

Finding Aid to the Don Roseland Photograph Collection

Roseland, Don

Don Roseland Photograph Collection, 1940s-1980s

8 photographic prints

Collection number: Photo 503

[Biography](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Item List](#)

OVERVIEW

Links: Finding aid to the [Don Roseland Collection](#) (Mss 372)

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Audrey Roseland Scott, 1997 (Acc. 2535).

Property rights: The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: Copyrights to items in this collection is held by the creators.

Citation: Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo (item number)

BIOGRAPHY

Donald Dean Roseland was born January 27, 1920 in Kanabec County, Minnesota to Abraham and Stella (Olson) Roseland. The family moved to Fargo, N.D. where Don graduated from high school in 1938. He received his musical education at the Concordia College Conservatory of Music, in Moorhead, Minn. He began his musical career at the age of fifteen when he and a partner were winners of the network radio show 'The Major Bows Amateur Hour.' He also worked at Fargo's WDAY Radio as a piano player. He played with various bands and groups throughout the United States before moving to Hollywood. There his music career included hotel and nightclub engagements, recordings, motion pictures, television and

song writing. Don became known for his nightclub act called ‘The Three Dons and Ginny’ and they produced a number of recordings. Don was a composer and pianist, also appearing in a number of Hollywood movies as a piano player, including the movies *A Foreign Affair*, *The Big Sleep*, *Here comes the Waves*, and *My Reputation* among others.

In 1959 he returned to Fargo and began appearing on WDAY-TV where he was the pianist on WDAY’s local television program, Party Line. He married Verna S. Newell on May 5, 1962 in Clay County, Minn. and were later divorced. He returned to California where he married Karen Y. Vonottenfel on July 3, 1970 in Los Angeles and were later divorced. On July 2, 1978 he married Fargo native Audrey Nellerroe in San Diego. Don died September 20, 1989 in Palm Desert, California. He was survived by his wife Audrey and daughter RoJean.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Don Roseland Photograph Collection** consists of eight photographic prints kept by his widow Audrey Roseland-Scott, giving a glimpse into his musical career, primarily while in Hollywood. It includes images of The Three Dons and Ginny vocal group, stills showing Don Roseland playing the piano in various movies, and a group in the studio of WDAY radio in Fargo, N.D.

ITEM LIST

Item no.	Content
	Finding aid, and Biographical information
.1	Four men, including Don Roseland at piano, by piano with WDAY microphone in front, Jan. 21, 1938
.2	Flamingo Hotel marquee, Las Vegas with text “3 Dons & Ginny, Ming & Ling, 5 Christobels.”
.3	The Three Dons and Ginny group, with Ginny and man holding records
.4	The Three Dons and Ginny group, publicity photograph by Coral Records
.5	<i>Something in the Wind</i> movie still with Don Roseland playing piano, 1947
.6	<i>The Big Sleep</i> movie still, with Don Roseland playing piano and Laruen Bacall standing behind him, 1946
.7	<i>The Man I Love</i> movie still, with Don Roseland playing piano & Ida Lupino on stage, 1947
.8	<i>The Man I Love</i> movie still, with Don Roseland playing piano & Ida Lupino in front, 1947