

Jimmy McFadden Collection (AC63)

Introduction:

The Jimmy McFadden Collection contains documents related to the dancing career of James “Smiling Jimmy” McFadden.

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Lonnie McFadden

Title: Jimmy McFadden Collection

Size: 0.24 linear feet (1 boxes)

Collection Number: AC63

Donor Information:

Donated by Lonnie McFadden, October 2020

Citation Note:

Jimmy McFadden Collection (AC63), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri

Administrative Information:

Reproduction Restrictions: unrestricted

Access Restrictions: unrestricted

Biographical Sketch:

James McFadden, born July 8, 1951, became a famous tap dancer in the 1930s and 40s. His sons, Ronald and Lonnie, followed in their father’s footsteps and formed the McFadden Brothers. Their style combines music, tap, and comedy, and they performed with Sammy Davis, Wayne Newton, and the Count Basie Orchestra among other world-famous musicians. Jimmy McFadden died December 21, 2018.

Scope and Content Note:

Series 1: Photographs

This series contains two large photographs. One features members of the Three Chocolate Drops: James McFadden, Van Osborn, and Willie Williams, while the other features the Four Chocolate Drops: Jimmy McFadden, Leroy Reeds, Van Osborn, and Willie Williams.

Series 2: Advertisements

This series contains a multitude of scans of original advertisements, and some scans of newspaper clippings, multiple famous Jazz musicians. The advertisements also show the progression of McFadden’s dance troupe which shifted from the Four Chocolate Drops to the Three Chocolate Drops, and at one point was the Two Chocolate Drops.

Collection Inventory**Series 1: Photographs**

f. 1 Prints 1-2

Series 2: Advertisements

f. 2 Advertisements

Processed by Laura Darnell, Archivist, January 2024.

Sources:

Cizmar, Martin. "With Lonnie's Reno Club, A Legendary Local Entertainer Remakes An Iconic Jazz Spot." *Kansas City Magazines*. Accessed January 11, 2024.

<https://kansascitymag.com/jazz/lonnies-reno-club/>

"James "Jimmy" McFadden, Sr." *Davis- Royster Funeral Services*. Accessed January 11, 2024.

<https://www.davis-royster.com/obituaries/James-Jimmy-McFadden-Sr?obId=3961991>

Jimmy McFadden Collection (AC63), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

"The McFadden Brothers." *Kansas City Bands*. Accessed January 11, 2024.

<http://www.kansascitybands.com/mcfaddenbrothers/>