

Jeanne Eagels *1890-1929*-SWL- Former Ziegfeld girl, Broadway and emerging film Screen Star - Born Amelia Jeannine Eagles, in Boston, Ma. - of German and Irish descent. At age two the family moved to KC Mo. Jeanne's father expired 1910 in Kansas City leaving his 44 year old widow with six children to raise..

Eagels attended St. Joseph's Catholic School and Morris Public School. She quit school shortly after her First Communion to work as a cash girl in a department store. Beginning her acting career in Kansas City appearing in a variety of small venues at a very young age. She left KC around the age

of 15 and toured the Midwest with the Dubinsky Brothers' traveling theater show. By 1911 Jeanne had moved on to New York City



It was said Jeanne enjoyed listening to the short waves to take the distraction of the stress of the screen and acting. She is pictured here at the dials with headphones on. The period of the teens and twenties were hectic and busy with Broadway and movies. Plus a failed marriage and number two with Ted Coy educated at Yale and a stockbroker.

She was described by some as restless and intemperate. Several versions are listed of her untimely death, one alcohol addiction and the other pills.....at any rate a long time seeker of psychiatric help.

Jeanne expired in 1929 at age 39, there were three separate coroners reports, all reaching different conclusions. After services in New York, Eagels received a

second funeral service when her body was returned to Kansas City, mo where she was buried in Calvary Cemetery. She was survived by her mother Julia Eagles and several brothers and sisters.

Eagels was posthumously nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in The Letter, however the Oscar went to Mary Pickford for the film Coquette.

In 1957, a mostly fictionalized film biography entitled Jeanne Eagels was made by Columbia Pictures, starring Kim Novak as Eagels. I recall the film on TV and found it very depressing but the young actress Kim Novak was exceptional. At one point Jeanne changed her given name from Eagles to Eagels. We that are SWL types can attest to the calming effect tuning the dials have.

With help from Wikipedia and comments from Bill Walker. W8SU 2012