

# CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM – RIGHTS and REPRODUCTIONS

## WGN NEWSFILM REPRODUCTIONS

*All proceeds support the Chicago History Museum, helping us fulfill our mission of sharing Chicago's stories.*

### OVERVIEW

Chicago History Museum's WGN newsfilm collection includes aircuts and outtakes from WGN television footage, approximately 1948 to 1981, though it is **not comprehensive**. This collection is made up of black-and-white and color 16mm film reels, with and without sound. Typical run time for clips is 30 seconds to two minutes. Most of the footage has yet to be digitized, and the original film reels must be pulled from offsite storage and transferred to a viewing copy. All patrons must have viewing copies made; we will not be able to accommodate requests to view original materials.

### RESEARCH

The WGN newsfilm collection has not been digitized or catalogued by CHM. CHM's Abakanowicz Research Center has a card index that was provided with the collection upon its donation. The index is organized by personal name or subject, and usually provides the following information: date of the clip, run-time, sound, clip number and a brief description. You are welcome to visit the Research Center during scheduled hours to look through the index or hire a freelance researcher. More information on the Research Center can be found on their webpage:

<http://libguides.chicagohistory.org/research>

Nexstar Media Group (formerly Tribune Media), owner of the copyright to the WGN collection, has a collection of digitized WGN clips viewable and licensable via Getty Images: <https://www.gettyimages.com/videos/nexstar-wgn?assettype=film&collections=tbb&family=editorial&phrase=nexstar%20wgn&sort=oldest>

### REPRODUCTIONS

***\*\*IMPORTANT\*\* Occasionally, clips found in the card index may not be found on the film reel, or the description on the card may correlate to the wrong clip number. The only way to determine the existence and contents of a clip is to pull the original film reel and digitize the clip. The requestor is responsible for all costs associated with retrieval and digitization, even if the requested clip is not found.***

#### Retrieval

Some clips have already been transferred from their original film reel to Betacam tape, and the tapes are stored onsite at CHM. Once you've submitted your request, Rights and Reproductions (R&R) staff will determine if any clips from your request fall into that category. Depending on your needs regarding the quality of the copy, CHM may be able to transfer clips currently on Betacam tape to DVD in house.

The original film reels are stored offsite. Retrieval of the film reels will take several weeks after we've received your request. Please note that although there may be an index card for a clip, some clips are missing from the original reel, and thus, cannot be viewed.

#### Transfer Services

Depending on staff capacity, CHM may provide the following transfer services in house for *non-broadcast quality* copies (see Fees section below): Betacam tape > DVD (number at the discretion of CHM)

In-house services may not be available for all requests. All other requests will be fulfilled by an external vendor of CHM's choosing. R&R staff will obtain a quote from the external vendor before the transfer takes place.

#### Broadcast quality copies

In order to obtain *broadcast quality* reproductions, please contact Nexstar Media (see contact information in the Copyright section below) to obtain permission. After you send R&R staff proof of permission from Nexstar Media, they can begin the process of retrieving the original film or Betacam tapes and send those to an external digitization vendor.

## FEES

- Retrieval of film reels from offsite storage (if required): *\$150 per visit*
- In-house transfer from Betacam > DVD (standard definition, non-broadcast quality): *\$50/clip*
- In-house transfer from 16mm film > DVD (standard definition, non-broadcast quality): *\$50/clip*  
\*\*Please note that if you are requesting to transfer more than 3 film reels to DVD, your request will be sent to an external vendor for fulfillment and pricing will be determined by the vendor.
- External vendor transfers: *Ask for a quote*

## TURNAROUND TIME

Turnaround time to obtain *broadcast quality* copies will be several weeks to months, depending on the size of your order, availability of CHM staff to retrieve the film reels, and turnaround time for digitization by the external vendor.

Turnaround time to obtain *non-broadcast quality* copies depends on a few factors. If R&R staff finds that your requested clips have already been transferred to Betacam tape and are stored on site, turnaround time maybe limited to a few weeks. If film reels need to be retrieved and digitized by an external vendor, turnaround time will be several weeks to months.

\*\*Rush services are not available for this collection.

## SUBMITTING A REQUEST

In order to obtain a viewing copy, please submit the following information to the R&R staff email ([rightsrepro@chicagohistory.org](mailto:rightsrepro@chicagohistory.org)):

1. Card index information (you may also send low-res images or photocopies of the cards):
  - a. Clip number – usually in the top right corner of the card (e.g. FB123, EX1234, etc.)
  - b. Subject heading
  - c. Brief description
  - d. Date
2. Quality (e.g. broadcast quality in HD, non-broadcast quality for reference/research, etc.)
3. Format (e.g. DVD, digital copy, Betacam tape, etc.)
4. Brief description of your project

## COPYRIGHT

Copyright to WGN newsfilm is owned by Nexstar Media. To obtain permission to use the footage in your project, please email:

Anna Burkart  
Content Revenue Manager  
Nexstar Media Group, Inc.  
[aburkart@nexstardigital.com](mailto:aburkart@nexstardigital.com)

Please note that Nexstar Media may require you to pay additional fees.

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact CHM's Rights and Reproductions staff with questions or to submit your request:  
[rightsrepro@chicagohistory.org](mailto:rightsrepro@chicagohistory.org)

