



Manuscript Collection

THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, MURFREESBORO, TN

MARVIN HEDRICK AUDIO COLLECTION

14-060

Creator:

Hedrick, Marvin (1925–1973)

Type of Material:

Sound Recordings, Digital Files (Photographs)

Physical Description:

7 boxes, including 169 manuscript audio tapes and 18 manuscript CDs
53 digital files (58.2 Megabytes)

Dates:

circa 1955-2001, bulk 1955-1975

RESTRICTIONS:

The Center for Popular Music and Middle Tennessee State University do not claim to hold any rights to the intellectual content of the materials in this collection. All collection materials are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this collection that may go beyond "fair use" of such copyrighted material as provided in Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

This collection was donated to the Center by Marvin Hedrick's sons, Gary and David, in April of 2015. Center Director, Dr. Gregory Reish, picked up the collection from Martinsville, Indiana on April 17, 2015. The digital photograph files were sent to the Center via multiple emails from Gary Hedrick on April 27, 2015.

Subject/Index Terms:

Bluegrass music
Bluegrass musicians
Bluegrass festivals

Brown County Jamboree
Hedrick, Marvin
Monroe, Bill, 1911-1996
Beanblossom (Ind.)
Bill Monroe Memorial Music Park & Campground

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Marvin Hedrick (1925–1973) grew up on a farm near Story, Indiana, where he learned to play guitar as a boy. As a teenager he developed an interest in radio, building a crystal radio set that ran off the battery in the family’s Model A Ford to listen to broadcasts of “hillbilly music” like the National Barn Dance and the Grand Ole Opry. Excluded from military service for medical reasons, he attended the DeForest Radio School in Chicago, later working for RCA in Bloomington, Indiana as a radio line repairman. In the 1950s he opened his own radio and television repair shop next to his house in Brown County, Indiana.

Around the time that Bill Monroe purchased the Brown County Jamboree at Bean Blossom in 1952, Hedrick befriended the bluegrass pioneer, whose music he had been enamored with since the previous decade. He convinced a skeptical Monroe to let him bring tape recording equipment to the jamboree, making tapes of live shows that Marvin could enjoy later while working in the shop. Hedrick persuaded Monroe that allowing such recordings would not undercut sales of his commercial recordings and, to the contrary, could help boost his career. In the mid-1960s Monroe hired Hedrick to install the first sound system in the “old barn” at Bean Blossom (payment involved an old Gibson F-4 mandolin on which Marvin’s sons, Gary and David, learned), allowing Marvin to upgrade his recording setup. Hedrick continued to be a central figure in the music-making at Bean Blossom and elsewhere in Brown County, Indiana until his tragic, accidental death in 1973.

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of 169 manuscript audio tapes (31 cassettes; 2 – 3” reel-to-reel tapes; 33 – 5” reel-to-reel tapes; and 103 – 7” reel-to-reel tapes) and 18 manuscript CDs of stage performances and jam sessions performed and recorded at the Brown County Jamboree and the Bill Monroe Bluegrass Festival in Bean Blossom, Indiana. The recording dates range from approximately 1955 to 2001, with the bulk of the material being from the years 1955 through 1975. These sound recordings feature many important bluegrass musicians, including Bill Monroe, The Osborne Brothers, The Stanley Brothers, Reno and Smiley, Mac Wiseman, Flatt and Scruggs, Red Allen, The Country Gentlemen, Hazel Dickens and Alice Gerrard, The Louvin Brothers, The McCormick Brothers, and The Goins Brothers, as well as many others.

Also included in the collection is 1 – 45rpm sound recording of “The Weedpatch Boys play Brown County Hoedowns,” which was released in 1963. Marvin Hedrick was a member of the band, as were his two sons. This collection also contains 53 digital

JPEG photographs documenting various on-stage performances at the Beanblossom festival, as well as early photographs of the collection donors, Gary and David Hedrick. Also included are photographs from bluegrass musician Roger Smith that contain more images of Beanblossom performances and other candid shots of Mr. Smith with family and friends.

Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):

7 boxes total.

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------|---|
| Box 1 | | Unnumbered reels and tapes # 60-108 (includes numbered CDs) |
| Box 2 | | Tapes # 109-128 |
| Box 3 | | Tapes # 129-149 |
| Box 4 | | Tapes # 150-168 |
| Box 5 | | Tapes # 169-200 |
| Box 6 | | Tapes # 201-233 |
| Box 7 | | Tapes # 234-250 |

Arrangement:

Manuscript CDs and tapes are arranged consecutively by tape number into 7 bankers boxes.

Location:

All physical materials from the Marvin Hedrick Audio Collection are located in the Center for Popular Music Archival Stacks. The manuscript sound recordings are housed with other manuscript audio/visual materials, arranged sequentially by accession number. The 45rpm sound recording is housed with the other 45rpm records, arranged by label and issue number.

The digital JPEG photograph files are housed on the Center for Popular Music’s server, filed under Digital Collections, then by name of collection.

Related Materials:

The Center holds other manuscript collections pertaining to bluegrass music, including the Jim Peva Collection (16-042) of digital photographs from the Beanblossom festival; the Hazel Dickens Collection (88-060); the Lance LeRoy Collection (14-008); the Tom Morgan Collection (09-015); Bill Monroe radio broadcasts cassette tapes (91-022); Bill

“MARVIN HEDRICK AUDIO COLLECTION”

14-060

Monroe funeral video and photographs (98-044); Neil Rosenberg lecture cassette tape (90-070); the Tennessee Banjo Institute Collections (88-026 and 93-013); and the Bill Harrison Collection (97-050).

Special collection sheet music, performance documents, trade catalogs, photographs, rare books, sound recordings, and reading room materials related to the subject of bluegrass music and bluegrass festivals are also held by the Center and searchable through the CPM website database and/or MTSU Walker Library catalog.

Audio processed by Martin Fisher and John Fabke, July 2016 – July 2017.
Finding Aid written by Rachel K. Morris, May – June 2017.