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Overview of the Collection

Title The John Silvia Collection

Collection Number MS 294

Creator Elmer J. Silvia

Dates 1910s-1920s

Collection Size 2 linear feet

Repository Pittsburg State University, Special Collections &

University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas

1701 S. Broadway

Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

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Scope and Content A collection of concertina and oboe sheet music along with

the Chemnitzer concertina and oboe belonging to John

Silvia.

Access Restrictions This collection is open for access. Researchers must use the

collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe

Library, Pittsburg State University.

Languages English and German

Biographical Note John Silvia was born in Radley, Kansas to Italian

immigrants, in 1892. He grew up in a coal mining town and became a miner at the age of 15. In his spare time, Silvia enjoyed baseball and playing the clarinet. In 1913, he married Ann Stockinger, and soon began working as a mechanic in Radley. In 1916, Silvia went to Kansas City to study auto-mechanics, while Ann stayed in Radley with their daughter, Marie Kay. Walter McCray, a music professor and for whom McCray Hall at Pittsburg State University is name for, tried to place Silvia in a teaching position at the school in auto-mechanics, but Silvia lacked the education to be a professor. Silvia and his wife welcomed Elmer J. in 1919 and Sylvia Ann in 1931. In 1927, Silvia and his brother Tony opened their own service garage in Frontenac, Kansas, but it burned down a year later requiring Silvia to work off the debts of the shop during the Depression. But, in 1934 he was able to combine his interests in mechanics and mining to become a mechanic for the Alston Coal Company and later the Midway Coal Company where he worked until his retirement in 1962. In his retirement, Silvia grew tomatoes, made wine, read, enjoyed music, and tinkered. He passed away in 1986.

Content Description

This collection is comprised of music and musical instruments related to John Silvia

Detailed Description of Collection:

Oversized

Chemnitzer Concertina Oboe

Box

F.1 Concertina Sheet Music

- Henry Silberhorn's Instructor for the Concertina, Book I
- Henry Silberhorn's Instructor for the Concertina, Book II
- Poet and Peasant Overture
- Popular American Hits for the Concertina
 - Winter Wonderland
 - o I Saw Stars
- Collection of Popular and Standard Music for Concertina
 - o Yip-I-Addy-I-Ay
 - At the Mississippi Cabaret
 - o Show the White of Yo' Eye
 - Tip Top Tipperary Mary
 - o Miserere
 - o Italy
 - Garland of Old-Fashioned Roses
 - o Herman Let's Dance That Beautiful Waltz
 - o If You See Sally
 - o Good-Bye Jennie Jones
 - o Where the Sweet Magnolias Bloom
 - o His Majesty and the Maid
 - o Burning Sands
 - o Good-bye Dolly Gray
 - New York & Cooney Island Cycle
 - o Trixy
 - o I Love the Whole United States
 - Oh! That Moonlight Glide
 - o I Didn't Raise My Boy to be a Soldier
 - o That Dreamy Rag
 - o Gee, I Like the Music with My Meals
 - Sweet Italian Love
 - o The New Colonial March
 - o La Stella D'Italia
 - o Largo
 - o Black and White

• Over the Waves

F.2 Concertina Sheet Music

- Popular American Song Hits for the Concertina
 - o In Blue Bird Land
- Collection of Popular and Standard Music for Concertina
 - o Call Me Up Some Rainy Afternoon (2)
 - When Bob White is Whistling in the Meadow
 - o At the Yiddisher Ball
 - o Along Came Ruth
 - o You're a Great Big Blue-Eyed Baby
 - o Lonesome Mama Blues
 - o There's a Girl in the Heart of Maryland
 - Mocking Bird Rag
 - o Bright Eyes Good Bye
 - o I Want Someone to Flirt with Me
 - Whistle and I'll Wait for You
 - Ciribiribin
 - o Nora Malone
 - o When You're a Long, Long Way from Home
 - o That Mysterious Rag
- Evening Serenade
- Just Once Again
- Japanese Dances
- Silberhorn's Booster for the Advancement of the Concertina

F.3 Concertina Sheet Music

- Collection of Popular and Standard Music for Concertina
 - o Waltz Queen
 - o I've Got Rings on My Fingers
 - o Taking a Trip Up the Hudson
 - Love Dreams
- Collection of Popular Music for the Concertina
 - o The Bird that Never Sings Waltz
 - o The Banquet in Misery Hal
 - o Sweet Annie Moore
 - o Has Your Mother Any More Like You

F.4 Concertina Sheet Music

- Collection of Popular and Standard Music for Concertina
 - o Love Me
 - o Rainbow
 - Laughing Water
 - o You've Got Me Going Kid
 - o Lonesome
 - o Down in Jungle Town

- Hiawatha
- o Officer of the Day March
- o The Dashing Trumpeter
- o Red Wing
- o Alice Where Art Thou Going?
- Collection of Popular Music for the Concertina
 - Just to be Near You
 - Marching to the Music
 - o Mr. Dooley
 - o Marching to the Music of the Band
 - Stars and Stripes Forever

F.5 Concertina Sheet Music

- Collection of Popular and Standard Music for Concertina
 - o Who Are You with To-Night?
 - Where are the Scenes of Yesterday
 - Waiting at the Church
 - O Why Don't You Try?
 - o Take Me Out to the Ball Game
 - o Ain't that a Shame
 - o I'm Afraid to Come Home in the Dark
 - o Silver Bell
- Collection of Popular Music for the Concertina
 - When the Leaves Begin to Turn
 - O What You Goin' to Do When the Rent Comes 'Round
 - o The Sweetest Girl I Ever Knew
 - Under the Bamboo Tree
 - o In Sunny Africa
- Home Sweet Home
- Since Nellie Went Away
- Supper March
- Sweetheart
- I Don't Want to Play in Your Yard
- My Old Kentucky Home
- On a Winters Night

F.6 Baby's Record Book

- When the Whip-poor will Sings Marquerite
- Mamie, Don't You Feel Ashamie
- Cake Walk
- The Little Lost Child
- Smoky Mokes
- Don't Be Brass
- Mazurha
- St. Paul Waltz

- Old Time Scottish
- My Own Waltz

F.7 Oboe Sheet Music

- Cundy-Bettoney Company, Catalog No. 1
- The Oboe and Its Reed and How to Master It
- Baxter-Northup Company, Oboes and Bassoons
- Georges Apchain, Importer of Musical Instruments
- Solo-Buch für Oboe
- Scale for the Oboe
- Military Escort
- Pittsburg High School Band Book
 - Hutchinson Field
 - o Pretty Baby
 - o Merry Widow Waltz
 - o Just Try to Picture Me Down Home in Tennessee
 - o The Lieutenant Commander
 - o Os-ka-loo-sa-loo
 - The Darkies Jubilee
 - o A Bunch of Roses
 - o Red White and Blue
 - o National Emblem
 - o My Own Iona
- Visalia Galop

F. 8 Sketch – Biographical Sketch of John Silvia