

Collection #
P 0426

CAROLE LOMBARD COLLECTION, 1942

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1942
PROVENANCE:	Tine P. Martin, Sr., Brownsburg, IN, 13 June 2001
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.0806

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Carole Lombard was born Jane Alice Peters on 6 October 1908 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The daughter of Frederic and Elizabeth (Bessie) Knight Peters, she also had two brothers, Frederic, born in 1902, and Stuart, born in 1906. Described as a tomboy during her youth, Lombard's upbringing was not thought to be consistent with her upper-middle-class status. Two of Lombard's favorite activities as a child, visiting movie theaters and playing sports, were not considered appropriate activities for a female child of that time. In 1914, the marriage of Lombard's parents dissolved and deciding to separate, Lombard's mother took all three children and moved to Los Angeles.

Lombard's film career began to take shape in 1921 while playing baseball with her brothers. She was spotted by a film director and was offered a chance to audition for a role in his movie. She won the small part and performed for the first time in *A Perfect Crime*, which was released that same year.

Lombard set out to find more work as an actress. She attempted to get a contract with the studio Vitagraph. The studio was interested in the actress, but was unhappy with her name so Jane Peters took the stage name Carol Lombard. The "e" at the end of her first name, did not appear until a few years later when she legally had her name changed. Despite her efforts, the studio ultimately decided not to hire the young actress.

In 1924 the 16-year-old Lombard decided to quit Fairfax High School to pursue acting full time. That same day, she signed a contract with the Fox studio. They soon cast her with fellow Hoosier Buck Jones in minor roles in movies such as *Gold and the Girl* and *Durand and the Badlands*. She continued to make movies for Fox until a car accident scarred her face and threatened her acting career. After plastic surgery to repair the damage and nearly a year's recovery time, she went back to work for director Mack Sennett. It was under Sennett's direction that Lombard entered into slapstick comedy, the genre that she is most associated with. It was his movie *Run Girl, Run* that launched her career.

On 26 June 1931, Lombard married long-time boyfriend William Powell. She met the actor while co-starring with him in the movie *Man of the World*. They divorced just two years later in August 1933.

On 29 March 1939, Lombard married Clark Gable before he began shooting *Gone with the Wind*. She and the actor had been dating and living together for several years. Their happy marriage ended with the actress's death in a January 1942 plane crash. Lombard and her mother, who was also killed, were returning to California from the country's first war bond rally in Indianapolis.

Sources:

Gehring, Wes D., *Carole Lombard: The Hoosier Tornado*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 2003.
General Collection: PN2287.L625 G44 2003

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains 9 black-and-white 8"- x-10" photographs of events attended by Carole Lombard. Four of the photographs feature the late actress.

Three photographs show the crowd of an indoor war bond rally. Carole Lombard appears in one of these photographs. The back of one picture reads, "War bond rally—Cadle Tabernacle 1942 Carole Lombard."

Three photographs show Carole Lombard at an outdoor war bond rally. Written on the back of a photograph is "Carole Lombard Just before her death 1942 Wife of Clark Gable Here for war bond rally." On the back of a second photograph is written "With Gov. Henry Schricker (White Hat)" Attached to the back of this same photograph is a newspaper article about the death of Carole Lombard.

Three photographs show a military band. Written on the back of one photograph is "probably Culver Military Academy."

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

3 Photographs of a crowd at a war bond rally at Cadle Tabernacle in 1942, including one with Carole Lombard

3 photographs of a ceremony at Culver Military Academy

3 photographs of a war bond rally, with all images including Carole Lombard

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Folder 1

Photographs,
Folder 1

Photographs,
Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0426).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.