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Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the
Betty Mandeville production papers
1947-1958
*T-Mss 2001-048

Compiled by Kit Fluker, July 2013

Summary

Creator: Mandeville, Betty

Title: Betty Mandeville production papers, 1947-1958

Size: 14.7 linear feet (35 boxes)

Source: Donated by Maureen McGarrett, 2001.

Abstract: Betty Mandeville (1910-2001) was a producer-director for *The FBI in Peace and War*, a radio crime drama that aired on CBS from 1944 to 1958. Mandeville worked as a producer on the show for its entire run, and was the sole producer-director beginning in 1948. The Betty Mandeville production papers contain Mandeville's scripts from the show from 1950 to 1958. Many of the scripts have handwritten revisions and annotations, as well as advertisements for broadcast. The revised scripts provide documentation of the radio production process in the 1950s. The collection includes a small number of records related to television productions with which Mandeville was involved.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photography and photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Copyright information: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred citation: Betty Mandeville production papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Radio scripts that were not already in chronological order were grouped by year. Television scripts that were interfiled with radio scripts were separated during processing. All materials were placed in new folders. Original folder titles were retained where they existed; otherwise the episode title was used as the folder title.

Creator history

Betty Mandeville (1910-2001) was a producer-director for *The FBI in Peace and War*, a radio crime drama that aired weekly on CBS from 1944 to 1958. At the time, Mandeville was one of the few women working as a producer in network radio. Born in Mora, Minnesota, Mandeville studied at the University of Minnesota before moving to New York City, where she graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. After pursuing an acting career, she began working in radio production. She held a variety of jobs in radio, including production assistant on composer Sigmund Romberg's show and talent coordinator for *The Philip Morris Playhouse*. Mandeville married NBC television producer George McGarrett in 1950.

The FBI in Peace and War was based on a book of the same title by Frederick L. Collins. Early shows drew their storylines from Collins's book; later episodes were often inspired by events in the news, though the stories were heavily fictionalized.

Mandeville produced *The FBI in Peace and War* for its entire run. She became the sole producer-director beginning in 1948, after the death of producer-director Max Marcin. Mandeville's responsibilities included editing, casting, and managing weekly rehearsals. Louis Pelletier, Jack Anson Finke, and Ed Adamson were regular writers for the show. Pelletier and Finke collaborated with Mandeville and McGarrett on various television projects, such as *The Gopher* (starring Stubby Kaye), *Anthology '53* (starring Claude Rains), and an effort to create an *FBI in Peace and War* television show.

Scope and content note

The Betty Mandeville production papers contain scripts from the radio show *The FBI in Peace and War* from 1950 to 1958. The collection also contains a small amount of material related to television projects involving Mandeville and two of the show's writers, Louis Pelletier and Jack Anson Finke.

The FBI in Peace and War scripts consist of original drafts, revised drafts, and the copies used by Mandeville during production. There are multiple versions of many of the scripts. Original and revised drafts contain sound cues, advertisement copy, and often have handwritten revisions. Mandeville's producer's copies are annotated, and have cast lists and notes regarding rehearsal and performance. Mandeville's copies often have further handwritten revisions and additional advertisements that are not in earlier drafts. The collection does not contain a script for every episode that aired from 1950 to 1958; many scripts from 1950 and 1954, especially, are missing. The collection holds one script from 1948, "The Psychiatric Set-Up," and one script from 1958 that was never used because of the show's cancellation.

The television materials consist of scripts by Louis Pelletier and Jack Finke, as well as some correspondence and production materials. Scripts include two episodes for a possible television version of *The FBI in Peace and War*, and several scripts for the show *Willy* (originally called *The Artful Miss Dodger*), which Pelletier co-created. Some of Pelletier's television scripts have handwritten drafts. Also present are two files of correspondence documenting the efforts of Mandeville's husband, NBC television producer George McGarrett, to have the shows *Anthology '53* and *The Gopher* produced as kinescopes. The *Anthology* and *Gopher* files contain correspondence, scripts, production budgets, and copies of legal agreements with actors.

Arrangement

Scripts for *The FBI in Peace and War* are arranged chronologically by year of broadcast. Television records are grouped together by title.

Key terms

Subjects

FBI in peace and war (Radio program)

Radio -- Production and direction

Radio crime shows

Television -- Production and direction

Names

Adamson, Edward J.

Mandeville, Betty

Pelletier, Louis, Jr.

Special formats

Radio scripts

Television scripts

Container list

The FBI in Peace and War Scripts--Producer's Copies

b.2 f.7	1948
b.1 f.1-14	1950
b.2 f.1-4	1950
b.2 f.8-15	1951
b.3 f.1-14	1951
b.4 f.1-15	1951
b.5 f.1-14	1951
b.6 f.1-15	1952
b.7 f.1-14	1952
b.8 f.1-15	1952-1953
b.9 f.1-15	1953
b.10 f.1-16	1953-1954
b.11 f.1-18	1955
b.12 f.1-18	1955
b.13 f.1-18	1955-1956
b.14 f.1-17	1956
b.15 f.1-19	1956-1957
b.16 f.1-20	1957
b.17 f.1-17	1957
b.18 f.1-20	1957-1958
b.19 f.1-21	1958
b.20 f.1-6	1958

The FBI in Peace and War Scripts--Original and Revised Drafts

b.21 f.4-11	1951
b.22 f.1-9	1951
b.23 f.1-11	1951
b.24 f.1-12	1951-1952
b.25 f.1-11	1952
b.26 f.1-11	1952
b.27 f.1-11	1952
b.28 f.1-14	1952-1953
b.29 f.1-12	1953
b.30 f.1-13	1953
b.31 f.1-16	1953-1954
b.32 f.1-18	1954-1955
b.33 f.1-16	1955-1956
b.34 f.1-17	1956-1957
b.35 f.1-20	1957-1958

Television Shows

- b.20 f.7 *3000 Years of Espionage* Promotional Material, 1952
- b.20 f.8 *Anthology '53*, 1953-1954
- b.20 f.11 "The Blue Serge Suit", 1950s (*Medallion Theatre* episode.)
- b.2 f.5-6 *The FBI in Peace and War* Television Scripts, 1950s
- b.20 f.9-10 *The Gopher*, 1947, 1955
- b.20 f.12 "The Man From Missouri", 1950s (No series identified.)
- b.21 f.3 "The Perfect Out", 1952 (*The Web* episode.)
- b.21 f.1-2 *Willy*, 1954-1955