Guide to the Tony Alderman
Country Music Collection

NMAH.AC.0211
NMAH Staff
2003
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Tony Alderman Country Music Collection
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0211
Date: 1927-1983
Extent: 4 Cubic feet (5 boxes)
Source: Musical Instruments, Division of (NMAH, SI)
Alderman, Alonzo (Tony) Elvis, 1900-1983 (musician)
Community Life, Div. of, NMAH, SI
Language: English
Collection is in 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

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

Preferred Citation
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 hillbillies from North Carolina and Virginia. Call us anything." Reportedly inspired by his reply, Peer named the group "The Hillbillies."

"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:**
- Community Life, Div. of, NMAH, SI
- Hill Billies (Musical group)
- Musical Instruments, Division of (NMAH, SI)
- Old Fiddler's Convention
- Stoneman, Ernest V.
## Container Listing

*98 Sound tape reels*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>Galax, 1950</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Galax, 1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Galax, 1952</td>
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<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Galax, 1953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Galax, 1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Galax, 1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Galax, 1956 Pop Stoneman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Galax, 1959 Big Dance</td>
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<td>Box 1</td>
<td>Galax, 1959</td>
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<td>Box 1</td>
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</table>
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, 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

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Series 2: Manuscript Materials, 1927 - 1983

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<th>Box 4, Folder 1</th>
<th>General Correspondence, 1927-1979, undated</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence: Archie Green, 1961-1968</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 3</td>
<td>Photographs, undated</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Negatives</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 5</td>
<td>Music and Lyrics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Box 5 oversize: &quot;I'm Drifting Back to Childhood Days,&quot; MCMXIX and &quot;Down Among the Lilies in Loveland,&quot; MCMXX.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 1</td>
<td>Sheet Music</td>
</tr>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 6</td>
<td>Contract, 1928 May 24</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 7</td>
<td>Financial</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 8</td>
<td>Publicity</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 9; Box 5, Folder 2-4</td>
<td>Newspaper Clippings, 1927-1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 10</td>
<td>Publications</td>
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