



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Peggy Hoover and Buddy Doyle papers**

1905-1949

\*T-Mss 2006-018

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Doyle, Little Buddy

**Title:** Peggy Hoover and Buddy Doyle papers

**Date:** 1905-1949

**Size:** .88 linear feet (3 boxes); 22.19 gb (645 computer files)

**Source:** Donated by Georgene Litten Smith and Candace Bartsch, 2006.

**Abstract:** Peggy Hoover and her husband, Buddy Doyle, were American vaudevillians and performers for Broadway and film. The collection (1905-1949) documents their careers through scrapbooks, photographs, and sheet music.

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**Processing note:** Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

## Creator History

Peggy Hoover was an American dancer and actress for vaudeville, Broadway, and regional theater. She began dancing as a child in Denver, Colorado under Gladys Moore. During her freshman year of high school she was picked up by vaudevillian Gus Edwards to perform in his fifteenth annual revue at the Orpheum Theatre in Denver. Hoover would continue to perform with Edwards for several years in shows across the United States and in London. She also appeared in Bobby Sanford's well-received Showboat Revue and performed in multiple editions of Earl Carroll's Vanities. She made her Broadway debut in *Hello, Yourself* in 1928. She met and married Buddy Doyle in 1927.

Buddy Doyle (born Benjamin Taubenhau) began acting in high school in minstrel shows in Brooklyn, New York. After he was discovered by comedian and vaudeville actor Lew Dockstader, his career as an impersonator, comedian, and singer landed him lead roles in all the major vaudeville circuits. On

Broadway he performed in the original 1923 revue *Artists and Models*. His film credits include *At a Talkie Show* (1929) and *The Great Ziegfeld*, which he understudied for before playing Eddie Cantor. He also performed in several editions of *The Ziegfeld Follies* and was a replacement actor for Henry Williams in the 1928 Broadway production of *Whoopee*.

Buddy Doyle died after surgery for appendicitis in 1939. Peggy Hoover later remarried and continued her career in radio and melodrama under the name Peggy Bloodgood.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection (1905-1949) documents the careers of Peggy Hoover and Buddy Doyle through scrapbooks, photographs, and sheet music. The two scrapbooks, one for Hoover and one for Doyle, largely contain newspaper clippings. Hoover's scrapbook documents her career as a vaudeville performer from her first Gus Edwards revue in her hometown of Denver, Colorado until the 1940s when she became more involved with melodrama as a member of the Riverside Community Players in Riverside, California. Doyle's scrapbook documents his well-received film performance as Eddie Cantor in *The Great Ziegfeld* (1936), as a fill-in for Henry Williams in *Whoopee* (1928), and his work as a comedian and singer for vaudeville and radio shows.

Photographs in the collection primarily consist of headshots and staged group photographs of Hoover from the 1920s. Several of the images feature her posed in her dance costumes. Productions pictured include the Broadway show *Hello, Yourself* (1928) and the film *Follow Your Heart* (1936). Photographs of Doyle primarily consist of publicity headshots of him in blackface for the Broadway Production *Whoopee* (1928). Production stills featuring Doyle in short films, such as *Lalapaloosa* (1936), are also here.

The sheet music consists of music from shows Hoover and Doyle performed in including vaudeville acts by Bobby Sanford, Gus Edwards, and Billy Rose. Also present is a score written and composed by Buddy Doyle and Gene Austin entitled *All That You Left Me Were Two Empty Arms* (1926). Some of the sheet music is autographed with notes to Hoover.

The collection holds electronic records. They consist of scanned images of most of the photographs in the collection and the entire Buddy Doyle scrapbook. Materials were scanned in 2006.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged into three categories: Scrapbooks, Photographs, and Sheet Music.

## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scrapbooks  
Sheet music

### Subjects

Vaudeville

### Names

Hoover, Peggy

## Container List

### Scrapbooks

- b. 1 f. 1-5 Doyle, Buddy 1923-1939
- er. 1 Doyle, Buddy 2006  
(369 computer files 14.63 Gigabytes)
- b. 1 f. 6-10 Hoover, Peggy 1918-1949

### Photographs

- b. 2 f. 1-5 1920-1936
- b. 3 f. 1 1921-1928
- er. 2 2006  
(276 computer files 7749 Megabytes)
- b. 3 f. 2-6 Sheet Music 1905-1947