

Collection #
P 0818

**WOODY NEFF PHOTOGRAPHS,
1935**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	3

Processed by

Barbara Quigley
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1935

PROVENANCE: Purchased from Fountain Square Antique Mall, Indianapolis, 1998

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998.0157

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Woody Neff was a musician who appears to have played upright bass as leader of Woody Neff & His Orchestra at Ye Olde Tavern Revue on St. Marys Avenue at Goshen Road in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

He was born John Woodrow Neff on 16 December 1912 in Bluffton, Indiana, to John and Stella May Higgins Neff. He was a Boy Scout and graduated from Bluffton High School in 1930.

On 26 February 1935 he married Wilma May Galliher (6 January 1915–29 January 2002) in Fort Wayne. The couple lived in Fort Wayne for the first few years of their marriage, but moved to Huntington, Indiana, by 1940. Woody and Wilma had two children: Jane Ann (Priest) and John. In addition to his work as a musician, Woody's World War II draft registration card lists his employer as Caswell-Runyan Company (producer of cedar chests and radio and sewing cabinets), and his death certificate indicates that he was a factory worker for Tokheim Corporation (manufacturer of fuel dispensing systems). Woody died in Fort Wayne on 6 July 1967. He and Wilma are buried in Concordia Cemetery Gardens in Fort Wayne.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Ancestry <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 5 March 2021:

Find a Grave

Indiana, U.S., Birth Certificates, 1907–1940

Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2011

Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001

United States Federal Census, 1920, 1930, 1940

U.S., Obituary Collection, 1930–Current

U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900–1999

U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014

U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947

Huntington County Honors. “Caswell-Runyan” <https://www.huntingtoncountyhonors.org/Honorees/Caswell-Runyan> Accessed 5 March 2021.

“1930 Bluffton Class Listed.” *The Muncie Morning Star*, 13 May 1930, p. 2 <newspapers.com>. Accessed 5 March 2021.

“Merit Badges are Awarded to Scouts.” *The Muncie Evening Press*, 8 August 1928, p. 7 <newspapers.com>. Accessed 5 March 2021.

Tokheim History <https://tokheim.com/about-us/history> Accessed 5 March 2021.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is composed of four black-and-white 8x10 photographs pertaining to musician Woody Neff. All are group portraits taken in 1935 at Ye Olde Tavern Revue in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Three of the photographs are of performers and may be publicity photos. One photograph is of the wedding party of Woody Neff and Wilma Galliher.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Six women dancers in costumes with seven men in suits, with radio station WOWO microphone. [Woody Neff appears to be the man in back row, second from right.] Caption reads: Ye Old Tavern Revue / Presents "Manhattan Serenade" / Week – January 8th 1935 / Woody Neff & His Orchestra / Produced by Larry Randall. (photo by Neuman Studio, Fort Wayne)

Seven women and one man in costumes seated on floor in front of six men in suits standing. Caption reads: Ye Olde Tavern Revue / Presents "Savage Serenade" / Week of January 28, 1935 / Woody Neff & His Orchestra / Produced by Larry Randall. (photo by Neuman Studio, Fort Wayne)

Six women dancers in costumes with two men in suits holding large props that are Liberty coins from 1924. There are seven male musicians in the background. [Woody Neff appears to be behind the piano on the left, playing the upright bass.] Caption reads: Ye Olde Tavern – offers / "Hits of Years Ago" / Week of Feb. 18th [19]35 / Woody Neff and His Music / Produced by Larry Randall. In front of the women are large signs with song titles from musicals from 1928–1933.

Wedding party with bride and groom and their attendants. Caption reads: At Ye Olde Tavern / The Wedding of / "Woody" Neff and Wilma Galliher / Feb. 26 – 1935." [Woody Neff appears to be fourth from right in the front row.]

CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

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Photographs, Folder 1 of 1