

MILLER FAMILY COLLECTION

(Summary)



Glenn Miller with his mother Mattie Lou (left) and wife Helen (right), 1941

February 16, 2014

The Glenn Miller Archive (GMA) of the American Music Research Center is pleased to announce a strengthening of the vital relationship between the GMA and the family of the late Alton Glenn and Helen Burger Miller. United in our mutual effort to preserve, restore and communicate the legacy of Glenn Miller and his era, the GMA welcomes additional recordings, documents, photographs and important historic materials entrusted by benefactor Jonnie Dee Miller Hoffman to our archive and the University of Colorado.

The GMA is honored with continued responsibility for Glenn Miller's legacy and plans to immediately restore the first Gold Record awarded to a recording artist. RCA Victor-Bluebird records executive W. Wallace Early awarded Glenn Miller the first gold record, *Chattanooga Choo-Choo*, on Miller's CBS *Chesterfield Moonlight Serenade* broadcast of February 10, 1942. The seventy-two-year old gold record needs to be cleaned and freshly remounted in a new frame and fabric. The historic entertainment industry artifact will be thus restored to its original brilliance.

Among the additional important materials being added to the GMA Miller Collection are the Miller's personal record collection, which says a lot about the late bandleader's tastes in music while he at the same time was making musical history with his preeminent "number one" dance band of 1938-1942 and Army Air Forces concert orchestra of 1943-1945. Many one-of-a-kind family albums, business office scrapbooks, newspaper and magazine articles, publicity photos and many other items are among the additional materials added to the cornerstone GMA Miller Collection.

The close relationship of the GMA and the Miller Family is the direct result of the thirty-eight year vision and stewardship of GMA Curator, CU icon and Miller cousin Alan Cass, who has grown the GMA from a display case to an important international resource containing dozens of important collections representing an important era in American entertainment industry history. The GMA looks forward to moving onward with further development and initiatives to crystallize a dynamic learning center.