This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City. If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org.

INTRODUCTION

The papers consist of scripts of the radio program “Women in the News,” which Kamen hosted, wrote, and produced. The script pages are numbered, with edits and notations hand written on the margins. There are additional miscellaneous scripts for other radio programs that Kamen worked on, including “The Little Red Schoolhouse.” Additionally, this collection has personal and business correspondence and fan mail for the programs in which Kamen worked.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Ben Bortnick on February 28, 2007 (Accession No. KA1506).

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RELATED COLLECTIONS

William James Ryan Papers, 1914-1996 (K0457)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Elinor Fox Kamen was born on June 11, 1911. Elinor married Morris Fox in 1932, and together they had a daughter. Following the death of her husband in 1939, Elinor entered the field of radio broadcasting as a way to support herself and her daughter, Linda. Her first position was with a local radio station, KITE. While there, she worked on several programs including an advice program under the pseudonym Elinor Allen.

Elinor then went to work for station WHB, and hosted the children’s quiz show, “The Little Red Schoolhouse.” The show featured students from local Kansas City schools. While at WHB, Elinor also wrote, produced, and hosted the radio program “Women in the News,” under the pseudonym Alice Gay. On this program, Elinor interviewed local career women. Some of the women interviewed worked on assembly lines, or worked for the war effort. She also occasionally got to interview famous women of the day, such as Gypsy Rose Lee, when they were in Kansas City.

Elinor later left the field of radio broadcasting and started her own advertising agency. She married Morris Kamen in 1949. Elinor passed away on March 9, 2006.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into the following four series.

**Correspondence**

**Fan Mail**

**Marketing and Advertising**

**Radio Scripts**

The **Correspondence** series contains a small selection of personal and business correspondence. The business correspondence contains items regarding her radio broadcasts and shows.

The **Fan Mail** series contains a selection of letters written by fans of the radio shows that Elinor hosted. There is fan mail for her advice program addressed to Elinor Allen, and fan mail for her “Women in the News” program addressed to Alice Gay. These letters were often thank you letters for advice or for her work in talking about women in the workplace. The letters often asked questions regarding the stories Kamen had recently done.

The **Marketing and Advertising** series contains radio and paper-advertising materials related to Elinor’s shows “The Little Red Schoolhouse” and “Women in the News.”

The **Radio Scripts** series, which makes up the bulk of the collection, consists of several months of scripts for the WHB program “Women in the News.” These scripts detail the interviews that Elinor had with women of Kansas City who worked unusual jobs for women at that time. Many of these scripts have annotations and corrections on them from Elinor. Additionally, there are partial scripts for “Army Mail Call,” “The Little Red Schoolhouse,” and an unaired program called, “Trails of the Trappers.”

PREFERRED CITATION

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Kamen, Elinor Fox (1911-2006) Papers (K0944)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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