### OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

**Title:** Compiled materials relating to Shipstads and Johnson Ice Follies.

**Date:** 1911-1987 (bulk 1920s-1970s).

**Abstract:** Some correspondence and other papers; print materials, including souvenir programs, promotional and advertising items, press manuals, sheet music, and a commemorative history; a few photographs; and microfilmed loose newspaper clippings and scrapbooks relating to the first professional traveling ice show, founded in Minnesota, which featured figure skating and ice dancing, acrobatic and comedic skating, music, costumes, lighting, and elaborate production numbers.

**Quantity:** 1.75 cubic feet.; 4 microfilm reels.

**Location:** See Detailed Description section for shelf locations.

### HISTORY OF SHIPSTADS AND JOHNSON ICE FOLLIES

Shipstads and Johnson Ice Follies was founded in Minnesota in 1936 by St. Paul natives Eddie Shipstad (1907-1998), Oscar Johnson (1898-1970), and Eddie’s brother Roy Shipstad (1910-1975). There is a good deal of information in the collection on the history of the Ice Follies.

### SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Some correspondence and other papers; print materials, including souvenir programs, promotional and advertising items, press manuals, sheet music, and a commemorative history; a few photographs; and microfilmed loose newspaper clippings and scrapbooks document the ice skating careers of Eddie and Roy Shipstad, their brother Harry, Oscar Johnson, and other so-called “fancy” skaters prior to the founding of the Ice Follies; the show’s origins and development; its programs and performers; and its competitors.

Most materials in the collection, which were donated to the Minnesota Historical Society or loaned to it for microfilming over a number of years, are from the personal
collections of individuals who were associated with the Ice Follies or who had a particular interest in it. Some items were in the Society print collection

ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION

These materials are arranged by record type and thereunder either chronologically or first by topic or format and then by date.

RELATED MATERIALS

There are many Ice Follies photographs, motion pictures, and sound recordings in the Minnesota Historical Society sound and visual collection; published items in its print collection; and memorabilia in its museum collection.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:
- Figure skating.
- Ice dancing.
- Skating – Exhibitions – Minnesota.
- Skating – Exhibitions – United States.

Persons:
- Bennett, Margaret.
- Chandler, Evelyn.
- Dwyer, Richard.
- Ehrhardt, Bess.
- Johnson, Florence.
- Johnson, Oscar.
- Shipstad, Eddie.
- Shipstad, Harry.
- Shipstad, Roy.

Organizations:
- Children’s Hospital Ice Follies (Saint Paul, Minn.).
- Ice Capades, Inc.
- Ice Follies (Show).
- Shipstads and Johnson Ice Follies, Inc.

Types of Documentation:
- Microfilm.
- Photographs.
Occupations:
  Skaters.
  Women skaters.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:
[Indicate the cited item and/or series here]. Compiled materials relating to Shipstads and Johnson Ice Follies. Minnesota Historical Society.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Availability:
The microfilm is available for sale or interlibrary loan from the Minnesota Historical Society.

Accession Information:
Accession numbers: 12,909; 12,951; 12,960; 13,186; 13,698; 14,768; 16,029; 16,030; 17,116; 17,118

Processing Information:
Catalog ID number: 2943757

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the locations and box or reel numbers shown below.

Location  Box  Correspondence and Other Papers, 1911-1987:
  Includes letters and telegrams; stationery samples; personnel-related items; sales and ticket materials; the production script for a 1967 television special; the minutes of one board of directors meeting (1968); and an alumni newsletter and directory (1987).

Oscar Johnson and Florence Johnson, 1911-1975. 2 folders, 1 rolled item.
  Includes letters and picture postcards from Oscar to his sister Florence that include information about the Ice Follies; Oscar Johnson grade school items, 1944 Shop Pond Gang stag party scroll signed by its members, certificates and awards, and items relating to the Oscar Johnson Memorial Ice Arena (St. Paul); and Florence Johnson’s 1948 California tax return for income earned as a partner in the Ice Follies Novelty Company.
Pr **Print Materials:**

- *20th anniversary commemorative history, 1956.*
  
  Include information on Ice Follies history and production numbers; the company’s owners, skaters, and creative staff; and other topics of potential interest to the public.

**Promotional items, 1936-1977:**

- Mostly publicity fliers, leaflets, circulars, brochures, broadsides, and cards issued by the Ice Follies. 2 folders.
- Advertisements and articles in other publications. 2 folders.

**Programs:**

- Other ice shows, 1924-1937. 3 folders.
  
  Primarily programs for shows that Eddie and Roy Shipstad and Oscar Johnson appeared in and produced prior to founding the Ice Follies.

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**Location** 144.D.4.1B **Box** 1


- Sheet music, 1939-1942, 1949.
  
  Songs featured in Ice Follies production numbers.

[0.75 cu. ft. empty, oversize]

**Photographs, undated, [193-], ca. 1936-1937.** 1 folder.

- Professional cast photos and informal snapshots that include Eddie and Roy Shipstad, Oscar Johnson, Harry and Alyce Shipstad, Bess Ehrhardt, and Sonja Henie.

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**Location** 148.C.17.4F **Box** 2


**Sheet music, 1939-1942, 1949.**

- Songs featured in Ice Follies production numbers.

[0.75 cu. ft. empty, oversize]

**Location** M543 **Reel** 1

**Loose Newspaper Clippings (microfilm):**

- Document the ice skating careers of Eddie and Roy Shipstad, Harry Shipstad, Oscar Johnson, and other “fancy” skaters prior to the founding of Shipstads and Johnson Ice Follies; the origins and development of the Ice Follies; its performers and related topics; and competitors like the Ice Capades.

[1920s], 1927-1957.

**Location** M543 **Reel** 2

Scrapbooks (microfilm):
    Primarily newspaper clippings but also print and other materials documenting the ice skating careers of the three Shipstad brothers, Oscar Johnson, and other figure skaters prior to the founding of Shipstads and Johnson Ice Follies; the origins of the Ice Follies; and its first two seasons (1936 and 1937).

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- Scrapbook, 1921-1935.
- College Inn Ice Carnival and Ice Skating Show, 1935-1936 (scrapbook no. 1).
- Mammoth International Ice Carnival, 1936-1937 (scrapbook nos. 2-3, part).
- Ice Revue Internationale, 1937 (scrapbook no. 3, cont.).
- Ice Follies of 1936 and 1937, November 1936 – February 1937 (scrapbook no. 4).
- Ice Follies of 1937, December 1936 – September 1937 (scrapbook nos. 5-7).
- Scrapbook, 1930-1937 (scrapbook no. 8).