



Guide to the Candy Lee Papers, 1953-2024 — 125.669

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

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Summary Information

Repository:	Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
Creator:	Korn, Candy Lee
Title:	Candy Lee papers
ID:	125.669
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/3/resources/371
Date [inclusive]:	1953-2024
Date [bulk]:	bulk 1953-1959
Physical Description:	0.5 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This collection consists of the papers of Candy Lee, Cleveland, Ohio-based radio personality and game show contestant. The materials are dated from 1953 to 2024, with the bulk of the materials from 1953 to 1959. The papers are comprised of newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence, and ephemera.

Preferred Citation for Publication

Candy Lee papers, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong, Rochester, N.Y.

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Biographical Note

Candy Lee Korn (born Sandra Lee Laska) is a former Cleveland-based radio personality and television performer whose early career reflects the emergence of youth media and rock-and-roll broadcasting in mid-20th-century America.

Born in the early 1940s, Korn demonstrated an aptitude for performance at a young age. With the encouragement of her mother, Vilma Laska, whom she later described as her "promoter". At three years old, she won her first beauty contest and at four she sang before a crowd of 15,000

people in Pennsylvania. She entered the world of broadcasting as a child, hosting her own radio program "Kiddie Korral," as one of the nation's youngest disc jockeys around age 8. By age 12, she was hosting a Cleveland radio program featuring music and stories from popular western entertainers such as Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. She also appeared on the local children's television program *Uncle Jake's House*, hosted by Gene Carroll, who encouraged her to adopt the stage name "Candy Lee."

Korn gained early national exposure in 1954 as a contestant on the short-lived television game show *Judge for Yourself*, hosted by comedian Fred Allen. Her successful appearance on the program earned her \$1,000 and marked her introduction to a broader television audience.

By the late 1950s, Korn had transitioned from children's programming to a pioneering role as a teenage disc jockey at Cleveland radio station WDOK, working during the formative years of rock-and-roll. In 1959, at age 17, she appeared on the popular television game show *What's My Line?* During her appearance, the panel failed to identify her occupation as a disc jockey. The episode featured singer Ricky Nelson as the mystery guest, with whom Korn later recalled having an easy backstage conversation.

After her early broadcasting career, Korn remained active in community and historical work. She later served as longtime president of the Broadview Heights Historical Society in Ohio, contributing to the preservation and interpretation of local history.

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Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection documents the 1950s media appearances and personal experiences of Candy Lee, with a particular focus on her participation in game show television programs and her early career in broadcasting. Materials date primarily from 1954 to 1960, with a small number of later additions extending to 2001 and 2024.

The collection includes correspondence, ephemera, photographs, and clippings related to Lee's appearances on the television programs *Judge For Yourself* (1954), *What's My Line?* (1959), and her broadcasting career.

The papers have been arranged into three series. The physical materials are housed in one box. Additional scope and content information can be found in the Series Scope and Content Notes of the finding aid.

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System of Arrangement

Series I: Broadcasting career, 1953-1960

Series II: *Judge For Yourself*, 1954

Series III: *What's My Line?*, 1959-2024

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and users of its library and archives.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were doanted to The Strong in March 2025 as a gift of Candy Lee Korn. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under object ID 125.669 and were shipped by Candy Lee Korn in one box.

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Controlled Access Headings

- What's My Line? (Game show)
- Judge for Yourself (Game show)
- National Archives of Game Show History
- Nelson, Rick, 1940-1985
- Van Metre, Maurice
- Carroll, Gene, 1897-1972