

# Lawrence Welk: Musician and Television Host

Lawrence Welk was born on a farm near Strasburg, North Dakota, on March 11, 1903. He was presented with the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award in 1961. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the life and career of Lawrence Welk, music, and television in North Dakota.

## Archival Collections

### 10113 Charles and Viola Liessman Family Papers

Correspondence, organizational records, subject files, notes, reports, photographs, ephemera, millinery store and other business records, moving image and audio recordings, and printed materials.

### 10464 Dennis Neumann Papers

Papers consist of notes, news releases, letters, schedules, KFYZ-TV news broadcast scripts, memoranda, and printed material relating to the 1976 North Dakota - Midwest Trade Mission; sound recordings, audiocassette tapes, and video cassettes.

### 10557 Lee Mohr Collection

Mohr's negatives and prints during the period from the 1930s-1960s, and earlier photographic images attributed to G. L. Lutz. Four hand-colored oversize portraits of Native American subjects are included.

### 10927 North Dakota Federation of Music Clubs Records

Records consist of by-laws, minutes, correspondence, financial material, legal material, reports, projects, programs, special events materials, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and a history book. The Federation was organized October 16, 1919. Mrs. J. Agnes Jardine presided at the first annual meeting in Bismarck, October 4-8, 1920.

### 10948 Junald and (Katie) Myrtle Collins Rendahl Papers

Contains a LP record with signature of Lawrence Welk to Mrs. J. L. Rendahl.

### 11116 North Dakota Humanities Council, Larry Remele Memorial Fellow Reports

Collection consists of audiocassettes, papers, programs, and reports to the people of North Dakota tabloids by Larry Remele Memorial Fellows of the North Dakota Humanities Council.

## Useful Search Guidance

### Subjects

- Lawrence Welk Orchestra
- The Champagne Music Makers
- Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award

### People

- Lawrence Welk, 1903-1992
- Bob Calamé

### Locations

- Strasburg, North Dakota

## Journal Articles

Dance Band on the Northern Plains: Bob Calamé and His Music in North Dakota, 1949-1957

Harl A. Dalstrom and Kay Calamé  
Dalstrom – *North Dakota History* Vol. 46  
Issue 3

Making Music: Brass Bands on the Northern Plains, 1860-1930

William G. Huey – *North Dakota History* Vol. 54  
Issue 1

“Adding Picture to Sound:” Early Television in North Dakota

Bill Snyder – *North Dakota History* Vol. 60  
Issue 3

### **11354 Ephemera Collection**

The ephemera collection contains a variety of materials which are arranged first by size, then by topic (in alphabetical order). The collection primarily Printed material such as posters, tickets, programs, brochures, and pamphlets. The first group of materials is letter size or smaller, the second group is larger than letter size and smaller than 11x17" and the third group is larger than 11x17". Also includes digital files in SADR.

### **11488 Sister Luke Hoschette Collection**

Sister Hoschette's collection of Lawrence Welk memorabilia, including correspondence relating to subscriptions to Lawrence Welk and Norma Zimmer fan club publications, historical items relating to Welk and the Lawrence Welk show, planning documents, printed material and ephemera from Hoschette's 1999 trip to see the Welk Show in Branson Missouri, and moving image on DVD and VHS of the Welk show and programming.

### **21303 Lawrence Welk and Orchestra Collection**

Box set of 6 78rpm albums of Welk's music, entitled "Champagne Music Varieties" produced by Reader's Digest.

### **21406 "My North Dakota Home" Collection**

Photocopy of the music to "My North Dakota Home," a photocopy of the sheet music , and a CD of the song as performed on the Lawrence Welk television show in 1965. The cover of the CD includes song text and a little history on its performance, as well as an image of the donor, John Bye's, native farm house.

### **30181 Governor. Administration. Arthur Link Records**

#### **Box 66**

Records consist of administrative subject files, correspondence, news releases, proclamations, clippings, publications, and extraditions.

### **30436 Secretary of State. Administration. Correspondence.**

#### **Box 20, Folder 27**

Correspondence deals with contractors, charitable solicitation, corporations, notaries public, and the Uniform Commercial Code.

### **31217 Historical Society. Administration, Agencies, Boards, and Commissions Files**

#### **Box 2, Folder 22**

Consists of minutes, correspondence, memoranda, and printed material relating to the Lewis and Clark Trail Council, Garrison-Oahe-Interagency Council, Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Awards Committee, Capitol Grounds Planning Committee, Committee on Public Understanding of Archaeology, Custer Filmory Committee, Highway Hall of Honors Committee, Dale and Martha Hawk Foundation, Emergency Commission, North Dakota American Bicentennial Commission, and the State Historic Preservation Board.

## Books

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### *Boyd Christenson Interviews*

1983 - Boyd Christenson  
Call Number: 078.4 C463b

### *My America, Your America*

1976 – Lawrence Welk with Bernice McGeehan  
Call Number: 92 W446m 1976

### *Guidelines for Successful Living*

1968 – Lawrence Welk  
The philosophy of Lawrence Welk based upon and correlated with the original essays [Keys to successful living] by Alvin H. Goeser  
Call Number: 131.32 W446g 1969

### *Ah-one, ah-two!: Life With my Musical Family*

1974 – Lawrence Welk with Bernice McGeehan  
Call Number: 920 W446a 1974

### *Wunnerful, Wunnerful!: The Autobiography of Lawrence Welk*

1971— Lawrence Welk with Bernice McGeehan  
Call Number: 920 W446w 1971

### *The Lawrence Welk Story: The Life and Career of the Champagne Music Maker In Music and Pictures*

1974 – Lawrence Welk  
Musical sound recording  
Call Number: 784.48 W446L 1974

### *To America With Love; Let's Make America What it Used to Be*

1960 – the Lawrence Welk singers and orchestra  
Musical sound recording  
Call Number: 781.63 L477t

### *My Family's Favorites: Songs We Love to Song-Along*

1974—Lawrence Welk  
Call Number: 784.48 W446m 1974

## Online Resources

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### [Welk Homestead State Historic Site](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's website

### [SHSND Photobook](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

### [Digital Horizons](#)

Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

### [WorldCat](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

## External Resources

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### [Rough Rider Award: Lawrence Welk](#)

Short description of Lawrence Welk's accomplishments on the North Dakota governor's website

### [Lawrence Welk Show - "Those Were the Days" - 1975 - Complete HD](#)

YouTube clip of the Lawrence Welk Show

## State Archives

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For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email [archives@nd.gov](mailto:archives@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2668.



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