

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

**EVERETT CORBIN COLLECTION
PAPERS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND SOUND RECORDINGS**

**09-011
10-033**

Creator:

Corbin, Everett J.

Type of Material:

Physical Description:

12.72 linear feet of manuscripts, including nearly 1000 photographs
3 trade catalogs, 18 rare books, 5 reference books, 16 pieces of sheet music, 21 performance documents and 12 artifacts.

[The collection also includes over 400 serials, about 900 sound recordings and 260 video recordings. Of the sound recordings, a portion are of Mr. Corbin's interviews with country artists and work with Vernon Oxford. These items are to be reviewed and cataloged by Center staff as of April 2011.]

Dates:

1948 – 2011

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):

RESTRICTIONS:

All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

This collection was donated to the Center by Mr. Everett Corbin of Murfreesboro, Tennessee in November 2009 and February and March of 2011.

Subjects/Index Terms:

Subjects:

Old-time music

Country music

Popular music--Writing and publishing.

Names:

Corbin, Everett J.

Oxford, Vernon

Occupations:

Singer-songwriter

Journalist

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Everett Corbin, originally from Hampton, South Carolina, was a prolific songwriter employed as a journalist from 1961 to 1980. He started his career at the *Columbia Gazette* in South Carolina and the *Lake City Reporter* in Florida. In 1965, Mr. Corbin moved to the Nashville area to pursue a career as a country music songwriter. Finding little success, he took work again as a journalist, writing for both *Music City News* and the *Donelson News Diary*. He interviewed Roy Acuff, Ernest Tubb, Jimmy Skinner, and others at the height of their popularity. He also conducted Dolly Parton's first major interview for a country music publication. He served as editor of *Music City News* in 1966 and 1967, and for longer at the *News Diary*. In 1980, Mr. Corbin published *Storm Over Nashville: A Case Against Modern Country Music*, which chronicles the battle between "traditionalist-purists" and "modern" country music groups during the 1970s. Since then, he has continued to write informally and acted as a songwriter, co-producer and promoter for traditional country artist Vernon Oxford, becoming especially active in this capacity from 2003 to 2008.

Scope and Content:

This collection of papers contains nearly 2 linear feet of correspondence with country music artists, labels, some politicians, as well as numerous reader responses to his editorial pieces. Correspondence is arranged by date. Additionally, the collection consists of 2.3 linear feet of Mr. Corbin's written work in the forms of newspaper clippings, copies and drafts. There are .83 linear feet of material related to Corbin's work with Vernon Oxford. Of considerable interest are 2.085 l.f. of subject files containing press kits, photos, newspaper clippings and other information concentrated largely on "traditionalist" country and hillbilly performers, with some material about "modern" country performers and music, gospel and pop stars, actors, politicians and country music institutions. 4 linear feet of handwritten "original" songs and poems make up the largest portion. They are mostly in notebooks and undated, and so not arranged. A small portion of these papers is comprised of biographical materials, documents and personal mementos.

Series Description:

Personal/Biographical: Materials related to Mr. Corbin's education and career, articles written about him and his work, photos and short autobiographical pieces.

Correspondence: Rejections of Mr. Corbin's songs are dispersed throughout this series, with higher concentrations in the 1950s and 1960s. As a Nashville-area journalist from 1965 to 1980,

Mr. Corbin received a number of thank you letters from country music artists for his write-ups on their work. From 1978 to 1980, *Storm Over Nashville* dominates this series: his research on the Jimmie Rodgers Stamp, letters to and from publishers and requests for copies of it. Vernon Oxford also appears in 1978-1980, but a greater concentration of material about him is located in the 2000's.

Published Manuscripts: Clippings of articles, 1961 to 1980. Drafts of *Storm Over Nashville* and printed newspaper articles. As an editor, Mr. Corbin mostly wrote opinion pieces in weekly columns like "Viewpoint," "The Nashville Beat" and "This We Believe." Topics range from the country music industry and artists to current issues. A fiscal and social conservative, Mr. Corbin discussed everything from the Civil Rights Movement to the existence of life on other planets.

Self-Published Manuscripts: The bulk of the material is made up of print-outs of mass e-mails and internet postings from the 2000's. The web has allowed Mr. Corbin to editorialize outside of a formal publication. Topics range from the lawsuit over the estate of Eddy Arnold and his continued championship of old-time country music to current topics like September 11th, Hurricane Katrina, the election of President Obama and the 2008 economic recession.

Unpublished Manuscripts: Drafts of unpublished books, articles, poems, short stories, and a comic strip. See description below for items.

Vernon Oxford: This series includes a group of playlists primarily from 2000-2003, tracking when Oxford's songs were played, mostly on European radio. Journal entries about Oxford, contracts, photos, publicity and reviews of his music are also included.

Scrapbooks: One on Vernon Oxford and a second on Dick Flood.

Subject Files: Photographs, press kits and newspaper clippings pertaining to specific performers and institutions. The bulk of the series has been arranged alphabetically by performer. A last box includes various other subjects, including his research on the Jimmie Rodgers stamp for *Storm Over Nashville*. Many of these materials were requested from or sent by promoters for Mr. Corbin to use in writing about them for his publications.

"Old Original Songs": Mr. Corbin's ideas for songs, single lines, lyrics and hand-written sheet music make up this series. Most are in notebooks.

Collection Contents (Folder/Box List): (Titles in quotes are Mr. Corbin's.)

Personal/Biographical, Box 1

Correspondence, Boxes 2-6

Published Manuscripts, Boxes 7-10

Self-published Manuscripts, Box 11

Unpublished Manuscripts, Boxes 12-13
 Vernon Oxford, Boxes 14-15
 Scrapbooks, Box 16
 Subject Files, Boxes 17-21
 “Old Original Songs,” Boxes 22-25

Box #	Folder #	Description
Box 1		Personal/Biographical
	Folder 1	High School & College 1949 Talent Show Program 1949 Draft of Short Story “Pirates Under Coastal Gale” 1949 “Cardinal” Varnville School Paper <i>I Want A Word</i> : A Word Manual and Exercise Book Published letter to “Cowboy Songs” Commencement Programs: 1951 Varnville High School 1959 University of South Carolina Copies of Diplomas
	Folder 2	Photos Images of Mr. Corbin, 1950 - 2010
	Folder 3	Mementos, Employment and Awards Tickets, Press Passes, Business Cards, Autographs <i>Storm Over Nashville</i> book contract Employment Documents Laminated biographical note Awards
	Folder 4	“Articles About Everett”
	Folder 5	<i>Storm Over Nashville</i> Reviews & Publicity, 1980-1981
	Folder 6	Short Autobiographical Writings “What It’s Like To Be Valedictorian of Your Class” “From Newspaper Editor to Janitor” “Did I Tell You About My Day With Dolly Parton?” “The Songwriter’s Dilemma” Untitled – “I have often wanted to write a book about country . . .” “The Makings of a Newspaperman” “Everett and Juanita Corbin (and children)” “Corbin Makes New Donation to Center for Popular Music at

MTSU”

Folder 7 “The Monthly Digest of the Murfreesboro Worldwide Church of God”

Box 2 Correspondence

Folder 1 1948-1959
Folder 2 1960-1967
Folder 3 1968
Folder 4 1969
Folder 5 1970-1974
Folder 6 1975

Box 3 Correspondence

Folder 1 1976
Folder 2 1977
Folder 3 1978
Folder 4 January – May 1979
Folder 5 June – December 1979
Folder 6 Undated (ca. 1960’s – 1970’s)

Box 4 Correspondence

Folder 1 January – August 1980
Folder 2 September – October 1980
Folder 3 November – December 1980
Folder 4 January – May 1981
Folder 5 June – December 1981
Folder 6 1982-1984

Box 5 Correspondence

Folder 1 1985-1989
Folder 2 1990-1999
Folder 3 2000-2004
Folder 4 2005-2006
Folder 5 2007
Folder 6 January – June 2008

Box 6 Correspondence

Folder 1 July – December 2008

Folder 2 2009-2010

Folder 3 Undated (ca. 2000's)

Box 7 Published Manuscripts

Folder 1 Clippings of Editorials & Articles from *The Lake City Reporter*, 1961 – 64
Folder 2 Clippings, 1960 – 64
Folder 3 Assorted Clippings, 1960's – 1970's
 1948 *Pageant of Poetry*

Box 8 Published Manuscripts

Folder 1 Assorted Clippings, 1960's – 1980
Folder 2 "This We Believe," Clippings, 1970's
Folder 3 "This We Believe," Clippings, 1975-1980
Folder 4 "This We Believe," Clippings, 1975-1980
Folder 5 Assorted Clippings of Articles, 1960's – 2000's
Folder 6 "Speech I Gave: 'Lest We Forget,'" 1977
Folder 7 Drafts of Articles & Editorials
Folder 8 Copies of Articles

Box 9 Published Manuscripts

Folder 1 Sample of *Storm Over Nashville*
 Copy of Ballatine Books' Rejection Letter
Item Complete *Storm Over Nashville* Manuscript – copy 1

Box 10 Published Manuscripts

Item "Original" *Storm Over Nashville* Manuscript – copy 2

Box 11 Self-Published Manuscripts

Folder 1 *The Hourglass* Newsletter, November 1998 – December 1999
Folder 2 Web postings, Mass emails, etc., 2000's
Folder 3 Web postings, Mass emails, etc., 2000's
Folder 4 Web postings, Mass emails, etc., 2000's

Box 12 Unpublished Manuscripts

Folder 1 "Story of How My Mother Was Killed in a Hospital" – *The Waiting Room*
Folder 2 Drafts of "Enemy of the People" – 2 copies
Folder 3 Short Stories:
 Untitled – "Slaving Over A Hot Desk"
 "No Love Could Hold Him"
 "A Wife for Randy"

- Folder 4 Children's Book, "Monkey Business"
- Folder 5 Drafts of opinion pieces, stories, poems, etc.

Box 13 Unpublished Manuscripts

- Folder 1 Drawings & Comic Strip Proposal
- Item 1 Sketchbook, art projects
- Item 2 Sketchbook, art projects
- Item 3 Sketchbook, art projects

Box 14 Vernon Oxford

- Folder 1 Playlists, 2000-2002
- Folder 2 Playlists, January – February 2003
- Folder 3 Playlists, March 2003
- Folder 4 Playlists, April 2003
- Folder 5 Playlists, May – July 2003
- Folder 6 Playlists, August – October 2003
- Folder 7 Playlists, November – December 2003

Box 15 Vernon Oxford

- Folder 1 Playlists, 2004
- Folder 2 Playlists, 2005-2010
- Folder 3 Promotional Materials, 1970's – 80's & 2000's
 - Biographical sketches
 - Advertisements
 - Articles
- Folder 4 Donelson News Diary, 1970's & 1980
 - Corbin articles, Advertisements & Photos
- Folder 5 Reviews & Articles (Not by Corbin)
- Folder 6 Songs by Corbin & BMI
- Folder 7 Photos
- Folder 8 Vernon – Other Items
 - Corbin's Journal, 1977-1979
 - Contracts
 - Album Covers

Box 16 Scrapbooks

- Item 1 Vernon Oxford
- Item 2 Dick Flood

Box 17 Research - Subject Files

- Folder 1 "Acuff, Roy"

Folder 2 Akeman – Anderson
"Allen, Rex"
"Anderson, Bill," show & Turner, Mary Lou
"Anderson, Lynn & Liz"

Folder 3 "Arnold, Eddy"

Folder 4 Atkins – Axton
Autry, Gene"
Axton, Hoyt

Folder 5 Bailes – Bryant
Bailes, Walter
Bailey, DeFord
"Bandy, Moe"
Bare, Bobby
"Bear, Gene"
"Bee, Molly"
Bergen, Polly
Bess, Grover (Big Jeff)
Blackman, Jack & Morgan, Misty
"Blackwood"
Blue Denim
"Blue Sky Boys"
Bogguss, Suzy
"Boone, Debby"
Boone, Pat
Boyd, Bill
Bradley, Owen
Brasfield, Rod
"Britt, Elton"
"Brown, Jim Edward" & Cornelius, Helen
"Bruce, Ed"
Bryant, Anita

Folder 6 Buffett – Clower
"Buffett, Jimmy"
"Butler, Carl & Pearl"
Byrd, Billy
Campbell, Archie
Cannon, Ace
Captain & Tennille
"Cargill, Henson"
"Carter Family"
"Cash, Johnny"

Cash, Tommy
Channing, Carol
"Clarke, Roy"
Clements, Vassar
"Clower, Jerry"

Folder 7 Compton – Duke of Paducah
 "Compton, Ralph"
 Conlee, John
 "Cooper, Wilma Lee"
 "Coulter, Jessi"
 "Cox, Billy"
 "Cramer, Floyd"
 "Crowell, Rooney"
 "Dalhart, Vernon"
 "Daniels, Charlie"
 "Darrell, Johnny"
 "Davies, Gail"
 Davis, Jimmy
 Davis, Mac
 Dean, Billy
 Dean, Eddie
 "Dean, Jimmy"
 "Delaney, Ethel"
 Delmore Brothers
 Miss Del Wood
 Denver, John
 "Dexter, Al"
 Diamond Rio
 "Dickens, Little Jimmy"
 Douglas, Donna
 Draper, Rusty
 Dudley, Dave
 Duffey, John
 "Duke of Paducah"

Box 18 Research - Subject Files

Folder 1 Eubanks – Great Plains, The
Folder 2 Haggard – Hardin
Folder 3 Harding Family, The – Jackson, Wanda
Folder 4 James – King, Pee Wee
Folder 5 Kish – Lynn

- Folder 6 “Macon, Uncle Dave”
- Box 19 Research - Subject Files**
- Folder 1 Maddox Brothers – Mitchell
- Folder 2 Monroe – Owen
- Folder 3 Paisley – Powell
- Folder 4 Presley – Prophet
- Folder 5 Randolph – Roe
- Box 20 Research - Subject Files**
- Folder 1 Rogers – Speer Family
- Folder 2 Stanton – Thompson
- Folder 3 Travis, Merle – Vokes
- Folder 4 “Williams, Hank” (Sr.)
- Folder 5 Wagoner – Young
- Box 21 Research - Subject Files**
- Folder 1 “Rodgers, Jimmie” (for book chapter)
- Folder 2 “Grand Ole Opry” and WSM
- Folder 3 Institutions
- The Country Music Hall of Fame
- Hee-Haw
- Music Row
- Woodlawn Cemetery
- Folder 4 Politicians
- Gary Allen
- Bill Boner
- Robert Byrd
- Billy Carter
- Jimmy Carter
- Richard Fulton
- (And photos of unidentified men)
- Folder 5 Research – Misc.
- Photos from 1995 Fan Fair
- Bob Everhart articles
- Articles about the state of country music
- Articles about a series of country music deaths
- Unidentified photos
- Box 22 “Old Original Songs”**
- Loose hand-written and typed songs written by Corbin
- Boxes 23-25 “Old Original Songs”**

Mostly undated, notebooks full of songs by Corbin and possibly journal entries

Materials Cataloged Separately:

Trade Catalogs:

May 15, 1985 Catalog
“Memories of Elvis” Series RCA Records
Elvis’ RCA Records

Souvenir Books:

Elvis Photo Album from RCA Records
The Official Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum Souvenir Book, 1978
WSM’s Grand Ole Opry History Picture Book, 1957
Tom T. Hall

Rare Books:

Hay, George D. *A Story of the Grand Ole Opry*. 1945.
Carter, Wilf. *The Yodelling Cowboy: Montana Slim from Nova Scotia*. 1961.

Song Books:

Eddy Arnold’s Sacred Songs
The Elvis Presley Album of Juke Box Favorites, No. 1
Bing Crosby’s Western Song Folio
The Carter Sisters and Mother Maybelle Song Folio No. 1
Hank Snow Folio Number 3
Eddy Arnold’s Favorite Songs Number 3
Red Foley’s Cowboy Songs – Mountain Ballads
Hank Williams’ Country Hit Parade
Hank Williams’ Country Music Folio
Hank Williams’ Favorite Songs
Eddy Arnold’s Favorite Songs
Young America Sings

Reference:

Walthall, Daddy Bob. *The History on Country Music Volume 1*. 1978
Rolontz, Robert. *How to Get Your Song Recorded*. 1963
The Legendary Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Folio, Volumes One & Two. (2 items)
Country Music Association Directory – 2003 and 2004. (2 items)
Eng, Steve. *A Satisfied Mind: The Country Music Life of Porter Wagoner*. 1992 (replacing copy currently in reference library)

Sheet Music:

Acuff, Roy. "Lonesome Joe." 1953.
Acuff, Roy. "Wonder Is All I Do." 1951.
Anglin, Jim. "Baby, It's In the Making." 1956.
Carlisle, Bill and Lowell Blanchard. "Woman Driver." 1952.
Carson, Martha. "Counting My Blessings." 1954.
Endsley, Melvin. "I Ain't Getting Nowhere With You." 1957.
Newman, Jimmy. "Cryin' For A Pastime." 1955.
Rose, Fred. "Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain." 1945.
Rose, Fred. "I'm Satisfied With You." 1954.
Williams, Hank. "If You'll Be A Baby (To Me)." 1953.
Williams, Hank. "I Ain't Got Nothing But Time." 1954.
Williams, Hank. "Are You Walking and A-Talking For The Lord." 1952.
Williams, Hank. "The Blues Come Around." 1951.
Williams, Hank and Jimmie Davis. "Bayou Pon Pon." 1951.
Williams, Hank & Fred Rose. "I'll Never Get Out of This World Alive," 1952.
Williams, Hank. "Hey, Good Lookin'," 1951.

Performance Documents:

Grand Ole Opry Program on October 6, 1951
Opryland '79 Brochure
Opry at the Ryman Program on February 1, 2008
Grand Ole Opry Brochure, 1978
Grand Ole Opry Brochure, 1986
Grand Ole Opry Program, January 1987
Grand Ole Opry Brochure, 1990
Grand Ole Opry Program, February 1994
Grand Ole Opry Brochure, 1998
Grand Ole Opry Mailer, 2000
Grand Ole Opry Program, 2005
Kings of Country Poster, October/November 2008
Nashville Jubilee
Mr. Carl Story Homecoming Day and Show on September 30, 1978
Hadacol Caravan Show
Elvis' Television Special on December 3, 1968
Showboat Hotel Casino in Atlantic City presents "Elvis: A National Tribute," January 4-10, 1988
Nashville Jubilee, July – August 1978
6th Annual Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium, October 12-15, 1995
Red-Bordered Opryland Posters, 2
Norsk Country-Treff, July 11-12, 1997

Location:

Manuscripts are located with other manuscript materials on the ground floor of the stacks filed by

accession number. Reading room books, serials, trade catalogs, performance documents and sound recordings have been separated from the manuscripts and catalogued in the appropriate InMagic database [in process as of April 2011].

Related Materials:

Mr. Corbin's book, *Storm Over Nashville: A Case Against Modern Country Music*, is available in the Center's reading room. The Center holds other collections of old-time or traditional country music, such as the Charlie Walker Collection 08-020, and the Niel Bland Collection 98-050. These and other manuscript collections may be searched in the CPM's InMagic database catalog.

AMH

April 27, 2011