DUNCAN P. SCHIEDT COLLECTION, 1913–1990S

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by
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April 2010

Revised by Wilma L. Moore
October 2010
Revised by Dorothy A. Nicholson July 2015

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 half size document case of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1913–1990s

PROVENANCE: Duncan P. Schiedt, Pittsboro, Indiana, ca. 1985, 2010

RESTRICTIONS: Negatives may be viewed only with the assistance of library staff.

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish the photographs must be obtained from Duncan P. Schiedt through the Coordinator of Visual Reference Services at the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Duncan Preston Schiedt Collection (M1178)

Twelve Lives in Jazz
General Collection Folio: ML3561.J3 S33 1996;

The Jazz State of Indiana
General Collection: ML3561.J3 S318 1999

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1985.0002; 2010.0303

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Photographer of jazz, Duncan Schiedt, wrote in the Preface to Jazz State of Indiana (1977 and 1999) “Indiana represented something special in jazz history.” Hoosier jazz, he felt, made a special contribution to the “Midwestern Style” widely adopted by college and professional jazz bands.

Born in 1921 to Jacob B. and Kitty (Preston) Schiedt in Atlantic City, New Jersey, he moved with his family to New York City where he attended George Washington High School. There he discovered ‘swing’ music and the joys and mysteries of taking pictures. In 1938 he bought his first decent camera, an Argus C. and took pictures with it in New York Times Square movie palaces, nightclubs, and big band shows.

Called to serve in WWII, he honed his skills as a cameraman in the Army Air Force where his experience and reliability earned him the privilege of recording atomic bomb tests in the western Pacific area, including Bikini atoll, south of Wake Island. Returning to civilian life he worked as a photographer in advertising married Betty Benjamin, and moved (1951) to Indianapolis, Indiana, where his parents had settled. In the Hoosier capital he became acquainted with local jazz performers and clubs, and in 1956 helped organize the Indianapolis Jazz Club.

The interests of jazz and photography merged and became more than a hobby. As a photographer of jazz musicians and venues, Schiedt visually recorded—always in black and white—performers in movie houses, night clubs and big-band shows, processing his films in his own darkroom so that any picture bearing his name was totally his own work. So successful was he that Marian McPartland, hostess of NPR’s “Piano Jazz,” later opined that the music Schiedt’s subjects played “echoes in our hearts and minds.”

Jazz State of Indiana, one of four books Schiedt authored, shows a remarkable amount of research in his topic, treating theatre bands, black bands, campus bands, all-girl bands, dancing centers, marathons, and much more.

While in retirement in Pittsboro, Indiana, Schiedt maintained a small business supplying photos of jazz personalities to publishers, museums, researchers, and authors. Following a brief illness he passed away on March 12, 2014. His family donated a portion of his collection to the Indiana Historical Society and a larger body of his work to the Smithsonian Institution.

Sources:
Clipping File: Indiana Authors [Sch-Scz], IHS Reference Room Collection.
Internet: www.bigbandlibrary.com/bigbandnewsAugust2007.html
Materials in collection
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains black-and-white photographs of mostly African-American jazz musicians and performers who played Indiana Avenue. Some of the images were taken by Schiedt and others are older images that were copied by him. The majority of images date from the 1920s through the 1940s.

The photographs are arranged by topic and are alphabetical within each folder by the name of the band or performer. Identifying information written on the verso of each photograph by Duncan Schiedt has been transcribed by the processor and is included with the names.

Permission to reproduce or publish the photographs must be obtained from Duncan P. Schiedt through the Coordinator of Visual Reference Services at the Indiana Historical Society.

Series 1: Photographs
Folder 1: Bands
Folder 2: Individual Musicians
Folder 3: Clubs and Music Companies
Folder 4: Posters and Broadsides
Folder 5: Unidentified

Series 2: Printed Materials
Folder 6: Exhibit brochure
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Photographs, 1913–1970s

CONTENTS

The Brown Buddies: Indpls. Band of early 1930s, formed of Attucks pupils originally and named for the music teacher, Russell Brown. Roger Jones, center trumpet Bob Lamar, bass James “Step” Wharton, piano Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Duke Hampton Family Band, ca. 1930 Duke Hampton Orchestra: Indpls., outgrowth of Hampton family band Slide Hampton on trombone Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Farley’s Garden Park Jazz Band: Early Indiana band. Farley on piano Geo. Temple, trumpet, later with Indpls. Recorder (2 photographs) Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Frank Clay’s Military Band: Frank Clay’s Military Band, ca. WW I era Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Hoagy Carmichael Orchestra: Columbia Club, Indpls., winter 1928–29. Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Kioda Barber’s Colored Five: photographs. Kioda “Ki” Barber, piano, Frank Fowler Brown, drums [see poster]

La Von Kemp and his orchestra photographs.

Paris Family Band: Crawfordsville, In.; played circuses, carnivals, etc, with Roy Gray’s Amusement Co., 1916. Sidney Paris, trumpet, Wilbur Paris, trombone & baritone. Both were later in big time dance orchestras.

Pickaninny Brass Band, led by Jack Powell, 1913 photographs.

Raymond (Syd) Valentine and His Patent Leather Kids. photographs.

Riff Brothers: Indpls., 1930s; later became “Ink Spots” photographs. Left to Right “Miff”, “Deek”, Orville “Hoppy” Jones, Slim Green

Riverside Park Skating Rink Orchestra: photographs. Indpls, early 1920s, contingent of Frank Clay’s Military Band. Owen Granger, baritone, Ernest McCormick, trombone, John Gray, drums, Lawrence Jones, trumpet, Dud Board, bass, Walter Temple, trumpet
Speed Webb and his Orchestra:  Photographs:
(also called S. Lawrence (Speed) Webb and his Hollywood Blue Devils), Indpls., 1929
Teddy Wilson, piano
Vic Dickenson, trombone
Roy Eldridge, trumpet
(2 photographs)

Wes Montgomery Trio:
Sonny Johnson, Drums
Melvin Rhyne, organ
Wes Montgomery, guitar
Wes Montgomery, et al. at rehearsal.  Includes:
Montgomery, David Baker, Melvin Rhyne, Larry Ridley, and David Young

Wisdom Brothers Band:
Cotton Club House Band, mid 1930s.

Baker, David
David Baker with trombone
David Baker on trombone and Sonny Johnson on drums

Buck and Bubbles Vaudeville team:
music/dancing/singing
John Sublette (Bubbles) on right from Indpls.

Carr, Leroy:
Indpls., top blues singer of early 1930s.
(2 photographs)

Clay, Frank, ca. 1916
teacher, band leader and cornetist

Coe, Jimmy
Oliver, Dave

Crump, Jesse:
pianist, entertainer, played Indianapolis. Early 1920s, photo taken in 1950.

Doggett, Bill
Dupree, Jack
“Champion Jack”
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Dyer, Willis
playing Hammond organ.
(3 photographs)
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Gaither, Bill (Indpls) right
Hill, Honey (left)
Slim, Bumble Bee (center)
Recording blues artists in 1930s
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Hampton, Locksley
“Slide”
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Hampton Sisters: Aletra (on piano) and Virtue
(on bass) at Indianapolis Museum of Art, ca. 1990s
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Holliman, Ben (right), member of Indpls. Bands.
(2 photographs)
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Hubbard, Freddy
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Johnson, J. J.
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Johnson, J. J.
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Montgomery, “Monk”
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Montgomery, Wes
Playing guitar
(2 poses)
Wes Montgomery with guitar and David Baker with trombone, standing with backs touching
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Muncie and Indpls,
had New York recording band in 1930s, later a D.J.
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2
Rachell, James “Yank”,
Indianapolis
Estes, John “Sleepy”
Blues artists and recording team

Sissle, Noble, Indianapolis
Horne, Lena

Sissle, Noble
Smith, Russell
Early 1920s.

Cotton Club, Indianapolis:
N. E. corner Vermont and Senate Aves.

Starr Piano Co. Works
Richmond, Indiana; during 1913 flood.

Starr Piano Co.,
interior scene, early 20th century, probably prior to W.W.I.

Starr Piano Co.
workers and managerial staff at periodic employee’s “picnic” in plant, probably prior to W.W.I.

Starr Piano Co.
table setting arrangements for one of the periodic in-plant “picnics” for employees, probably prior to W.W.I.

Starr Piano Co.
representation of famous Gennett Record Label on company building, Richmond, Indiana, just before demolition, c. 1976–78.

Darrell Rupert Harris (pianist) and his Black Diamond Orchestra, Indiana:
poster for South Bend area booking; Ted (Wingy) Carpenter, one-armed trumpet player, was the chief attraction, 1930.

Kioda Barber’s Colored Five,
poster for performance in South Bend, Ind. 1921
Speed Webb and his Hollywood Blue Devils: poster used after the band was in California in mid-to-late 1920s and had appeared in some silent films.

Speed Webb and his Orchestra: flyer used ca. 1929–30

Walker Theater Poster, Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis, 1930s.

Unknown band, ca. 1920s

Composite photograph: Unknown female and five unknown male performers (two photographs)

6 4x5 polyester copy negatives of photographs in the collection


CONTENTS

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 0257).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.