



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Tony Alderman Country Music Collection

NMAH.AC.0211

NMAH Staff

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Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Audiovisual Materials, 1950-circa 1970.....	4
Series 2: Manuscript Materials, 1927 - 1983.....	9

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Tony Alderman Country Music Collection
Date:	1927-1983
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0211
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Musical Instruments National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Community Life
Creator:	Alderman, Alonzo (Tony) Elvis, 1900-1983 (musician)
Extent:	4 Cubic feet (5 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Alonzo Elvis "Tony" Alderman played country music with the Galax Dixie Concert Band and The Hill Billies. During the 1950s through 1970s he recorded old-time and early country music, primarily at festivals and conventions. Alderman recorded many of the open-reel audiotapes in the collection at the Old Time Fiddlers Convention in Galax, Virginia.

Administrative Information

Provenance

This collection was originally acquired by the Division of Performing Arts and was transferred to the Archives Center in 1986.

Related Materials

University of North Carolina. Southern Folklife Collection

Letter. Tony Alderman to Archie Green, 1961. Archie Green Collection (#20002).

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, 2003 and Wendy Shay, audiovisual archivist, 2016.

Preferred Citation

Tony Alderman Country Music Collection, 1927-1976, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Only reference copies of the audiotapes and audio discs may be used.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Alonzo Elvis "Tony" Alderman, (1900-1983) was introduced to old-time music at an early age by his relatives in Galax, Virginia. Alderman learned to play trumpet, French horn, and, inspired by Earnest "Pop" Stoneman, the country fiddle. He first performed publicly with the Galax Dixie Concert (brass)Band.

In the late spring of 1924, he formed a group with John Rector, Al Hopkins, and Joe Hopkins. Rector convinced the band to record a record. Unfortunately, due to technical problems the recording session was unsuccessful.

Undaunted, the quartet travelled to Okeh Studios in January of 1925 where they recorded six songs under the supervision of Ralph Peer. When Peer asked the band's name Al Hopkins replied, "We're nothing but a bunch of hill billies from North Carolina and Virginia. Call us anything." Reportedly inspired by his reply, Peer named the group "The Hill Billies."

"The Hill Billies" released their first record in February 1925. In May of that year while performing at a fiddler's convention sponsored by the Ku Klux Klan in Montana, Tennessee, they recruited Charlie Bowman from Gray Station, Tennessee to join them. Later that year 'The Hill Billies' left Okeh and joined the Combined Vocalion Brunswick Company to work with artist and repertoire man Jim O'Keefe. On the Vocalion label the band's name remained the same, but on the Brunswick label it changed to "Al Hopkins and His Buckle Busters."

For the next several years, the "Pine Hill Billies" performed across the country, made several more records, and broadcast on WRC radio in Washington, D.C. After the group disbanded in 1932, Tony Alderman moved to Washington, D.C. to work as an x-ray technician, as well as an investor, and he experimented with aerial photography.

In 1970, Alderman retired to Golden Beach in St. Mary's County, Maryland. He joined the "Over the Hill Gang" and played at local celebrations, including solos for the National Council for Traditional Arts festivals, the Smithsonian Institution's Festival of American Folklife, and various holiday celebrations held by the Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History.

Scope and Contents

The collection is divided into two series. Series one contains 98 1/4" open reel audiotapes primarily of the Galax Fiddler's Convention (1959-1963) made by Tony Alderman and three audio disc recordings. Series two contains manuscript materials including bills and receipts, correspondence, sheet music, newspaper clippings, performance announcements, and publications.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into two series.

Series 1, Audiovisual, 1950-circa 1970

Series 2, Manuscript Materials, 1927-1976

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Country music
- Music -- Performance
- Musical saw music
- Musicians

Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Clippings
- Correspondence -- 1930-1950
- Papers
- Sheet music

Names:

- Hill Billies (Musical group)
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Community Life
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Musical Instruments
- Old Fiddlers' Convention
- Stoneman, Ernest V.

Container Listing

Series 1: Audiovisual Materials, 1950-circa 1970

98 Sound tape reels

Language: Undetermined.

Box 1	Galax, 1950	
Box 1	Galax, 1950	
Box 1	Galax, 1952	
Box 1	Galax, 1953	
Box 1	Galax, 1954	
Box 1	Galax, 1956	Notes: Pop Stoneman
Box 1	Galax, 1956	
Box 1	Galax, 1959	Notes: Big Dance
Box 1	Galax, 1959	
Box 1	Galax, 1959	
Box 1	Galax, 1959	
Box 1	Galax, 1960	
Box 1	Galax, 1960	
Box 1	Galax, 1960	
Box 1	Galax, 1961	
Box 1	Galax, 1961	
Box 1	Galax, 1961	
Box 1	Galax, 1961	
Box 1	Galax, 1961	

Box 1	Galax, 1962
Box 1	Galax, 1962
Box 1	Galax, 1963
Box 1	Galax, 1963
Box 1	Galax, 1963
Box 1	Galax, 1963
Box 1	Galax, 1964
Box 1	Galax, 1964
Box 1	Galax, 1964
Box 1	Galax, 1967
Box 1	Galax Big Dance
Box 2	Union Grove
Box 2	Union Grove
Box 2	Union Grove
Box 2	Union Grove, 1959
Box 2	Union Grove, 1959
Box 2	Union Grove, 1960
Box 2	Union Grove, 1960
Box 2	Union Grove, 1962
Box 2	Union Grove, 1962
Box 2	Union Grove, 1962
Box 2	Union Grove, 1962
Box 2	Union Grove, 1962
Box 2	Smithsonian

Box 2	Ramsey Record
Box 2	Antegua Steel Band
Box 2	Hicks
Box 2	Hicks
Box 2	Hicks
Box 2	Hicks
Box 2	Hicks Churchville
Box 2	Hill Billies
Box 2	Spark Plug
Box 2	Spark Plug
Box 2	Spark Plug
Box 2	Strange Interlude
Box 2	Anna Russell
Box 2	Seger Interview
Box 2	Big Surprise
Box 2	Blue Grass Champs
Box 2	Show
Box 2	WPTC
Box 2	German
Box 3	Warrenton - Pop Stoneman
Box 3	Jimmy Rogers - Cactus Mtn.
Box 3	Gypsy
Box 3	Joe's Birthday
Box 3	Aloune

Box 3	Montax
Box 3	Anita
Box 3	Berm Dupe
Box 3	My Selection
Box 3	Tijuana Brass
Box 3	Radio Tape
	Unidentified 8 Sound tape reels
Box 3	How Great Thou Art
Box 3	Saengerbund, 1960
Box 3	Saengerbund, 1960
Box 3	Saengerbund, 1965
Box 3	Sck?
Box 3	For Sadie
Box 3	Klypa
Box 3	Knox
Box 3	Knox
Box 3	Knox
Box 3	Knox
Box 3	Shod Bake
Box 3	WAMU
Box 3	Andy Griffin
Box 3	Joe's Music
Box 3	Bermuda
Box 3	Montavani

Unidentified
2 Sound discs (lacquer)

Box 6

Reference cassettes

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Manuscript Materials, 1927 - 1983

Box 4, Folder 1	General Correspondence, 1927-1979, undated Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 2	Correspondence: Archie Green, 1961-1968
Box 4, Folder 3	Photographs, undated Language: Undetermined.
Box 4, Folder 4	Negatives
Box 4, Folder 5	Music and Lyrics Language: English. Notes: Box 5 oversize: "I'm Drifting Back to Childhood Days," MCMXIX and "Down Among the Lilies in Loveland," MCMXX.
Box 5, Folder 1	Sheet Music
Box 4, Folder 6	Contract, 1928 May 24
Box 4, Folder 7	Financial Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 8	Publicity Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 9; Box 5, Folder 2-4	Newspaper Clippings, 1927-1983 Language: English.
Box 4, Folder 10	Publications Language: English.
Box 1 (negatives)	Tony Alderman playing a musical saw
Map-folder 1	Fall Rally, Washington-Times, Washington Herald, Boys Club, featuring Tony Alderman and Wilie Green's Hay Shakers 1 Poster (19" in x 25" in)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)