

**BOB HOPE COLLECTION**

Accession Number 15  
1974  
1 linear foot (1 box with 2 items)

**Provenance:** The two plaques comprising this collection were donated to the Washington County Archives by the Bob and Delores Hope Foundation, Burbank, California, on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Access Note:** The collection is available for research use.

**Biographical/Historical Note:** Bob Hope was born Leslie Townes Hope in Eltham, England on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1903. Emigrating with his family to the United States in 1907, he became one of America’s greatest 20<sup>th</sup> century entertainers, as a star in vaudeville, radio, motion pictures, and television. On July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1974, Hope was the inaugural performer at the opening of Freedom Hall Civic Center in Johnson City, Tenn. At the performance, Hope was presented with two plaques of recognition. Hope died in 2003 at age 100.

**Scope and Content Note:** The collection consists of two plaques presented to Bob Hope during his performance as the first entertainer at Freedom Hall on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1974. The first plaque was from the Johnson City Jaycees recognizing Hope for his outstanding service to young men of America. The second plaque was awarded in recognition of Hope being the inaugural performer at Freedom Hall Civic Center.

Important subjects include:

Freedom Hall Civic Center (Johnson City, Tenn.)  
Hope, Bob, 1903-2003  
Johnson City (Tenn.)—History

Box and Item List

- 1. Plaque to Bob Hope from the Johnson City, Tennessee Jaycees, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1974.
- 2. Plaque with attached Liberty Bell design commemorating Bob Hope as the inaugural performer at Freedom Hall Civic Center, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1974.