



ArchivesSpace

Sweeney, Dorothy L.; Papers

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M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Creator:	Sweeney, Dorothy L., 1923-
Title:	Dorothy L. Sweeney Papers
ID:	mss135
Date [inclusive]:	1941-2004
Physical Description:	0.66 cubic ft.
Physical Description:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Dorothy (nee Langley) Sweeney graduated from St. Mary's Institute in Amsterdam, New York in 1941. After graduation, Sweeney accepted an office position at General Electric in Schenectady. In her off hours she spent time at WGY, GE's AM radio station, where her brother Edward Langley acted and wrote for the station's dramatic productions. She later worked at WGY and in radio in New York City. Sweeney provided sound effects for several programs and her scripts from this work form the bulk of this collection.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows: Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Dorothy Sweeney Papers, 1941-2004, Undated. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Sweeney Papers).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Dorothy Sweeney (nee Langley) was born in Amsterdam, N.Y. in 1923. After graduating from high school in 1941, she worked as a secretary at General Electric in Schenectady, N.Y., where her brother Edward was an actor on WGY, G.E.'s AM radio station. When WGY's sound effects artist was drafted later that year, Dorothy was hired to replace him.

After two years at WGY, Dorothy Sweeney moved to New York City and enrolled at the Radio and Television Institute to pursue a professional career in sound effects. In January 1944, she was hired at WOR, the Manhattan-based flagship station of the Mutual Broadcasting System. She worked at WOR until 1946, when she married returning serviceman John Sweeney and returned to Amsterdam to raise a family. In 2004 Sweeney was interviewed by Professor Ivan Steen of the University at Albany's Oral History Program.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains scripts and memorabilia related to the broadcasting career of Dorothy Sweeney. Dorothy Sweeney's career as a sound effects artist at WGY and WOR is represented by a number of scripts from programs on which she worked. These scripts are typically marked up with pen or pencil to indicate sound cues. Programs represented include crime and detective dramas such as *Nick Carter* and *The FBI in Action*, horror stories such as *The Strange Doctor Weird* and *The Sealed Book*, and World War II propaganda programs such as *John Smith: American* and *The People vs. Adolf Hitler*. A set of WOR promotional photographs show Sweeney demonstrating how she uses various household objects to create sound effects. Memorabilia includes several radio trade magazines, a 1945 technical manual on the creation of sound effects, and Sweeney's New York City pistol license, which she maintained so that she could fire blanks during the recording of action sequences. The series also includes cassettes and transcripts of Sweeney's 2003-2004 interviews with the University at Albany Oral History Project.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Arrangement and descriptions revisions were made by Sheri Sarnoff. 2019

Processing Information

Originally processed in 2009 by Nicholas Webb. This collection was initially processed with the Dolores Carrara Papers (mss134) and published as a joint finding aid. Separated from the Carrara Papers and additional arrangements and description revisions made in 2019 by Sheri Sarnoff.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

All items in this manuscript group were transferred to the University Libraries, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives in 2004 from Dorothy Sweeney and Professor Ivan Steen.

Conditions Governing Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted.

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Separated Materials

Archivists transferred the following title: *Radio Sound Effects* by Joseph Creamer and William B. Hoffman to the book division of Special Collections. The catalogue records for this monographs will be included in the University Library Catalog.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Radio scripts
- Sound recordings
- Schenectady County (N.Y.)
- Radio stations
- Radio and Television Broadcasting
- Sweeney, Dorothy L., 1923-

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Anniversary Program, Undated	Box 1	Folder 1
Correspondence, 1943-1946	Box 1	Folder 2
<i>Count of Monte Cristo</i> , 1944	Box 1	Folder 3
"The Creation" from <i>God's Trombones</i> , 1944	Box 1	Folder 4
<i>Day of Reckoning</i> , Council for Democracy: "The People vs. Adolf Hitler", 1943	Box 1	Folder 5
<i>Extra, Extra</i> , 1943	Box 1	Folder 6
<i>FBI In Action</i> , 1943	Box 1	Folder 7
<i>FM Playhouse</i> , 1941	Box 1	Folder 8
<i>FM Playhouse</i> , 1942 January-1942 August	Box 1	Folder 9
<i>FM Playhouse</i> , 1942 September-1942 October	Box 1	Folder 10
<i>FM Playhouse</i> , 1942 November-1942 December		

	Box 1	Folder 11
<i>FM Playhouse</i> , 1943 January-1943 March	Box 2	Folder 12
<i>FM Playhouse</i> , 1943 April-1943 November	Box 2	Folder 13
Interview with Dorothy Sweeney (Copy), 2003 December 12	Cassette 1	
Interview with Dorothy Sweeney (Master), 2003 December 12	Cassette 2	
Interview with Dorothy Sweeney (Copy), 2004 January 15	Cassette 3	
Interview with Dorothy Sweeney (Master), 2004 January 15	Cassette 4	
Ivan Steen Oral History Transcript, 2003-2004	Box 2	Folder 14
<i>John Smith - American</i> , 1943	Box 2	Folder 15
<i>The Mysterious Traveler: "Concerts of Death"</i> , 1945	Box 2	Folder 16
News Clippings, 1945	Box 2	Folder 17
<i>Nick Carter</i> , 1944	Box 2	Folder 18
Police Department of New York, Pistol Licenses, 1944-1946	Box 2	Folder 19
Photographs, 1944	Box 2	Folder 20
<i>Radio Row</i> , 1945	Box 2	Folder 21
<i>The Sealed Book</i> , ca. 1944	Box 2	Folder 22
Special Army Scripts, Undated	Box 2	Folder 23
Station WOR Identification Card, Undated	Box 2	Folder 24
<i>The Strange Doctor Weird: "The Voice of Death"</i> , 1945	Box 2	Folder 25
<i>To the President: "The Special Day"</i> , 1943	Box 2	Folder 26
<i>Tune In</i> , 1945	Box 2	Folder 27