

LGBT-103 Charles McKee & Ron Sanders Collection

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project
Archives and Special Collections
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COLLECTION REGISTER

Name:	McKee, Charles & Ron Sanders	LGBT-103
Material:	Artifacts	
Volume:	1 Artifact	
Donation:	Donated by Charles McKee and Ron Sanders in 2022	
Usage:	These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.	
Processor:	Simone Gillespie, February 2025	
Support:	Funding to process this collection was provided by donors to the LGBT Center of Central PA History Project and a grant from the Schlegel Deibler Charitable Foundation.	

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Charles McKee and Ron Sanders were partners for 22 years. The sign was unscrewed and given to them by a carpenter working on Wesley's house at the corner of 3rd and North Streets in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Benedict A. "Wesley" Trautwein, a drag performer known as Francis Parker. Wesley was a part of the The Jewel Box Revue, a troupe of drag performers who traveled around the country from 1939 to 1969, which made many stops in Pennsylvania. After departing the Revue, he moved back to Harrisburg and continued performing at local bars and clubs, such as The Neptune Lounge.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection contains one series: Artifacts. In the series is one plywood sign with the inscription “Wesley and Dennis.” The sign was displayed outside the home of Wesley Trautwein in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Dennis was the name of every dog Wesley owned. The story told by those familiar with Wesley was that Wesley met the love of his life while performing in New Orleans, a man named Dennis. When the relationship ended and Trautwein moved back to Harrisburg, he proceeded to get a dog and name it Dennis. Each dog after was also named Dennis.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1 Artifacts

LGBT-103-AC01 (see west wall) Stained plywood gate sign inscribed “Wesley & Dennis” – undated