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

"RIDERS RADIO THEATER" COLLECTION   **89-041 et. al.**

Creator:
Nemerov, Bruce

Type of Material:
Scripts, Manuscripts Materials, Sound Recordings

Physical Description:
2.25 linear feet, including 26 audio cassettes (TCA 0126A/Z)

Languages:
English

Dates:
1988-1993

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):
This collection includes printed materials and scripts for most of the programs of the "Riders Radio Theater" taped by the musical group Riders in the Sky between April 1989 and March 1993 annotated by sound effects wrangler Big Zeno Clinker (Bruce Nemerov) and audio tapes of all programs aired between October 8, 1988 and September 30, 1989.

Repository:
Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, (615) 898-2449

Access/Restrictions:
Audio tapes subject to copyright stipulations and permission by donor.

Preferred Citation: (Box Number, Folder Number/Name), "Riders Radio Theater" Collection 89-041, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:
Donated by Bruce Nemerov of Murfreesboro, Tennessee in twelve installments: March 1990 (89-041), June 1990 (89-100), August 1990 (90-007), October 1990 (90-019), April 1991 (90-060), June 1991 (90-092), January 1992 (91-031, 91-048), February 1992 (91-048), March 1992 (91-048), January 1993 (92-059), February 1993 (92-059), and March 1993 (92-059).

Subjects/Index Terms:
Riders in the Sky
Radio scripts
Radio programs
Green, Douglas B.
LaBour, Fred.

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:
The (1993) Riders in the Sky musical and comedy act was formed in 1978 by Doug Green (Ranger Doug), Paul Chrisman (Woody Paul), and Fred LaBour (Too Slim). During the next decade the Riders performed at clubs, concerts, and festivals in the United States and Europe; recorded 11 albums on Rounder and MCA; appeared on public and commercial radio and television; hosted The Nashville Network series "Tumbleweed Theater," which was produced by Steve Arwood (Texas "Bix" Bender); and became permanent members of the Grand Ole Opry cast.

In September 1988 the group, along with announcer and co writer Steve Arwood, began taping a half hour radio series "Riders Radio Theater" for Nashville's public radio station WPLN. Accordionist Joey Miskulin (Joey the Cow Polka King) and sound effect wrangler Bruce Nemerov (Big Zeno Clinker) joined the show's cast after the fourth episode.

The program, aired by 80+ public radio stations its first year, won two Corporation for Public Broadcasting awards in May 1989. The show's contract was not renewed by WPLN, however, and in January 1990 "Riders Radio Theater" began taping in Cincinnati, Ohio, under the sponsorship of WXVU, the public radio station of Xavier University.

Scope and Content:
This collection includes two series: scripts for most of the programs taped between April 1989 and March 1993 annotated by sound effects wrangler Big Zeno Clinker and audio tapes of all programs aired between October 8, 1988 and September 30, 1989 (note that air dates are normally some weeks later than taping dates). Series I also includes scripts from several 1989 promo spots, 1989 and 1990 holiday specials, and a fund raising program taped in November of 1991, as well as other printed material related to Riders and/or the radio show.

Arrangement:
Arranged in 2 series: 1. Scripts for the regular series arranged first by year, then by

program number; other program scripts (e.g. Christmas special, fund raiser) are filed at the end of the year in which they were taped; the 1989 promotional scripts, the 1990 IABC script, and the 1990 and 1992 programs are filed at the beginning of the appropriate year. 2. Audio tapes arranged by format, then by tape number.

Series Description:
Series I. Scripts

This series consists primarily of "Riders Radio Theater" scripts annotated by sound effects wrangler Big Zeno Clinker, including episodes 34, 35, and 39 52 of the programs taped in 1989 in Nashville, Tennessee; all episodes of the programs taped January 1990 March 1993 in Cincinnati, Ohio; and the scripts of a 1989 Christmas special, a 1990 New Year's special, and a 1991 fund raising show also taped in Cincinnati. There are multiple versions of some pages of some scripts and duplicate scripts of shows 39 and 40 of the 1989 season annotated by Woody Paul.

Also included are scripts for two promo spots for the 1989 season; the script for an animated audio visual for IABC 1990 Bronze Quill Awards, February 12, 1990; and programs for the 1990 and fall 1992 Riders Radio Theater tapings.

Scripts for the regular series are arranged first by year, then by program number. Other program scripts (e.g. Christmas special, fund raiser) are filed at the end of the year in which they were taped.
The 1989 promotional scripts, the 1990 IABC script, and the 1990 and 1992 programs are filed at the beginning of the appropriate year.

Series II. Audio tapes (TCA 0126A/Z)

This series consists of copies of audio tapes of all of the programs broadcast over WPLN from October 8, 1988 and September 30, 1989. Information on most, but not all of the shows, including guests, sketches, and music performed, copied from the j cards on the original tapes is available in paper format in the Center's reading room. Please contact Center staff for more information.

Collection Contents (Box/Folder List):
Box # Folder #	Title / Description
Box 1	**Scripts May 1989 – [1990]**
Folder 1	Scripts: 1989; May 27, 1989, Show #34
Folder 2	Scripts: June 3, 1989, Show #35
Folder 3	Scripts: July 1, 1989, Show #39
Folder 4	Scripts: July 8, 1989, Show #40
Folder 5	Scripts: undated [1989], Show #41; Schedule "as of June 6, 1989"
Folder 6	Scripts: undated [1989], Show #42; Schedule Sept. 1989 – April 1990
Folder 7	Scripts: undated [1989], Show #43
Folder 8	Scripts: undated [1989], Show #44

Folder 9   Scripts: undated [1989], Show #45
Folder 10   Scripts: August 19, 1989, Show #46
Folder 11   Scripts: August 26, 1989, Show #47
Folder 12   Scripts: September 2, 1989, Show #48
Folder 13   Scripts: September 9, 1989, Show #49
Folder 14   Scripts: September 16, 1989, Show #50
Folder 15   Scripts: September 23, 1989, Show #51
Folder 16   Scripts: September 30, 1989, Show #52
Folder 17   Scripts: December 1, 1989, Christmas show; Itinerary, November
                  27, 1989
Folder 18   Program; Initial draft of script for IABC 1990 Bronze Quill Awards,
                  Feb. 12, 1990
Folder 19   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-1
Folder 20   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-2
Folder 21   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-3
Folder 22   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-4
Folder 23   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-5; Song lyrics
Folder 24   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-6
Folder 25   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-7
Folder 26   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-8

Box 2   **Scripts March 1990 – November 1990**
Folder 1   Scripts: March 19, 1990, Show #90-9
Folder 2   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-10
Folder 3   Scripts: March 21, 1990, Show #90-11
Folder 4   Scripts: March 21, 1990, Show # 90-12
Folder 5   Scripts: April 23, [1990], Show #90-13
Folder 6   Scripts: April 23, [1990], Show #90-14
Folder 7   Scripts: April 24, [1990], Show #90-15
Folder 8   Scripts: April 24, [1990], Show #90-16
Folder 9   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-17
Folder 10   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-18
Folder 11   Scripts: May 8, [1990], Show #90-19
Folder 12   Scripts: May 8, [1990], Show #90-20
Folder 13   Scripts: June 11, 1990, Show #90-21
Folder 14   Scripts: June 11, 1990, Show #90-22
Folder 15   Scripts: June 12, 1990, Show #90-23
Folder 16   Scripts: June 12, 1990, Show #90-24
Folder 17   Scripts: August 17, [1990], Show #90-25
Folder 18   Scripts: August 17, [1990], Show #90-26
Folder 19   Scripts: August 18, [1990], Show # 90-27
Folder 20   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-28
Folder 21   Scripts: September 10, 1990, Show #90-29
Folder 22   Scripts: September 10, 1990, Show #90-30
Folder 23   Scripts: September 11, 1990, Show #90-31
Folder 24   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-32

Folder 25   Scripts: October 22, 1990, Show #90-33
Folder 26   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-34
Folder 27   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-35
Folder 28   Scripts: undated [1990], Show #90-36
Folder 29   Scripts: November 28, 1990, Show #90-37
Folder 30   Scripts: November 28, 1990, Show #90-38

Box 3   **Scripts November 1990 – [1991]**
Folder 1   Scripts: November 29, 1990, Show #90-39
Folder 2   Scripts: November 29, 1990, New Years' Special Show
Folder 3   Scripts: January 20, 1991, Show #91-1
Folder 4   Scripts: January 20, 1991, Show #91-2
Folder 5   Scripts: January 21, 1991, Show #91-3
Folder 6   Scripts: January 21, 1991, Show #91-4
Folder 7   Scripts: February 18, 1991, Show #91-5
Folder 8   Scripts: February 18, 1991, Show #91-6
Folder 9   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-7
Folder 10   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-8
Folder 11   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-9
Folder 12   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-10
Folder 13   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-11
Folder 14   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-12
Folder 15   Scripts: April 22, 1991, Show #91-13
Folder 16   Scripts: April 22, 1991, Show #91-14
Folder 17   Scripts: April 23, 1991, Show #91-15
Folder 18   Scripts: April 23, 1991, Show #91-16
Folder 19   Scripts: May 6, 1991, Show #91-17
Folder 20   Scripts: May 6, 1991, Show #91-18
Folder 21   Scripts: May 7, 1991, Show #91-19
Folder 22   Scripts: May 7, 1991, Show #91-20
Folder 23   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-21
Folder 24   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-22
Folder 25   Scripts: undated [1991], Show # 91-23
Folder 26   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-24
Folder 27   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-25
Folder 28   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-26
Folder 29   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-27
Folder 30   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-28

Box 4   **Scripts October 1991 – March 1992**
Folder 1   Scripts: October 8, 1991, Show #91-29
Folder 2   Scripts: October 8, 1991, Show #91-30
Folder 3   Scripts: October 9, 1991, Show #91-31
Folder 4   Scripts: October 9, 1991, Show #91-32
Folder 5   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-33
Folder 6   Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-34

Folder 7	Scripts: October 29, 1991, Show # 91-35
Folder 8	Scripts: October 29, 1991, Show #91-36
Folder 9	Scripts: November 18, 1991, Show #91-37
Folder 10	Scripts: November 18, 1991, Show #91-38
Folder 11	Scripts: November 19, 1991, Show #91-39
Folder 12	Scripts: undated [1991], Show #91-40, Fund Raising Special
Folder 13	Souvenir booklet, Fall 1992; Scripts, January 20, 1992, Show #92-1
Folder 14	Scripts: January 20, 1992, Show #92-2
Folder 15	Scripts: January 21, 1992, Show # 92-3
Folder 16	Scripts: January 21, 1992, Show #92-4
Folder 17	Scripts: February 17, 1992, Show #92-5
Folder 18	Scripts: February 17, 1992, Show #92-6
Folder 19	Scripts: February 18, 1992, Show #92-7
Folder 20	Scripts: February 18, 1992, Show #92-8
Folder 21	Scripts: March 11, 1992, Show #92-9
Folder 22	Scripts: undated [1992], Show #92-10
Folder 23	Scripts: undated [1992], Show #92-11
Folder 24	Scripts: March 13, 1992, Show #92-12
Folder 25	Scripts: March 13, 1992, Show #92-13

Box 5	**Scripts September 1992 – March 1993**
Folder 1	Scripts: September 17, 1992, Show #92-14
Folder 2	Scripts: September 17, 1992, Show #92-15
Folder 3	Scripts: September 18, 1992, Show #92-16
Folder 4	Scripts: September 18, 1992, Show #92-17
Folder 5	Scripts: October 20, 1992, Show #92-18
Folder 6	Scripts: October 20, 1992, Show #92-19
Folder 7	Scripts: October 21, 1992, Show #92-20
Folder 8	Scripts: October 21, 1992, Show #92-21
Folder 9	Scripts: November 15, 1992, Show #92-22
Folder 10	Scripts: November 16, 1992, Show #92-23
Folder 11	Scripts: November 16, 1992, Show #93-24
Folder 12	Scripts: November 17, 1992, Show #92-25
Folder 13	Scripts: November 17, 1992, Show #92-26
Folder 14	Scripts: January 12, 1993, Show #93-1
Folder 15	Scripts: January 12, 1993, Show #93-2
Folder 16	Scripts: January 13, 1993, Show #93-3
Folder 17	Scripts: January 13, 1993, Show #93-4
Folder 18	Scripts: February 10, 1993, Show #93-5
Folder 19	Scripts: February 10, 1993, Show #93-6
Folder 20	Scripts: February 11, 1993, Show #93-7
Folder 21	Scripts: February 11, 1993, Show #93-8
Folder 22	Scripts: March 22, 1993, Show #93-9
Folder 23	Scripts: March 23, 1993, Show #93-10
Folder 24	Scripts: March 23, 1993, Show #93-11, with song lyrics
Folder 25	Scripts: March 24, 1993, Show #93-12

Folder 26   Scripts: March 24, 1993, Show #93-13

Materials Cataloged Separately:
Audio cassette tapes (TCA-0126A/Z)

Location:
Series I is filed by the original accession number (89 041) with other manuscript groups.
Series II is filed first by format, then by tape number in the audio visual archives.

Related Materials:
See also "Riders in the Sky" biographical vertical file and a photograph of an earlier incarnation of the group in the biographical iconographic file.

Processed by Ellen Garrison, May 1993
Revised by Rachel K. Morris, June 2011
Updated Olivia Beaudry, CA January 2024.