"Lige" Shaw began drumming in minstrel shows at age 10 in Jackson, Tennessee. He traveled with Bowen's and Blondon's Dandy Dixie Minstrels, the Original Georgia Minstrels and other theatre and dance orchestras until he settled in St. Louis in the late 1920s. He worked as a drummer in St. Louis and served several terms as president of Musicians Local 197.

Contains playbills, correspondence, advertisements and newsclippings on jazz musicians and civil rights sit-ins.

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