INTRODUCTION
Records pertain to Jack Matthews’ professional career with the University of Missouri-Columbia as a professor for the Physical Education department and as the first Dean of Students. The papers also include information regarding community organizations that Matthews was active with during his career and retirement.

DONOR INFORMATION
The Jack Matthews Collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Jack Matthews on December 11, 1989 (Accession No. #4931).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Jack Matthews was born on March 16, 1905, in Gower, Missouri. He attended Gower High School and enrolled in the University of Missouri in 1923, becoming a star athlete in track. After graduating with a Bachelor’s of Science in Education, Matthews taught and coached at Central High School in St. Joseph, Missouri, before accepting a teaching position in the Physical Education department at the University of Missouri.

In 1950, Matthews became the first Dean of Students at the University of Missouri. He also served as the public address announcer for MU football games beginning in 1951. He was a controversial figure on campus and became known as “Black Jack” Matthews by the students after facing heavy criticism over his decision to ban the Students for a Democratic Society at the University of Missouri in 1969. Matthews retired in 1970 but continued to serve as the public address announcer for MU football games until 1974.

In his retirement, he continued to be active in civic organizations in Columbia by serving on many committees and boards. He was active in the creation and early history of the Boone County Historical Society, as well as Friends of the UMC Library, and a social organization known as the Round Table. He died on October 9, 1993, in Columbia.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
The Jack Matthews Collection consists of correspondence, memos, and personal papers of Jack Matthews that primarily document his work at the University of Missouri-Columbia as Dean of Students. The collection is arranged into three series: Professional, Organizations, and Miscellaneous.

The Professional series contains the records that pertain to his career at the University of Missouri, both as a professor of Physical Education and as the Dean of Students. Also included are papers dealing with his work as the public address announcer for the football games at MU. The records are arranged chronologically.

The Organizations series includes records containing information regarding the many civic organizations that Matthews participated in, including the Boone County Historical Society, Missouri Academy of Squires, Round Table, and Friends of the UMC Library.

The Miscellaneous series includes photographs of downtown Columbia, papers from retirement dinners for friends of Matthews, papers regarding the liquor by-the-drink ballot issue
in Columbia, and small business records and correspondence. The records are arranged chronologically.

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