



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

JOYCE SUGGS BEAVERS COLLECTION

22-019

Creator:

Beaver, Joyce Suggs (April 1, 1926 – June 8, 2017)

Type of Material:

Manuscript Materials, Rare Books, Commercial LPs, Commercial 78rpm sound recordings, Costume shirt

Physical Description:

1 linear foot of materials housed in 1 box

Dates:

Approx. 1940s-1970

RESTRICTIONS:

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

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

Jackie Cambell, the daughter of Joyce Suggs Beavers, donated the collection in October 2022. An additional rare book was donated to the center in March 2023. The collection was shipped directly to the Center of Popular Music.

Arrangement:

There was no obvious arrangement for the collection. Some items, including sound recordings and rare books, were organized and separated for ease of access.

Subject/Index Terms:

Gospel Music
Stamps-Baxter
Singing Schools
Shape Notes
Stamps Quartet School of Music

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Joyce Suggs Beavers was a singer specializing in shape notes. She attended the Stamps Quartet singing school in Dallas, TX from the late 1940s-mid 1950s, and sang with the Stampettes and with the Stamps Harmonettes. Through her work at the Stamps school, she collected souvenirs, song books, photographs, and a few recordings. Later, her daughter also attended the Stamps Quartet singing school in the 1960s, where she was able to meet artists like J.D. Sumner and the Blackwood Brothers. The Stamps school was an important fixture in Joyce's life, and she remained in contact with her group for many years.

Scope and Content:

Joyce Suggs Beavers collected these items during her time at the Stamps Quartet singing school in the late 1940s and during her daughters' time there in the 1960s. The collection includes manuscript materials, LPs, Rare books, 78rpm recordings, artifacts, and photographs – most related to her time with the Stampettes or Shape note music in general. A few items have notes written on them to mark corrections in the music, and one item includes an autograph from J.D. Sumner.

Collection Contents (folder/Box List):

Box #	Folder #	Description
Box 1		
	Folder 1	Partial Songbooks (Unknown) 2 Song books; unknown titles; Shape note
	Folder 2	Photographs Stamps Quartet School of Music Panoramic photo, June 10-29, 1946 [Joyce appears in the photo] Stamps Quartet School of Music Postcard: includes photos of Lester's Stamps Quartet members, Beautiful Bethel Temple, and the Pastor of the Temple. Approx. 1945/1946 Stamps-Baxter Quartet Postcard Flyer, Undated Harmonettes Photo, Undated. [Joyce Suggs Beavers, Far-Right; Thelma Sharp, Far-Left]
	Folder 3	Stampettes recordings 2 manuscript discs (10" 78 rpm) – Stamps Harmonettes
	Artifact	Embroidered 'Stampettes' costume shirt, yellow.

Materials Cataloged Separately:

Per center policy, certain formats are cataloged separately for accessibility, including commercial sound recording materials and rare books. For a complete list of separated materials, please contact the archivist.

Location:

All manuscript materials are located in the special collections storage area filed by accession number.

Related Materials:

The center holds other gospel and shape-note related manuscript collections, notably the Singing School Collection (06-008) and the Anna J. Strohman Gospel Songbook Collection (90-010). Special collection sheet music, performance documents, trade catalogs, photographs, sound recordings, rare books, and reading room materials related to the subjects of this collection are also held by the center and searchable through the CPM website database or MTSU Walker Library catalog.

Processed and Finding Aid written by Grace Holland, September 2024.