

THE BLACK ARCHIVES HISTORY AND RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FL, INC

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PAPERS PROCESSED

Date Started: August 19, 2005  
Collection Title: **Clyde Killens Collection**  
Date Span: N/A

**Inclusive Subjects:**

These records are a collection that documents the entertainment era of the Overtown area in Miami. Killens known to many as “Mr. Entertainment” brought a wealth of economic growth to Overtown through his entrepreneurship and ideas. A native of Valdosta, Georgia, he came to Miami in 1924. Killens made his mark as a hotel and night club manager and entertainment promoter throughout the 40’s, 50’s, and 60’s. Killens also was able to amass a unique collection of billboards that was place in front of the night clubs and hotels that entertainers would perform at in Overtown. This collection includes along with the billboards, audio tapes, news articles, photographs, memorabilia, correspondences, advertisements, and other items of historical significance pertaining to Miami’s “Little Broadway” era. Also included in this collection are the Overtown hotels, featuring the David Probinsky Memorial Collection. Probinsky donated many of the items dealing with the Sir John Hotel in Overtown.

**Brief description of processing procedure:**

The records in this collection were kept in no particular order and were located in the Black Archives ready reference room. After a preliminary survey was conducted, it was decided to place the items in categorical order, then if needed by dates and alphabet. The items in the collection were place in plastic sheet protectors and then transferred into acid-free file folders. After being appropriately labeled, the folders were organized in numerical order and placed in acid-free Hollinger boxes. A content listing was made, and the appropriate labels were attached. The collection is now stored in the collection’s room under the ready reference section.

## Clyde Killens Collection – Continued

**\*\*\* Archivist Note:** These records will be stored as the Clyde Killens Collection, and it will be an ongoing collection. The collection includes several items documenting the entertainment era of Overtown. It was decided not to separate Miami's Black hotel collection due to the significance they played in the entertainment environment in Overtown. Although David Probinsky's collection on the Sir John Hotel was extensive, it was decided not to break provenance and create a separate collection. By placing his collection as a sub-category I feel we do not lose the integrity of the Killens collection.

**\*\*Researcher Note:** Researchers should cross-reference this group of records with other material in the archives collection. Examples of other collections include: Personalities, Liberty City, Brownsville, Entertainment, Arts, Business and Labor, Overtown Collection, Civil Rights, Black Archives Media Library, Sites & Landmarks, and Neighborhoods & Communities. (tab)

**Number of Boxes:** 5

**Location:** Collection Room  
Ready Reference Section

**Size:** 2.5 Linear ft

**Processing Description:** File folder level

**Date of Completion:** 9/6/05

**Completed by:** Timothy A. Barber  
Assistant Archivist

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**PUBLIC ARCHIVES LIST**

**Collection Title: Clyde Killens**

<b>Box / File #</b>	<b>Record Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1/1	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Advertisements</b>	
1/2	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Audio Files-Cassettes</b>	
1/3	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Audio Files-Cassettes</b>	
1/4	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Clubs-Advertisements</b>	
1/5	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Clubs-Floor Plans</b>	
1/6	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Correspondences</b>	
1/7	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Documents</b>	
1/8	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- News Articles-General</b>	
1/9	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- News Articles-1940's</b>	
1/10	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- News Articles-1970's</b>	
1/11	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- News Articles-1980's</b>	
1/12	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- News Articles-1990's</b>	
1/13	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- News Articles-2000's</b>	

**Collection Title: Clyde Killens**

<b>Box / File #</b>	<b>Record Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1/14	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- News Letters</b>	
1/15	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Celebrities</b>	
1/16	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Celebrities- Autographed Photos</b>	
1/17	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Celebrities- Publicity Photos-Comedians</b>	
1/18	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Celebrities- Publicity Photos-Female Groups</b>	
1/19	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Celebrities- Publicity Photos-Female Performers</b>	
1/20	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Celebrities- Publicity Photos-Male Groups</b>	
1/21	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Celebrities- Publicity Photos-Male Performers</b>	
1/22	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Celebrities- Publicity Photos-Mixed Groups</b>	
1/23	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Club Scenes</b>	

**Collection Title: Clyde Killens**

<b>Box / File #</b>	<b>Record Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
2/1	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Clyde Killens</b>	
2/2	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Clyde Killens- Grouped</b>	
2/3	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-General</b>	
2/4	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Performing Groups</b>	
2/5	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Photographs-Negatives</b>	
2/6	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Profiles</b>	
2/7	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Programs</b>	
2/8	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Publications</b>	
2/9	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Publications</b>	
2/10	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Publications</b>	

**Collection Title: Clyde Killens**

<b>Box / File #</b>	<b>Record Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3/1	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Advertisements</b>	
3/2	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Correspondences</b>	
3/3	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Documents-</b>	
3/4	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Exhibition Program- 3 1/2 x 5-B&amp;W</b>	
3/5	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Exhibition Program- 8 x 10-B&amp;W</b>	
3/6	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-3 x 5- B&amp;W</b>	
3/7	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-5 x 7- Color-A to I</b>	
3/8	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-5 x 7- Color-K to Z</b>	
3/9	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-8 x 10- B&amp;W-A to D</b>	
3/10	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-8 x 10- B&amp;W-E to Q</b>	

**Collection Title: Clyde Killens**

Box / File #	Record Description	Dates
3/11	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-8 x 10- B&amp;W-R to Z</b>	
3/12	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards- Negatives-</b>	
3/13	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-Slide Film</b>	

**Collection Title: Clyde Killens**

<b>Box / File #</b>	<b>Record Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
4/1	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-Framed- B&amp;W-A to C</b>	
4/2	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-Framed- B&amp;W-D to I</b>	
4/3	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-Framed- B&amp;W-J to L</b>	
4/4	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-Framed- B&amp;W-M</b>	
4/5	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-Framed- B&amp;W-S to W</b>	
4/6	<b>Clyde Killens Collection- Billboards-Photographs- Lobby Cards-Framed- B&amp;W-Specials</b>	



**Collection Title: Clyde Killens**

<b>Box / File #</b>	<b>Record Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
5/1	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- David Probinsky Memorial Collection-Sir John Hotel- Advertisements</b>	
5/2	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- David Probinsky Memorial Collection-Sir John Hotel- Correspondences</b>	
5/3	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- David Probinsky Memorial Collection-Sir John Hotel- Documents</b>	
5/4	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- David Probinsky Memorial Collection-Sir John Hotel- Memorabilia</b>	
5/5	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- David Probinsky Memorial Collection-Sir John Hotel- Photographs-Entertainers</b>	
5/6	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- David Probinsky Memorial Collection-Sir John Hotel- Photographs-Hotel Scenes</b>	
5/7	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- David Probinsky Memorial Collection-Sir John Hotel- Photographs-Negatives</b>	
5/8	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- David Probinsky Memorial Collection-Sir John Hotel- Photographs-People</b>	

**Collection Title: Clyde Killens**

<b>Box / File #</b>	<b>Record Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
5/9	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- David Probinsky Memorial Collection-Sir John Hotel- Programs</b>	
5/10	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Imperial Hotel &amp; Motel- Documents</b>	
5/11	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Mary Elizabeth Hotel- Documents</b>	
5/12	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Mary Elizabeth Hotel- News Articles</b>	
5/13	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Mary Elizabeth Hotel- Photographs</b>	
5/14	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Mary Elizabeth Hotel- Photographs-Negatives</b>	
5/15	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Mary Elizabeth Hotel- Post Cards</b>	
5/16	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Miami Carver Hotel- Documents</b>	
5/17	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Miami Carver Hotel- Photographs</b>	
5/18	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Miami Carver Hotel- Post Cards</b>	
5/19	<b>Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels- Paradise Hotel-Documents</b>	

5/20

**Clyde Killens Collection-Hotels-  
Paradise Hotel-  
News Articles**