

Ralph Edwards Productions Radio and Television Scripts

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2010085552>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011240>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Revised 2023 May

Collection Summary

Title: Ralph Edwards Productions Radio and Television Scripts

Inclusive Dates: 1940-1975

ID No.: MSS85552

Creator: Ralph Edwards Productions

Extent: 7,900 items

Extent: 251 containers

Extent: 100.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2010085552>

Summary: Radio and television production company. Scripts from Ralph Edwards Productions' radio and television shows, primarily *This Is Your Life* and *Truth or Consequences*.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bethune, Mary McLeod, 1875-1955.

Capra, Frank, 1897-1991.

Edwards, Ralph, 1913-2005.

Edwards, Ralph, 1913-2005.

Gordon, Ruth, 1896-1985.

Murphy, Audie, 1924-1971.

Owens, Jesse, 1913-1980.

Price, Vincent, 1911-1993.

Organizations

Ralph Edwards Productions.

Subjects

Armed Forces--Officers.

Athletes.

Audience participation television programs.

Businesspeople.

Celebrities.

Children's television programs.

Educators.

Entertainers.

Philanthropists.

Radio game shows.

Radio programs.

Religious leaders.

Sports personnel.

Television game shows.

Television programs.

Western television programs.

Titles

Funny boners (Television program)

It could be you (Television program)

This is your life (Radio program)

This is your life (Television program)
Truth or consequences (Radio program)
Truth or consequences (Television program)
Wide country (Television program)

Form/Genre

Audience participation radio programs.

Acquisition Information

The radio and television scripts of Ralph Edwards Productions were given to the Library of Congress in 2010 by Ralph Edwards Productions. The Manuscript Division received the collection via the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division of the Library.

Processing History

The radio and television scripts of Ralph Edwards Productions were arranged and described by Donna Ellis with the assistance of Thomas Bigley and Tammi Taylor in 2011.

Additional Guides

A list from Ralph Edwards Productions of *This Is Your Life* shows indexed alphabetically by name of guest is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room and online as a [PDF](#) document. The list includes shows not documented in the collection.

Other Repositories

Records of Ralph Edwards Productions are also held by the Film and Television Archive, University of California, Los Angeles.

Related Material

Audio and video material relating to Ralph Edwards Productions is held by the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. Photographs, a poster, and a hard drive containing photographs are held by the Prints and Photographs Division.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Ralph Edwards Productions in this collection and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The radio and television scripts of Ralph Edwards Productions are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Ralph Edwards Productions Radio and Television Scripts, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1913, June 13	Born, Merino, Colo.
1935	B.A., University of California, Berkley, Calif.
1938-1940	Announcer, Columbia Broadcasting System
1939	Married Barbara Jean Sheldon (died 1993)
1940-1978	Producer, <i>Truth or Consequences</i>
1942	Actor, <i>Seven Days' Leave</i>
1948-1961	Producer and host, <i>This Is Your Life</i> (revival 1971-1973)
1954-1955	Producer, <i>Funny Boners</i>
1955	Actor, <i>Lillian Roth, I'll Cry Tomorrow</i>
1956	Producer, <i>It Could Be You</i>
1960	Producer, <i>About Faces</i>
1962	Producer, <i>Wide Country</i>
1981	Co-executive producer with Stu Billet, <i>The People's Court</i>
1995	Inducted into Radio Hall of Fame
2005, Nov. 16	Died, West Hollywood, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The Ralph Edwards Productions collection spans the years 1940-1975 and consists of radio and television scripts from shows produced by Ralph Edwards, a radio announcer and early television program host and producer. Included are scripts for the audience participation shows, *It Could Be You*, *Truth or Consequences*, and *About Faces*; a western drama, *Wide Country*; and a children's program, *Funny Boners*. Also included is *This Is Your Life*, which Edwards created and hosted. It featured celebrity guests primarily from the performing arts, but included leading figures in business, education, the military, philanthropy, religion, and sports.

The scripts for *This Is Your Life* cover the origin of the show from its beginning on radio in 1948 through its television run from 1952 to 1961 and revival in 1971-1973. Among the wide range of guests were Mary McLeod Bethune (March 15, 1949), Frank Capra (June 10, 1959), Ruth Gordon (November 21, 1971), Audie Murphy (March 8, 1949), Jesse Owens (April 27, 1960), and Vincent Price (March 18, 1973). A list from Ralph Edwards Productions of *This Is Your Life* guests and their airing is available in the Manuscript Division Reading Room and online as a [PDF](#) document. The list includes shows not documented in the collection.

Some of the scripts are annotated with production notes such as segment running times and wardrobe descriptions. Also included are scripts for the sponsors' commercials and a few letters primarily from contestants regarding prizes.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged alphabetically by the name of the show and chronologically therein with some gaps in the sequence

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<i>About Faces</i> , 1960 (4 folders) <i>Funny Boners</i> , 1954-1955 (2 folders) <i>It Could Be You</i> 1956 (2 folders)
BOX 2	1957-1958 (6 folders) 1959 Feb.
BOX 3	Apr.-Dec. (4 folders) 1960 (4 folders)
BOX 4	1961 (6 folders) <i>This Is Your Life</i> 1948 Nov.
BOX 5	Dec. 1949 Jan.-May (6 folders)
BOX 6	June-Dec. (8 folders) 1950 Jan.
BOX 7	Feb.-May (7 folders)
BOX 8	1952 (6 folders) 1953 Jan. (2 folders)
BOX 9	Feb.-May (8 folders)
BOX 10	June-Nov. (7 folders) Dec. 2-23 (2 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 11	30 1954 Jan.-Mar. (6 folders)
BOX 12	Apr.-Oct. (9 folders)
BOX 13	Nov.-Dec. (5 folders) 1955 Jan. (2 folders)
BOX 14	Feb.-Apr. (7 folders)
BOX 15	May-Oct. (7 folders) Nov. 2-9
BOX 16	16-30 (2 folders) Dec. (2 folders) 1956 Jan.-Feb. (4 folders)
BOX 17	Mar.-June (9 folders)
BOX 18	Sept.-Dec. (8 folders)
BOX 19	1957 Jan.-Mar. (7 folders)
BOX 20	Apr.-Sept. (9 folders)
BOX 21	Oct.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 22	1958 Jan.-Mar. (7 folders)
BOX 23	Apr.-Sept. (8 folders)
BOX 24	Oct.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 25	1959 Jan.-Mar. (6 folders) Apr. 1-8

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 26	15-29 (2 folders) May-Oct. (6 folders)
BOX 27	Nov.-Dec. (5 folders) 1960 Jan. (2 folders)
BOX 28	Feb.-May (9 folders)
BOX 29	June-Oct. (7 folders)
BOX 30	Nov.-Dec. (5 folders) 1961 Jan. (3 folders)
BOX 31	Feb.-Apr. (6 folders)
BOX 32	May-Sept. (5 folders) 1971 Jan. Feb. 4-11
BOX 33	18-25 Mar.-May (6 folders)
BOX 34	Sept.-Nov. (6 folders)
BOX 35	Dec. 1972 Jan.-Oct. (8 folders)
BOX 36	Nov.-Dec. (3 folders) 1973 (6 folders)
BOX 37	<i>Truth or Consequences</i> 1940 (9 folders)
BOX 38	1941 Jan.-Apr. (7 folders)
BOX 39	May-July (6 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 40	Aug.-Nov. (8 folders)
BOX 41	Dec. (2 folders)
	1942
	Jan.-Mar. (7 folders)
BOX 42	Apr.-Oct. (11 folders)
BOX 43	Nov.-Dec. (4 folders)
	1943
	Jan. (3 folders)
BOX 44	Feb.-Aug. (8 folders)
BOX 45	Sept.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 46	1944
	Jan.-May (8 folders)
BOX 47	June-Dec. (6 folders)
	1945
	Jan.-Apr. (4 folders)
BOX 48	May-Dec. (8 folders)
BOX 49	1946
	Jan.-Apr. (10 folders)
BOX 50	May-Oct. (13 folders)
BOX 51	Nov.-Dec. (7 folders)
	1947
	Jan. 4-18 (3 folders)
BOX 52	25
	Feb.-Mar. (8 folders)
BOX 53	Apr.-May (6 folders)
	June 7-14 (2 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 54	21-28 (2 folders) July-Sept. (4 folders) Oct. 4-11 (2 folders)
BOX 55	18-25 (2 folders) Nov.-Dec. (5 folders)
BOX 56	1948 Jan. (5 folders) Feb. 7-14 (2 folders)
BOX 57	21-28 (5 folders) Mar. 6 (2 folders)
BOX 58	13-27 (5 folders) Apr. 3 (2 folders)
BOX 59	10-24 (6 folders) May 1-8 (2 folders)
BOX 60	15-29 (3 folders) June (6 folders)
BOX 61	Aug.-Oct. (8 folders)
BOX 62	Nov.-Dec. (8 folders)
BOX 63	1949 Jan.-Feb. (7 folders)
BOX 64	Mar.-Apr. (7 folders)
BOX 65	May (4 folders) June

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

	4-11 (4 folders)
BOX 66	18-25 (3 folders)
	Aug.-Sept. (5 folders)
BOX 67	Oct.-Nov. (7 folders)
	Dec. 3-10 (2 folders)
BOX 68	17-31 (3 folders)
	1950
	Jan. (4 folders)
BOX 69	Feb.-Mar. (6 folders)
	Apr. 1 8-29 (4 folders)
BOX 70	May (2 folders)
	June 3 10-24 (3 folders)
BOX 71	Sept. 5-21 (5 folders)
BOX 72	26-28 (2 folders)
	Oct. 3-19 (7 folders)
BOX 73	24-31 (5 folders)
	Nov. 2-16 (5 folders)
BOX 74	21-30 (4 folders)
	Dec. 5-14 (5 folders)
BOX 75	19-28 (5 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

	1951
	Jan.
	2-11
	(5 folders)
BOX 76	16-30
	(7 folders)
	Feb.
	1-6
	(2 folders)
BOX 77	13-27
	(3 folders)
	Mar.
	6-20
	(5 folders)
BOX 78	27
	Apr.
	3-17
	(6 folders)
BOX 79	24
	(2 folders)
	May
	1-22
	(8 folders)
BOX 80	29
	(2 folders)
	1952
	June
	(4 folders)
	July
	1
	(3 folders)
BOX 81	15-29
	(5 folders)
	Aug.
	5-12
	(6 folders)
BOX 82	19-26
	(5 folders)
	Sept.
	2-9
	(4 folders)
BOX 83	18-25
	(4 folders)
	Oct.
	(6 folders)
BOX 84	Nov.
	(7 folders)
	Dec.

Container List

Container	Contents
	4-11 (3 folders)
BOX 85	18-25 (2 folders)
	1953
	Jan.
	1-22 (5 folders)
BOX 86	29 (2 folders)
	Feb. (4 folders)
	Mar.
	1 (2 folders)
BOX 87	5-26 (6 folders)
	Apr.
	2 9-30 (6 folders)
BOX 88	May
	7 (2 folders)
BOX 89	14-28 (8 folders)
BOX 90	June (6 folders)
	July
	1 (3 folders)
BOX 91	8-29 (5 folders)
	Aug. (4 folders)
BOX 92	Sept. (5 folders)
	Oct.
	1-15 (4 folders)
BOX 93	22-29 (2 folders)
	Nov. (5 folders)
BOX 94	Dec. (6 folders)
	1954
	Jan.

Container List

Container	Contents
	7-14 (2 folders)
BOX 95	21-28 (2 folders)
	Feb. (5 folders)
BOX 96	Mar.-Apr. (7 folders)
	1955
BOX 97	1956 (2 folders)
	1957 Jan. (4 folders)
	Feb. 4-14 (2 folders)
BOX 98	15-28 (4 folders)
	Mar. 1-19 (3 folders)
BOX 99	20-29 (3 folders)
	Apr. 1-16 (5 folders)
	17-30 (6 folders)
BOX 100	May 1-9 (3 folders)
BOX 101	10-31 (8 folders)
	June 3 5-24 (7 folders)
BOX 102	
BOX 103	25-27 (2 folders)
	July 1-18 (7 folders)
BOX 104	19-30 (4 folders)
	Aug. 1-16 (5 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 105	19-30 (5 folders) Sept. 2-5 (2 folders)
BOX 106	6-24 (8 folders)
BOX 107	25-30 (2 folders) Oct. 1-14 (6 folders)
BOX 108	15-31 (6 folders) Nov. 1-26 (3 folders)
BOX 109	27-29 Dec. 2-16 (6 folders)
BOX 110	17-31 (5 folders) 1958 Jan. 2-3 6-22 (8 folders)
BOX 111	23-31 (5 folders) Feb. 3-6 (3 folders)
BOX 112	7-26 (8 folders)
BOX 113	27-28 Mar. 3-17 (6 folders)
BOX 114	18-31 (6 folders) Apr. 1-7 (2 folders)
BOX 115	8-23 (7 folders)
BOX 116	24-30 (3 folders)
BOX 117	

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

	May
	1-8
	(3 folders)
BOX 118	9-30
	(7 folders)
BOX 119	June
	2-23
	(7 folders)
BOX 120	24-30
	(3 folders)
	July
	1-10
	(4 folders)
BOX 121	11-31
	(7 folders)
BOX 122	Aug.
	1-20
	(7 folders)
BOX 123	21-29
	(4 folders)
	Sept.
	1-11
	(4 folders)
BOX 124	12-30
	(9 folders)
BOX 125	Oct.
	1-17
	(8 folders)
BOX 126	20-31
	(8 folders)
BOX 127	Nov.
	(8 folders)
BOX 128	Dec.
	1-17
	(8 folders)
BOX 129	18-31
	(6 folders)
	1959
	Jan.
	2-6
	(2 folders)
BOX 130	7-20
	(6 folders)
BOX 131	21-30
	(5 folders)
	Feb.
	2-3

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

BOX 132	4-17 (6 folders)
BOX 133	18-27 (7 folders)
BOX 134	Mar. 2-13 (9 folders)
BOX 135	16-26 (7 folders)
BOX 136	27-31 Apr. 1-14 (5 folders)
BOX 137	15-30 (6 folders)
BOX 138	May 1-18 (6 folders)
BOX 139	19-29 (4 folders) June 1-3 (2 folders)
BOX 140	4-19 (6 folders)
BOX 141	22-30 (4 folders) July 1-7 (3 folders)
BOX 142	8-23 (6 folders)
BOX 143	24-31 (3 folders) Aug. 3-10 (3 folders)
BOX 144	11-27 (6 folders)
BOX 145	28-31 Sept. 1-11 (5 folders)
BOX 146	14-25 (5 folders) Oct. (3 folders)
BOX 147	Nov.

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

	2-16 (6 folders)
BOX 148	17-30 (6 folders)
BOX 149	Dec. 1-11 (6 folders)
BOX 150	14-29 (6 folders)
BOX 151	30-31
	1960
	Jan.
	4-15 (5 folders)
BOX 152	18-29 (5 folders)
	Feb.
	1
BOX 153	2-17 (6 folders)
BOX 154	18-29 (4 folders)
	Mar.
	1-4 (2 folders)
BOX 155	7-18 (6 folders)
BOX 156	21-31 (5 folders)
	Apr.
	1-4
BOX 157	5-21 (6 folders)
BOX 158	22-29 (3 folders)
	May
	2-6 (4 folders)
BOX 159	9-26 (6 folders)
BOX 160	27-31
	June
	1-16 (6 folders)
BOX 161	17-30 (5 folders)
	July

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

	1-6 (2 folders)
BOX 162	7-27 (6 folders)
BOX 163	28-29
	Aug.
	1-16 (6 folders)
BOX 164	17-31 (5 folders)
	Sept.
	1-2
BOX 165	5-22 (6 folders)
BOX 166	23-30 (2 folders)
	Oct.
	3-20 (4 folders)
BOX 167	21-31 (2 folders)
	Nov.
	1-17 (5 folders)
BOX 168	18-30 (3 folders)
	Dec.
	1-9 (3 folders)
BOX 169	12-30 (4 folders)
	1961
	Jan.
	3-11 (2 folders)
BOX 170	12-31 (3 folders)
	Feb.
	1-16 (3 folders)
BOX 171	17-28 (2 folders)
	Mar.
	1-22 (4 folders)
BOX 172	23-31 (2 folders)
	Apr.

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

	3-24 (4 folders)
BOX 173	25-28
	May (6 folders)
BOX 174	June (6 folders)
	July 3-5
BOX 175	6-31 (4 folders)
	Aug. 1-9 (2 folders)
BOX 176	10-31 (4 folders)
	Sept. 1-13 (2 folders)
BOX 177	14-29 (3 folders)
	Oct. 2-24 (4 folders)
BOX 178	25-31
	Nov. (5 folders)
	Dec. 1-7
BOX 179	8-29 (3 folders)
	1962
	Jan. 2-24 (4 folders)
BOX 180	25-31
	Feb. (4 folders)
	Mar. 2-9 (2 folders)
BOX 181	12-30 (3 folders)
	Apr. 2-23 (3 folders)
BOX 182	24-30

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

	May (5 folders)
	June 1-5 6-29 (4 folders)
BOX 183	
	July 2-23 (3 folders)
BOX 184	25-31
	Aug. (5 folders)
	Sept. 3-5 6-28 (3 folders)
BOX 185	
	Oct. 1-25 (4 folders)
BOX 186	26-31
	Nov. (5 folders)
BOX 187	
	Dec. (5 folders)
BOX 188	1963
	Jan. (6 folders)
	Feb. 1-5 6-28 (4 folders)
BOX 189	
	Mar. 1-13 (3 folders)
BOX 190	14-29 (3 folders)
	Apr. 1-17 (4 folders)
BOX 191	18-30 (2 folders)
	May (5 folders)
BOX 192	
	June (5 folders)
	July 1-8 (2 folders)

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 193	10-31 (4 folders) Aug. 1-8 (2 folders)
BOX 194	9-30 (4 folders) Sept. 2-11 (2 folders)
BOX 195	12-30 (3 folders) Oct. 1-18 (3 folders)
BOX 196	21-31 (2 folders) Nov. (5 folders)
BOX 197	Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 198	1964 Jan. (5 folders) Feb. 3-5 6-28 (4 folders)
BOX 199	Mar. 2-13 (3 folders)
BOX 200	16-31 (3 folders) Apr. 1-17 (3 folders)
BOX 201	21-30 (2 folders) May 1-25 (4 folders)
BOX 202	26-29 June (5 folders)
BOX 203	July (5 folders) Aug.

Container List

Container	Contents
	3-12 (2 folders)
BOX 204	13-31 (3 folders)
	Sept. 1-18 (4 folders)
BOX 205	21-30 (2 folders)
	Oct. 1-23 (4 folders)
BOX 206	27-30
	Nov. (5 folders)
	Dec. 1-2
BOX 207	3-31 (5 folders)
	1965 Jan. 4-12 (2 folders)
BOX 208	13-29 (3 folders)
	Feb. 1-19 (3 folders)
BOX 209	22-26
	Mar. (5 folders)
BOX 210	Apr. (5 folders)
	May 3-7
BOX 211	10-31 (3 folders)
	June 1-16 (3 folders)
BOX 212	17-30 (2 folders)
	July (4 folders)
BOX 213	Aug. (4 folders)
	Sept.

Container List

Container	Contents
	1-16 (2 folders)
BOX 214	17-24 1966 Sept.-Oct. (5 folders) Nov. 1-21 (2 folders)
BOX 215	22-30 Dec. (3 folders)
	1967 Jan. (2 folders) Feb. 1-7 8-28 (2 folders)
BOX 216	Mar.-Apr. (6 folders)
BOX 217	May-Sept. (5 folders) Oct. 5-12 (2 folders)
BOX 218	13-31 (4 folders) Nov. 1-17 (3 folders)
BOX 219	24-30 Dec. (3 folders)
	1968 Jan. (2 folders) Feb. 1-8 9-29 (2 folders)
BOX 220	Mar.-Apr. (5 folders)
BOX 221	May-Oct. (7 folders)
BOX 222	Nov.-Dec. (7 folders)
BOX 223	1969

Container List

Container	Contents
	Jan.-Feb. (5 folders)
	Mar. 4-18 (2 folders)
BOX 224	19-26
	Apr.-June (6 folders)
BOX 225	Sept.-Nov. (6 folders)
BOX 226	Dec. (2 folders)
	1970
	Jan.-Feb. (5 folders)
BOX 227	Mar.-Apr. (6 folders)
	May 19 20-25
BOX 228	June-Sept. (6 folders)
BOX 229	Oct.-Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 230	1971
	Jan.-Feb. (6 folders)
	Mar. 2-10 (2 folders)
BOX 231	16-31 (2 folders)
	Apr.-May (4 folders)
	June 2-15 (2 folders)
BOX 232	16-30 (2 folders)
	July-Sept. (3 folders)
	Oct. 5-12 13-20
BOX 233	Nov.-Dec. (4 folders)
	1972
	Jan.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 234	4-11 12-26 (2 folders) Feb. (3 folders) Mar. 7-21 (2 folders)
BOX 235	22-29 Apr.-May (6 folders)
BOX 236	June-Sept. (5 folders) Oct. 3-11 (2 folders)
BOX 237	24-31 Nov.-Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 238	1973 Jan.-Feb. (6 folders) Mar. 6-14 (3 folders)
BOX 239	20-28 (4 folders) Apr. (6 folders) May 1-9 (4 folders)
BOX 240	22-30 (4 folders) June-Sept. (8 folders) Oct. 2-3
BOX 241	9-31 (7 folders) Nov. (5 folders) Dec. 4-12 (2 folders)
BOX 242	18-19 (2 folders) 1974

Container List

Container	Contents
-----------	----------

	Jan.-Feb. (7 folders)
BOX 243	Mar.-Apr. (7 folders)
	May 7-8
BOX 244	21-29 (2 folders)
	June-Sept. (5 folders)
BOX 245	Oct.-Nov. (6 folders)
	Dec. 3-10
BOX 246	11-18 (2 folders)
	1975
	Jan. (3 folders)
	Feb. 5-12 (3 folders)
	18-19
	Mar. (3 folders)
	Apr. 1-16 (3 folders)
BOX 248	22-23
	May
	<i>Wide Country</i>
	1962
	July-Oct. (4 folders)
BOX 249	Nov.-Dec. (8 folders)
BOX 250	1963
	Feb. 7-21 (3 folders)
BOX 251	28
	Mar.-Apr. (6 folders)