

Frank G. Curtiss Papers
1925-1930
OhKeUSC-U79/54

Kent State University Libraries
Special Collections and Archives
1125 Risman Dr.
Kent, OH 44242

Katie Gresham
December 2022

Title: Frank G. Curtiss Papers

Dates: 1925-1930

Creator: Frank G. Curtiss

Extent: .33 cubic feet (1 document case)

Creator: Frank G. Curtiss

Conditions Governing Access:

The collection is open for research use.

Reproduction and use information: Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Language of Materials: English

Acquisition information: Curtiss donated his papers to the Kent State University Alumni Association. They were transferred to the University Archives on October 25, 1979 as accession U79/54.

Preferred citation: Frank G. Curtiss papers. Department of Special Collections and Archives. Kent State University Libraries and Media Services.

Related Materials:

[Kent State University Sports Artifacts](#)

[Sports Information and Athletic Communications records](#)

[KSU Varsity "K" Club Records](#)

Biographical History:

Frank Gardner Curtiss (1907-1993) was an athlete at Kent State University from 1925-1929.

He was born June 7, 1907 in Charlestown, OH, to parents Ralph Mahan Curtiss and Mary Elizabeth Gardner. He later moved to Ravenna, Ohio, where he attended Ravenna High School. While at Ravenna, he played football, basketball, and ran track. He graduated from high school in 1925 and went on to attend Kent State University.

At Kent State, Curtiss played basketball, baseball, and football, earning 11 total varsity letters. He was an outfielder for baseball, playing both left field and center field at different points, as well as captaining the team in 1928. On the basketball team, he was a forward. In football, he was a defensive end. He was also president of the Alpha chapter of Kappa Mu Kappa Fraternity, which he joined in January 1926.

After graduating from Kent State, Curtiss went on to work at Brush High School in Lyndhurst, Ohio. He was a teacher and a coach, and eventually the athletic director at Brush. He worked there until his retirement in 1969.

Frank G. Curtiss was inducted into the Kent State University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1980. He is also in the Ravenna School District Hall of Fame and the Brush High School Hall of Fame.

Frank Curtiss married Esther Giesler Curtiss, and had two children, Jack Curtiss and Jean Curtiss Britt. He died in Lyndhurst, Ohio in 1993.

Scope and Content:

The collection contains materials from Frank Curtiss' time as a student and an athlete at Kent State University, from the years 1925-1930. There is some general Kent State memorabilia, including a student handbook and songbook, as well as Curtiss' own graduation announcement. There are also newspaper clippings and photographs relating to his membership in Kappa Alpha Kappa. The bulk of the materials are related to Curtiss' athletic career at Kent State, and include his certificates for receiving varsity letters, as well as the letters themselves. There are also newspaper clippings, photographs, and other memorabilia.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into the following series:

Series I: Kent State General Memorabilia, 1925-1929

Series II: Kappa Mu Kappa Fraternity, 1926-1927

Series III: Kent State Athletics, 1925-1930

Subjects:

Names:

Curtiss, Frank G.

Wagoner, Merle (coach)

Organizations:

Brush High School (Lyndhurst, Ohio)

Ravenna High School (Ravenna, Ohio)

Kent State University

Kappa Mu Kappa Fraternity. Alpha Chapter.

Geographic:

Portage County (Ohio)

Ravenna (Ohio)

Kent (Ohio)

Lyndhurst (Ohio)

Arrangement and Inventory for Frank G. Curtiss Papers

Box 1

Series 1: Kent State General Memorabilia, 1925-1929

Scope and Content:

This series contains general Kent State memorabilia, including Curtiss' graduation announcement, a student handbook, programs from plays and other events, and an issue of the Red Flame newspaper.

Folder: Contents:

1. Graduation announcement of Frank Curtiss [2 copies], 1929
2. "K" Book [student handbook], 1928
3. Kent State College and Popular Song Book, undated
4. Pennant (paper), Kent State College, undated
5. Program, Inauguration of James Ozro Engleman, 1929
6. Programs, miscellaneous [includes programs for gymnasium dedication dance and campus plays], 1925-1928
7. Red Flame [alternative student newspaper], "To Hell with Normal" issue, undated. Note: This issue is in extremely fragile physical condition.

Series 2: Kappa Mu Kappa Fraternity, 1926-1927

This series contains materials related to Frank Curtiss' fraternity, Kappa Mu Kappa, including Curtiss' membership certificate, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

Folder Contents

8. Membership certificate of Frank Curtiss, 1926
9. Newspaper clippings about fraternity events, 1927 and undated
10. Photographs of fraternity members, 1926-1927 and undated

Series 3: Kent State Athletics, 1925-1930

This series contains a variety of materials relating to Curtiss' athletic career at Kent State. There are numerous newspaper articles, photographs, various memorabilia, and Curtiss' varsity athletic certificates and his varsity letters.

Folder Contents

11. Athletic certificates of Frank Curtiss, 1926-1929
12. Athletic letters ("K"), undated
13. Football memorabilia (miscellaneous), 1930 and undated
14. Homecoming program, "West Liberty, W. Va. Vs. Kent State," November 14, 1925.
Note: This was the first game ever won by a Kent State football team since its founding in 1920. Program includes handwritten annotation with the score by quarter and winning touchdown information (centerfold).
15. Newspaper clippings about KSU baseball team, 1926-1929 (some undated)
16. Newspaper clippings about KSU basketball team, 1926-1929 (some undated)
17. Newspaper clippings about KSU football team, 1926-1929 (some undated)

18. Photograph of basketball team? [Curtiss is identified on photograph], undated
19. Photograph of Frank Curtiss in football pose, stand-up photograph mounted on wood, 1928
20. Photograph of Kent State Athletic Association, 1927
21. Photographs of football coach Merle Wagoner, 1927 and undated
22. Photographs of football team members and football summer camp, 1927 and undated
23. Photographs of football team members, bus en route to game in Pennsylvania, and Kent State cheerleaders, 1926, 1927, and undated

Finding aid author: Joy M. Kiser, May 1991

Revisions: May 2008, December 2020