schedule for Sanford and Son Episode #0107.- 3 Calendars. |
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SERIES III: PHOTOGRAPHS

Box Folder Description

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|---|---|--|
| 2 | 5 | <p>feat. Olene Crowley (1-33)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – Crowley and Frank Giamalva.2-3 – Crowley.4 – Crowley and Giamalva.5-6 – Crowley and unknown men.7 – Crowley and unknown man (“Waiting tables @ The Trocadero and having fun!!”).8 – Crowley and Giamalva (larger version of Photo 1).9 – Crowley seated at bar (1960).10 – Unknown man at bar with dog.11-12 – Emmett Finney Quartette (?) (“Dec. ’64, T-Club”).13 – “Johnnie Giamalva, aft. pool rest”.14 – Crowley.15 – Crowley and Helen Armstrong at the Trocadero Club.16 – Trocadero Lounge, 1960.17 – Unknown man (“Dec. ’64, Trocadero Club”).18 – Crowley (Oct. 1980).19 – Crowley.20 – Crowley (Sept. 1978, “Olene @ club”).21-22 – Crowley (2 copies of Photo 22).23 – “Val [and] Olene @ Candy’s, 1980”.24-26 – Crowley and David (bartender at Arabian Nights).27 – Crowley and Mike Sackett.28 – Crowley, Sackett, and unknown woman, Sept. 1972.29 – [Larger version of Photo 28].30 – Crowley.31 – Crowley with Sackett, two unknown women and unknown man.32 – Crowley with Sackett, unknown man and unknown woman.33 – Crowley with Sackett, unknown man and unknown woman. |
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| Box | Folder | Description |
|-----|--------|---|
| 2 | 6 | Gerri Anthony and the Emmett Finney Quartette (34-39) 34 – Gerri Anthony (“Olene- I’ll always be me, Gerri ‘72”). 35 – Emmett Finney Quartette. 36 – Gerri Anthony (“To Olene- One of my favorite people. Love, Gerri Anthony”) (w/ correspondence from Anthony to Crowley). 37 - Emmett Finney Quartette. 38 – Claude Herndon. 39 – Herman Bell. |
| | 7 | Mike Sackett and John Tod Hunter (40-51) 40-41 – Sackett behind bar. 42 – John Tod Hunter and Tangerine. 43 – Tod Hunter and Puppets. 44 – Tod Hunter at bar. 45-47 – Sackett behind bar (2 copies of Photo 45). 48 – Tod Hunter and Puppets (2 copies). 49 – Tod Hunter publicity still. 50 – Tod Hunter publicity still. 51 – Tod Hunter and Puppets. |
| | 8 | Performers (52-91) 52 – “David” (with note to Sackett on the back, June 1979). 53 – Edye Gregory (See Photos 157-171). 54 – Unknown woman, signed w/ note (“Momo Club”?). 55 – Ricki Russell (w/ note to “Doris” on the back, February 1, 1959). 56-57 – Unknown woman in parade car labeled “Babette”, May 23, 1970. 58 – Five women in Cat Balleu parade car, May 23, 1970 (2 copies). 59 – Rita Ryan publicity still, signed to Sackett. 60 – Rita Ryan publicity still, signed to Crowley. 61-63 – Mr. Glenn Elliott publicity still, Photo 62 signed to Crowley (2 copies of Photo 61). 64 – Sandi Dale publicity still, signed to Crowley. 65 – Terrie Lynne (Linda) publicity still, signed (w/ note on the back). 66 – Unknown woman. 67 – Edye Gregory publicity still, signed to Sackett (w/ note to Sackett on the back). 68-72 – Unknown performers. 73 – Jeannie Thomas (Princess Little Branch) Goddess of Fire publicity still. 74 – Unknown performers. 75 – Jewel Box: Mid-America’s Most Unusual Show publicity still. 76 – Unknown performer. 77 – Edye Gregory publicity still, signed to “Gary”. 78 – “Billy”, signed to Crowley. 79-80 – Sandy Howard, signed to Crowley, 1979-80. 81-82 – Unknown performer publicity stills. 83 – “Lee” publicity still, signed. 84 – Skip Arnold publicity still. |

| Box | Folder | Description |
|-----|--------|--|
| (2 | 8) | 85 – Ty Lindstrom publicity still, signed to Sackett. 86 – “Danielle”, signed to “Mom”. 87 – Unknown performer doing the splits between two chairs in a bikini 88 – Edye Gregory, signed to Sackett. 89 – Leggs Diamond publicity still, signed to Sackett. 90 – “Chris”, signed to Sackett. 91 – Sandi Dale, signed to Sackett. [Articles and Promotional Materials]. |
| 2 | 9 | Tangerine (92-98) 92 – “Tangerine – Appearing Here Nightly”. 93 – Tangerine on stage. 94 – Tangerine next to picture of herself. 95 – Tangerine in “Babette” parade car (see Photos 56-57). 96 – Tangerine publicity still signed to “Larry”. 97 – “Tangerine – Circuit’s Most Fabulous Comedian”, publicity still signed to Sackett, December 6, 1972. 98 – Tangerine publicity still (2 copies). |
| 10 | | Misc. (99-177) 99 – Group photo at birthday party for Lynne and Tangerine (see Photos 176-177). 100-102 – Tammy La Motte, signed, 1977. 103 – Two women at birthday party. 104-105 – Unknown women. 106 – Two men and Two women at social gathering. 107 – Unknown performer. 108 – Frank Smith. 109-110 – Judy “Legs” Ross, October 1977. 111-120 – Social Gathering, 1980 (Photos 111, 114, 116, 117, 118, and 120 feat. Val Anderson and Candy). 121-126 – The Jewel Box, September 1978 (Photo 121 of Tammy La Motte, w/ note on the back to Sackett, Photo 126 of Skip Arnold). 127-135 – Social gathering (Photo 132 “Helen @ Colony”). 136-141 – Birthday Party at the Jewel Box, July 26, 1972, feat. Tangerine, Sackett, and others (Photo 140 “Black and White hostesses, each decorated a ½ white and ½ black (chocolate) cake”). 142 – “Chris [and] Olene”. 143 – People at the bar at the Jewel Box. 144 – Sackett and unknown woman. 145 – Polaroid (ripped in half) of two unknown women. 146-151 – Polaroids from the Jewel Box, July 1979. 152 – Polaroid “Sandy Kay, Oct. 21, 1980”. 153 – Polaroid “Mike and Jerry, Oct. 1980”. 154 – Polaroid “Mike, Jerry and Val, 1980”. 155 – Polaroid “Val, Candy and Don, Oct. 1980”. 156 – Polaroid of two unknown performers. 157-171 – Various performers (Photos 170-171 of Edye Gregory). |

| Box | Folder | Description |
|-----|--------|---|
| (2 | 10) | 172 – Sackett and unknown woman (w/ note on the back). 173 – Unknown woman, signed to Sackett. 174 – “Leggs Diamond – Join Me”, signed. 175 – “Jenny”, signed, June 5, 1970. 176-177 – Birthday party for Lynne and Tangerine (see Photo 99). |