Guide to the Dottie Dee Dancers Collection

This finding aid was created by Joyce Marshall Moore and Ian M. Baldwin on September 25, 2017.
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Summary Information

Creator: Tomlin, Dorothy
Title: Dottie Dee Dancers Collection
ID: MS-00544
Date [inclusive]: 1940s-2002
Physical Description: 0.21 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The Dottie Dee Dancers Collection (1940s-2002) is comprised of newspaper clippings and photographs documenting the career of Dorothy (Dalton) Tomlin, who led a line of dancers known as the Dottie Dee Dancers in the 1940s and 1950s. The dancers performed in nightclubs in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities in the western United States. Other items in the collection include original costume drawings by Hollywood costume designer Lloyd Lambert for costumes that were created for the Dottie Dee Dancers, and the transcript of an oral history interview with Dottie and her husband, Donald Tomlin.

Biographical Note

Dancer and choreographer Dorothy Dalton (stage name Dottie Dee) was born on September 9, 1922. By age 16 Dorothy was managing a dance studio, and at age 18, on the road as a professional dancer. In 1941 she was performing with the La Bard Dancers in Las Vegas when they performed at the opening of the El Rancho. Dorothy spent time on tour as a solo act, and shortly thereafter established the Dottie Dee Dancers in San Francisco. In 1943 the group began appearing at the El Rancho in Las Vegas with a line of 12 women who also ran a tour rotation from Los Angeles to Las Vegas to San Francisco. The group was in such demand that it grew to two lines making the rotation and another line performing in Texas and Colorado. In 1948 Dalton took a line of dancers to Alaska where she met and eventually married Donald Tomlin. The Dottie Dee Dancers would continue to perform at the El Rancho until 1954. Donald managed the chorus line.

By 1959 the Tomlins had left Las Vegas to travel with their two sons. They moved back to Las Vegas in the late 1970s and settled permanently. Dorothy passed away on March 13, 2014 in Las Vegas.
Scope and Contents Note

The Dottie Dee Dancers Collection (1940s-2002) is comprised of newspaper clippings and photographs documenting the career of Dorothy (Dalton) Tomlin who led a line of dancers known as the Dottie Dee Dancers. The dancers performed in nightclubs in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other western cities. Other items in the collection include original costume drawings by Hollywood costume designer Lloyd Lambert that were created for the Dottie Dee Dancers, and the transcripts of a 2002 oral history of Dottie and her husband, Donald Tomlin.

Arrangement Note

Materials are arranged in alphabetical order.

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2008 by Ron Tomlin; accession number 2008-024.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Joyce Marshall Moore in 2008. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Ian M. Baldwin revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into
compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently, Ian M. Baldwin entered this information into ArchiveSpace.

**Revision Description**
The finding aid was revised by Ian M. Baldwin to bring it into compliance with DACS. June, 2014

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**Names and Subjects**

- Showgirls -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Entertainment -- Nevada – Las Vegas -- History
- History -- Las Vegas -- Nevada

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**Collection Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dottie Dee Dancers: El Rancho Hotel, 1951</td>
<td>box 01 folder 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Rancho Hotel playbill, undated</td>
<td>box 01 folder 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clippings, 1953</td>
<td>box 01 folder 03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral history with Dottie and Don Tomlin, conducted by Ron Tomlin, 2002 April 03</td>
<td>box 01 folder 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs: Dottie Dancers, Las Vegas, 1940-1959</td>
<td>box 01 folder 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs: entertainers, undated</td>
<td>box 01 folder 06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs: family, 1950-1959</td>
<td>box 01 folder 07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs: 50th wedding anniversary, undated</td>
<td>box 01 folder 08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs: professional, undated</td>
<td>box 01 folder 09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original costume designs by Lloyd Lambert, undated</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

    Physical Description: 01 Optical Discs