

Finding Aid for the Delbert W. Blumenshine collection Collection 111

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>Photo Index</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	10
<u>Series I. Papers, 1949-1974, n.d.</u>	10
<u>Series II. Photographs, 1955-1965, n.d.</u>	11
<u>Series III. Audio/Video Tapes, 16mm, 1960s</u>	14
<u>Series IV. Audio Tapes, 1960s</u>	17

Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Blumenshine, Delbert W, 1920-1978
Title	Delbert W. Blumenshine collection
Date [inclusive]	1949-1975
Extent	4.8 Linear feet Eight boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Delbert W. Blumenshine (1920-1978) was a photojournalist and investigative reporter who worked in Grand Rapids, Michigan for much of his career. He worked for the Cedar Rapids Gazette (Iowa), WMT-TV in Iowa, WOOD TV and radio (Grand Rapids, Michigan) and the Michigan Department of Public Health. This collection includes his papers from the WOOD AM FM TV news department, a copy of an early autobiography, photos from his work in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Grand Rapids, Michigan, 16mm films from his work at WOOD-TV and sound recordings of his interviews and productions. The topics covered include political conventions, interviews, editorials, demonstrations, the ecology and other news stories. The photographs include portraits of members of the Kent County Sheriff's Department.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

A single amputee (left leg), Delbert W. Blumenshine (1920-1978) was an early photo journalist who during the 1950s moved from print media to electronic media and was an early investigative reporter for television. At the age of 19 Blumenshine went to work for the Cedar Rapids (IO.) Gazette as a reporter and photographer. He attended the University of Iowa, majoring in Communication Skills, but did not graduate. He taught photojournalism at Coe College for several years. He won several awards as a photographer and invented a flash gun for shooting action shots at Big Ten basketball games.

In 1955 he switched from print media to electronic media, going to work at WMT-TV, Cedar Rapids, IO. During his tenure at WMT it was recognized as the best television news operation in the nation by the National Television and Radio News Directors Association. Much of this success was due to the news department's leadership under Richard Cheveraton.

In 1957 Cheveraton and Blumenshine were hired by WOOD-AM FM TV in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Blumenshine was the chief photographer for WOOD and successively held positions as Managing Editor and State Capitol Bureau Chief. While at WOOD Blumenshine pioneered the use of hidden microphones and cameras while doing investigative reporting. His first such effort was documenting the condition of homeless men in Grand Rapids. The resultant film, "The Wasted World," won the George Foster Peabody Award for Best Investigative News Film Series.

Blumenshine left WOTV and WOOD radio in 1970 to become a motion picture producer for the Michigan Department of Public Health. In addition to numerous other duties, Blumenshine produced three movies for Public Health, including "The Two Foot World of Paul Jackson" dealing with vision problems, a film that won the Golden Eagle Award for Film Direction at the Cannes International Film Festival in 1973.

Scope and Contents note

The collection is divided into four series: Papers, Photographs, Video Films and Audio Tapes. The papers detail the WOOD-AM,FM,TV news department, including policies and procedures, a copy of an early Blumenshine autobiography, and biographical papers. The photos depict his work in Cedar Rapids, IO and Grand Rapids, MI and include sporting events, traffic accidents, portraits of people in the news, members of the Kent County Sheriff's Department, airplanes and events at the 1959 Allegan County Fair. The 16mm films are copies of his work at WOOD-TV news and films broadcast by the station during the early 1960s. The sound recordings are of his interviews with politicians in Lansing and productions. The topics covered include political conventions, interviews, editorials, demonstrations, the ecology and other news stories.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department February 1990

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Karen Blumenshine, accession number 1986.062

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- moving images
- photographs
- sound recordings

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Broadcast journalism -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
 - Journalists -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
-

Photo Index

Acrobats - b.2-f.2
Airplanes - b.2-f.1
Airports - b.2-f.17
Allegan County Fair - b.2-f.2
American Businessmen's Club -b.2-f.3
Atomic Explosion Test Site - b.2-f.4
Automobiles. Midget Racers - b.2-f.5
Basketball - b.2-f.6
Biplanes - b.2-f.1
Bombers (B-52) - b.2-f.1
Bridges - b.2-f.21
Cemeteries - b.4
Children - b.2-f.7
Chuting Stars - b.2-f.8
Clowns - b.2-f.2
Dancers - b.2-f.2
Daredevils - b.2-f.2
Desecrated Indian Cemetery - b.4
Explosions - b.2-f.9
Fires - b.2-f.10
Fishing - b.2-f.11
Flash gun - b.2-f.12
Football - b.2-f.13
Governor's Office -b.2-f.14
Governor's Show - b.2-f.15
Handicapped people - b.2-f.16
Indian Trails Camp - b.2-f.16
Jet airplanes - b.2-f.1
Kalamazoo Airport - b.2-f.17

Kent County Sheriff's Department - b.2-f.18

Lear Siegler Inc. Interior - b.2-f.19

Leo and his Pioneers - b.2-f.20

Mackinac Bridge - b.2-f.21

Motorcycle racing (on ice) - b.2-f.22

Parachutists - b.2-f.8

People. Arntz, Walter - b.2-f.18

People. Barr, Bob - b.2-f.15

People. Barto, Bernard - b.3-f.1

People. Bigler, Marton - b.2-f.18

People. Blandford, Robert - b.3-f.1

People. Blumenshine, Delbert W. - b.2-f.15, b.3-f.2

People. Brand, Barry - b.2-f.15

People. Chapman, Victor - b.3-f.1

People. Cheveraton, Richard E. - b.3-f.1, b.3-f.8

People. Davis, Stan - b.3-f.1

People. Debbie and the Diplomats - b.2-f.2

People. Delano, Robert - b.3-f.1

People. Durfey, Clare - b.2-f.18

People. Durfey, Marie - b.2-f.18

People. Elkins sisters - b.2-f.2

People. Fahling, Carolyn - b.2-f.18

People. Fallon, Tom - b.2-f.15

People. Gillmore, James Jr. - b.3-f.1

People. Gulner, Mr. - b.3-f.1

People. Hank the Clown - b.2-f.2

People. Hefferon, Philip - b.2-f.18

People. Helsel, Philip - b.2-f.18

People. Hiaeshutter, James - b.2-f.18

People. Higley, Robert - b.2-f.18
People. Hill, Robert - b.2-f.18
People. Homer and Jethro - b.2-f.2
People. Hotchkiss, George - b.2-f.18
People. Johnson, Carol - b.2-f.18
People. Keselring, Leslie - b.2-f.18
People. Ketchel, Arthur - b.2-f.18
People. Lanson, Snooky - b.2-f.2
People. Lemmen, Jack - b.2-f.18
People. Ley, Arnold - b.3-f.1
People. Logan, Leonard - b.2-f.18
People. Luther, Edwin - b.2-f.18
People. MacMillan, Harold - b.3-f.1
People. Manhattan Rockets - b.2-f.2
People. McArthur, Charles - b.2-f.18
People. Moore, David William - b.3-f.1
People. Mueller, Frederick Henry - b.3-f.1
People. Neeley, Horace - b.2-f.18
People. Neinhuis, Roger - b.2-f.18
People. Noordyke, Herbert - b.2-f.18
People. Porter, Donald J. - b.3-f.1
People. Price, David - b.2-f.18
People. Quinn, Carmel - b.2-f.2
People. Ray, Roger - b.2-f.2
People. Renis, Al - b.2-f.18
People. Reynhout, William - b.2-f.18
People. Roberts, Eli - b.2-f.18
People. Romney, George - b.3-f.1
People. Romney, Lenore Lafount - b.3-f.1

People. Rudy, Ernie - b.2-f.2
People. Ryan, Jack - b.2-f.18
People. Rypstra, Alfred H. - b.3-f.1
People. Sack, Florence - b.2-f.18
People. Sarnoff, David - b.3-f.1
People. Siedman, L. William - b.3-f.1 [sic, William L. Seidman, 7/222/2004]
People. Sluiter, Arnie - b.2-f.18
People. Snyder, Robert - b.2-f.18
People. Stafford, Thomas - b.3-f.1
People. Swainson, John B. - b.2-f.15, b.3-f.1
People. Tanner, Robert - b.2-f.18
People. TenBrink, William - b.2-f.18
People. Thomas, Danny - b.3-f.3
People. Toohey, James - b.2-f.18
People. Tucker family - b.2-f.2
People. Van Narden, Leona - b.2-f.18
People. VanderKodde, James - b.2-f.18
People. Walsh, Joseph M. - b.3-f.1
People. Watrous, Richard - b.2-f.18
Political Conventions - b.3-f.5
Singers - b.2-f.2, b.2-f.20
Svenson's Thrillcade - b.2-f.2
Traffic accidents - b.3-f.6
WOTV News Department - b.3-f.8
Waters Building - b.3-f.7
Your Show of Shows - b.2-f.2

Series I. Papers, 1949-1974, n.d.

Collection Inventory

Series I. Papers, 1949-1974, n.d.		
Personal		
	Box	Folder
Blumenshine Biographical, 1955-1975	1	1
Sightly Out of Focus, 1949	1	2
Greater Grand Rapids Employ the Handicapped Committee, 1961-1964	1	3
Two Foot World of Paul Jackson, 1971	1	4
WOOD-AM,FM,TV (WOTV)		
	Box	Folder
Biographical Sheets (staff), ca.1960	1	5
A Bum's Story, 1960	1	6
Fifteen with Father: Education in Grand Rapids, 1959	1	7
Correspondence, 1959-1964	1	8

Series II. Photographs, 1955-1965, n.d.

Governor's Show, 1962	1	9
Judge Blett, 1963	1	10
Mackinac Bridge, 1958	1	11
Manual of Operations, n.d.	1	12
News Department Memos, 1962-1964	1	13
News Department Policies, n.d.	1	14
News scripts, 1962	1	15
Radio Leads, 1962-1963	1	16
Romney Tour, 1964	1	17
Weather Log, 1961-1963	1	18
Series II. Photographs, 1955-1965, n.d.		
	Box	Folder
Airplanes, 1956, n.d.	2	1
Allegan County Fair, 1959	2	2

Series II. Photographs, 1955-1965, n.d.

American Businessmen's Club, 1960s	2	3
Atomic Explosion Test Site, ca.1956	2	4
Automobiles. Midget Racers, ca.1955	2	5
Basketball, 1950s	2	6
Children, n.	2	7
Chuting Stars, 1962	2	8
Explosions, 1960s	2	9
Fires, 1960s	2	10
Fishing, n.d.	2	11
Flash gun, c.1956	2	12
Football, 1950s	2	13
Governor's Office, ca.1962	2	14
Governor's Show, 1962	2	15
Indian Trails Camp, 1957#59	2	16

Series II. Photographs, 1955-1965, n.d.

Kalamazoo Airport, 1960s	2	17
Kent County Sheriff's Department, ca.1965	2	18
Lear Siegler Inc. Interior, ca.1965	2	19
Leo and his Pioneers, 1950s	2	20
Mackinac Bridge, 1957	2	21
Motorcycle racing (on ice), ca. 1962	2	22
People. Identified, 1960s	3	1
People. Blumenshine, Delbert W.	3	2
People. Thomas, Danny	3	3
People. Unidentified	3	4
Political Conventions, ca.1960	3	5
Traffic accidents, ca.1955	3	6
Waters Building, n.d.	3	7
WOTV News Department, ca.1962	3	8

Series III. Audio/Video Tapes, 16mm, 1960s.

	Box	Reel
Desecrated Indian Cemetery, 1960s	4	
Series III. Audio/Video Tapes, 16mm, 1960s.		
	Box	Reel
Funeral at St. Thomas Church (silent, negative)	5	1
Purchase Electric Fire	5	1
Grand River (?)	5	1
Divers	5	1
Bowling instructions (sound, positive)	5	2
Al Ackerman interviewing Al Smith (White Sox) (sound, positive)	5	3
Christmas (silent, negative)	5	4
Dick Cheveraton editorial - City Salaries (sound, positive)	5	5
Howlett (do not thread)	5	6
Aquinas College (sound, positive)	5	7
Wasted World out takes (silent, negative)	5	8

Series III. Audio/Video Tapes, 16mm, 1960s.

Airway Tubes for Resuscitation	5	9
Maj. Genl. John Seaman	5	10
Al Ackerman interviewing Jim Ravera (White Sox) (sound, positive)	5	11
Chrysler Motors-Highway safety (sound, positive)	5	12
Al Ackerman interviewing Early Wynn (White Sox) (sound, positive)	5	13
American Legion demonstration (silent, positive)	5	14
Fabricare Dry Cleaning ads (silent, negative)	5	15
City official talking about census (sound, negative)	5	16
Al Ackerman at teletype (silent, negative)	5	17
Old Car Show at Civic (silent, negative)	5	18
Optical	5	19
Wasted World out-takes (silent, negative)	5	20
Ford Motor Corp promotional, 1963 (sound, positive)	6	21
Alexander Scale Models interview (sound, positive)	6	22

Series III. Audio/Video Tapes, 16mm, 1960s.

City Products Ice Plant suit	6	22
Luncheon at Pantlind, 1963 (sound, positive)	6	23
Lumbering, Mt. Hood (sound, positive)	6	24
Sen. Symington on Defense Spending (sound, positive)	6	25
Athletes exercising (silent, negative)	6	26
Voigt Milling (silent, negative, on core)	6	27
Grand River	6	27
Circus	6	27
Buck Barry	6	27
Artist from Bitely, MI (silent, positive)	6	28
Del Blumenshine interviewing Bon Sullivan on "Bob Sullivan Day" (sound, negative)	6	29
Peabody Award banquet (sound, positive)	6	30
Chicago Fire fighters (silent, positive)	6	31

Series IV. Audio Tapes, 1960s.

Car Show (silent, positive)	6	32
Demonstration on the ecology, (silent, positive)	6	33
Monkey promotion (sound, positive)	7	34
Ionia Progress, 1961 (silent, negative)	7	35
Cadillac Car promo (silent, positive)	7	36
Railroads, 1961 (silent, positive)	7	37
World Water Skiing Tournament, 1961 (silent, positive)	7	38
Indianapolis 500 promo, 1961 (sound, positive)	7	39
Ford Camping station wagon (sound, positive, do not thread)	7	40
Grand Rapids Christian schools (silent, positive)	7	41
Opening of Charlotte Speedway (on core)	7	42
Bowling (sound, positive)	7	43-7
on cores, titles and status unknown	7	48-9
Series IV. Audio Tapes, 1960s.		

Series IV. Audio Tapes, 1960s.

Box

14 reel-to-reel and 2 cassette tapes: "Wasted World" and interviews from the State capitol

7