

**DUKE OF PADUCAH, 1901-1986.**  
**Duke of Paducah collection, 1938-1953**

Emory University  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Duke of Paducah, 1901-1986.  
**Title:** Duke of Paducah collection, 1938-1953  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 687  
**Extent:** 1 linear foot (2 boxes) and AV Masters: .5 linear feet (1 box)  
**Abstract:** Collection of materials relating to musician and actor Benjamin Francis Ford (Duke of Paducah) including radio scripts, photographs, and printed material.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Special restrictions apply: No radio script may be copied in its entirety, except by the library for preservation purposes, without the express written consent of the official representative of his heir, the Masonic Lodge of St. Louis, Missouri. No script or portion thereof may be used for public performance, nor may it be commercially distributed in any form. Researchers may make brief quotations for publication. Such restrictions shall expire with the expiration of the literary rights belonging to Mr. Ford's heir.

**Source**

Purchase, 1985.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Duke Of Paducah collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Benjamin Francis "Whitey" Ford, musician and actor, was born May 12, 1901, in Desoto, Missouri, and died June 20, 1986, in Nashville, Tennessee. In the 1920s he toured the United States with his own Dixie Land jazz band, joined Gene Autry's radio shows "Show Boat" and "Barn Dance," and performed at station KWK in St. Louis where he was nicknamed "Duke of Paducah." Ford joined NBC to do the "Plantation Party" radio shows (1938-1942) and made his first appearances with the "Grand Ole Opry" radio show (1942), which he continued for 16 years. He appeared in two movies, "Country Fair" (1941) and "Country Music on Broadway" (1963). Through the 1940s and 1950s he appeared (as entertainer, disc jockey, host, etc.) on the radio shows "Jax All-Star Jubilee," "Duke of Paducah Show," and the "Purina Show." In the 1980s, Ford was nominated for the Country Music Hall of Fame.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Benjamin F. Ford (Duke of Puducah) from 1938-1953. The papers include radio scripts, audio cassettes, biographical information, photographs, a screenplay, and printed material.

The majority of the collection is comprised of radio scripts of various programs that Ford was involved in including Plantation Party (NBC Radio, with Ford as emcee), the Grand Ole Opry (NBC radio, sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco), the Jax All-Star Jubilee (sponsored by Jax Berr of New Orleans, recorded at Brown Radio Productions, Nashville, Tenn.), the Duke of Paducah Show (sponsored by warm Morning Heaters, featuring dialog between Duke and the announcer), and the Purina Show (sponsored by Purina pet foods, recorded in Springfield, Mo., Ford is disc jockey).

The Screenplay is from the movie "Country Fair" and scripts are from the five radio shows Ford appeared on from 1938 into the 1950s. The stories files include promotional material and issues of "The Comedian" (1950-1959), a professional gag service by Billy Gleason under the names "The Laff Roundup" and "Fun-Master Monthly." The Ford Library audiocassettes were made by John W. Rumble, an oral historian from the Country Music Foundation in 1984, and record the arrangement of Ford's private library of wit and humor books.

### Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

### Personal and professional materials

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Biographical information
1	2	Promotional information
1	3	Photographs
1	4	Movie: Shooting script - <i>Country Fair</i> , March 17, 1941 (revised shooting script, Republic Studios; Benjamin F. Ford played parts of Whitey Ford and the "Duke of Paducah")

### Plantation Party radio scripts, 1938-1942

1	5	Scripts, 1938 December
1	6	Scripts, 1939 January - June
1	7	Scripts, 1939 July - December
1	8	Scripts, 1940 January - June
1	9	Scripts, 1940 July - November
1	10	Scripts, 1941 January - June
1	11	Scripts, 1941 July - December
1	12	Scripts, 1942 January - June
1	13	Scripts, 1942 July - November

### Grand Ole Opry radio scripts, 1943-1947

2	1	Scripts, 1943 September-December
2	2	Scripts, 1944 January-June
2	3	Scripts, 1944 July - December
2	4	Scripts, 1945 January-June
2	5	Scripts, 1945 July - December
2	6	Scripts, 1946 January-June
2	7	Scripts, 1946 July - December
2	8	Scripts, 1947 January-March

### Jax All-Star Jubilee radio scripts, 1949-1951

2	9	Introductions
2	9	Scripts, 1949 July - September
2	10	Scripts, 1949 October - December
2	11	Scripts, 1950 January - March
2	12	Scripts, 1950 April - June
2	13	Scripts, 1950 July - September
2	14	Scripts, 1950 October - December

- 2 15 Scripts, 1951 January - March
- 2 16 Scripts, 1951 April - June
- 2 17 Scripts, 1951 July - September

### **Duke of Paducah Show radio scripts, 1952-1953**

- 2 18 Scripts, 1952 August - November
- 2 19 Scripts, 1953 August - October

### **Purina Show radio scripts, circa early 1950s**

- 3 1 Scripts 1 - 20
- 3 2 Scripts 21 - 42
- 3 3 Scripts 43 - 67
- 3 4 Scripts 68 - 92
- 3 5 Scripts 93 - 117
- 3 6 Scripts 118 - 136
- 3 7 Scripts 137 - 156

### **Stories files, circa 1950-1959**

- 3 8 Fun-Master stories, clippings, etc. (1)
- 3 9 Fun-Master stories, clippings, etc. (2)
- 3 10 Fun-Master stories, clippings, etc. (3)
- 3 11 Fun-Master stories, clippings, etc. (4)
- 3 12 Fun-Master stories, clippings, etc. (5)
- 3 13 "The Comedian" (The Laff Roundup) 1950 August, September, November, December
- 3 14 "The Comedian" (The Laff Roundup) 1951 January, February, March, May, July, August, September, October, November, December
- 3 15 "The Comedian" (Fun-Master Monthly) 1952 January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December
- 3 16 "The Comedian" (Fun-Master Monthly) 1953 January, February, March, April, May, August, September, October, November (p. 2 only), December (p. 1 only)
- 3 17 "The Comedian" (Fun-Master Monthly) 1954 January, February, March, April, May, July, August, September
- 3 18 "The Comedian" (Fun-Master Monthly) 1955 May, July, September, November, December
- 3 19 "The Comedian" (Fun-Master Monthly) 1956 January, February, March, April, May, June (p. 2 only), July, August, September, October, November
- 3 20 "The Comedian" (Fun-Master Monthly) 1957 January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

- 3 21 "The Comedian" (Fun-Master Monthly) 1958 January, April, May, July, September, November, December
- 3 22 "The Comedian" (Fun-Master Monthly) 1959 January/February, February/March, June/July (p. 2 only), July/August

### Audiovisual

- AV1 - Rumble, John W., describes Ford's private library, Nashville, Tennessee, September 5, 1984 (tape 1 of 2) [original: audio cassette]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id bbjk1][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7kqg]
- AV1 - Rumble, John W., describes Ford's private library, Nashville, Tennessee, September 5, 1984 (tape 2 of 2) [original: audio cassette]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7krm][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7ksr]
- AV1 - Rumble, John W., describes Ford's private library, Nashville, Tennessee, September 13, 1984 (tape 1 of 2) [original: audio cassette]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7ktw][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7kv1]
- AV1 - Rumble, John W., describes Ford's private library, Nashville, Tennessee, September 13, 1984 (tape 2 of 2) [original: audio cassette]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7kw5][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7kx9]
- AV1 - Rumble, John W., describes Ford's private library, Nashville, Tennessee, October 23, 1984 (tape 1 of 2) [original: audio cassette]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7kzf][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7m0p]
- AV1 - Rumble, John W., describes Ford's private library, Nashville, Tennessee, October 23, 1984 (tape 2 of 2) [original: audio cassette]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id b7m1t]
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