



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

ARGYLE BELL COLLECTION

17-035

Creator:

Bell, Argyle (1951-2001)
[Campbell, Charles Argyle]

Type of Material:

Promotional materials, VHS tapes, Commercial Sound Recordings on cassette tapes, Demo cassette tapes, Photographs, Flyers, Periodicals, and original artwork.

Physical Description:

1.5 linear foot of manuscript materials housed in 5 boxes
1 linear foot of audio-visual manuscript material in 3 boxes

Language:

English, Finnish (a few items)

Dates:

1960s-2001, bulk 1985-2001.

Repository:

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

RESTRICTIONS:

The collection is open for research use. All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff can assist with 1 copyright questions for this material.

Preferred Citation:

(Box Number, Folder Number/Name), Argyle Bell Collection 17-035, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

The Center for Popular Music acquired this collection from Susie Monick in 2017 in conjunction with her own collection (17-034).

Subject/Index Terms:

Irish Music
Folk Music
Country Rock
Nashville Rock
Gram Parsons
Clarence White
The Metro [Nashville publication]
Plastic Paddy
Elygra Records
Teen fandom
Fan magazines
1960s Rock and Roll
Cosmic American Music News
Seanachie's Irish Pub
Tribute Concerts

Biographical Sketch:

“A versatile musician, an obsessive fan and archivist, and a mainstay of the Nashville music scene for two decades, the late Argyle Bell was a gifted original. The lanky Tacoma, Wash., native cut a striking figure walking around town in his head-to-toe black outfits, his wraparound shades, muttonchop sideburns, and teased-out coif. “I never saw Argyle in a car,” remembers Adam Dread, who hosted him on his mid-’80s WRVU radio show. “He was always walking, always smiling.” Bell brightened staid Music City by flashing his own brand of rock-star glitz, especially after becoming a denizen of the erstwhile hipster haven Close Quarters (now the Bound’ry). He claimed he once got loaded with Jim Morrison and saw the Velvet Underground play with Nico, but it was his own accomplishments that endeared him to friends and fellow musicians. He put together the first Gram Parsons tribute show, wrote now and then for *The Metro*, and gigged (word has it) with everyone from Garth Brooks to members of the Burritos, Byrds, Eagles, and Rolling Stones. And as the former “musical director” at Séanachie, he did as much as anyone to boost the city’s emerging Irish music scene. Most importantly, Bell was a great guy.”

Source: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/126576679/charles-argyle-campbell>

Scope and Content:

This collection includes flyers, periodicals, and ephemera from musician, promoter, and writer Argyle Bell, related to his own career in Nashville in the 1980s and 1990s. His

personal interests appear as a collection of teen fan magazines from the 1960s, and in cassette and VHS tapes. Family material provides a personal background.

Arrangement:

Argyle Bell had some original arrangements in promotional and press items, personal records, and periodicals related to his career and interests; the processing archivist created an organization order by thematic topic for ease of access and preservation.

Collection Contents:

Box 1: Personal

This box contains personal material from Bell's family, youth, and his travels abroad. Several folders include news articles and photos from his memorial in 2001.

Envelope 1: Childhood Photos and Report Cards

Envelope 2: Travel Pamphlets

Envelope 3: Travel Stickers from Europe

Envelope 4: Guest Passes (qty: 3)

Envelope 5: Postcards

Folder 1: News Article for Memorial

This folder came organized by Susie Monick, who donated the collection.

Folder 2: "Argyle Tribute Photo Board 2001"

This set was labelled and organized by Susie Monick.

Folder 3: Photographs

This folder includes photos of Bell's parents, Bell as a child, and pictures with friends and travelling.

Folder 4: Personal Correspondence with parents

Folder 5: Personal Address Books

Folder 6: Personal Contact Lists

Folder 7: Personal Correspondence from his youth

Also include letters to the editor from a young Bell as Chuck Campbell, a letter from Jane Fonda.

Folder 8: Trading Cards (1960s?) of The Beatles and Rolling Stones

Folder 9: Business Cards

Box 2: Flyers & Press

This box contains flyers, press clippings, and material related to the different initiatives organized by Bell, including the Gram Parsons tribute shows, Irish music, his label Elygra, and his performing career.

Folder 1: CDs and Lyric Cards

Folder 2: Resumes and Flyers for promotion.

This folder includes various versions of his resume, notes related to travelling to Europe, certificates, and biographies about him by others.

- Folder 3: Flyers and Clippings: Gram Parsons and Clarence White tribute shows
Bell organized these events from 1986-1990. This flyer includes press releases from his Elygra Music group, flyers for the events (including original cut and paste samples), memorabilia from the Flying Burrito Brothers, and press clippings, incl. from the Cosmic American Music News.
- Folder 4: Flyers of Argyle Bell and Steve Haggard Europe Tour 1992.
This folder includes flyers, some original, pictures
- Folder 5: Flyers and Clippings from Finland Tour 1999
This folder was organized by Argyle Bell and includes flyers, memorabilia, and press clippings. Press clippings are predominantly in Finnish.
- Folder 6: Flyers and Clippings for Declan Mulligan at Seanachie
Argyle Bell booked a show at Seanachie for Declan Mulligan, an original member of The Beau Brummels. Folder includes flyers, press clippings used for flyers, and a letter from Mulligan to Bell.
- Folder 7: "Irish Press Clippings"
Organized and labelled by Bell, this folder focuses on Irish music events he promoted, booked, and/or performed in the late 1990s and includes flyers, newsprint clippings, some photocopied.
- Folder 8: Flyers and Clippings: Irish Music Fest and International Music Fest
Originally from the early 1990s, Irish Music Fest gets revived by Bell in the late '90s with a larger scope as the International Music Fest, aided by his involvement booking international acts in Nashville.
- Folder 9: Flyers and Clippings: Seanachie
This folder contains flyers and press clippings related to Bell's booking and promotional activities as music director at Seanachie in the late 1990s.
- Folder 10: Clippings and Promotional items: Seanachie Pub
Organized by Bell and kept intact as a set.
- Folder 11: Misc. Flyers spanning Bell's music career
- Folder 12: Clipping and magazines mentioning Argyle Bell
- Folder 13: Newsletters: Elygra Music group (1989-91)
- Folder 14: Stationary: Nashville Irish Fest, Nashville International Music Fest
- Folder 15: Correspondence: Unsent Letters by Argyle Bell (2000-01)
- Folder 16: Clarence White book
A book in Japanese about Clarence White with a biography, a discography in English, an interview with Tony Rice, and tablature.
- Folder 17: Documentary Transcript: "Hickory Wind"
Seemingly a treatment for a documentary, this staple-bound 39 page biographical write-up of gram parsons includes note for a Peter Fonda narration and video direction, related to background songs.

Box 3: Periodicals & Clippings

The Periodicals folders includes complete issues related to the musical and literary career of Argyle Bell, as performer and music writer. The Clippings folders reflect an interest in teen fan publications from the mid-1960s with some almost complete issues.

Folder 1: Periodical: Alert Arts & Entertainment

Musician's profile of Bell, page 22.

Folder 2: Periodical: Cosmic American Music News

The official magazine of the Gram Parsons Memorial Foundation.

Vol 6, # 2 (Fall & Winter 1987/1988) covers the Second Annual Nashville Tribute to Gram Parsons and Clarence White.

Vol. 7, #1 and 2 (Spring & Summer 1988, Fall & Winter 1988/1989) cover the 3rd Annual tribute show in 1988.

Vol. 8, #1 (Fall & Winter 1989/1990) covers the 4th Annual Tribute show in 1989, as well as Argyle Bell's Elygra Music on the back cover.

Folder 3: Periodical: Dirty Linen

Issue #29, Aug/Sept 1990 has an article by Bell on The Dillards.

Folder 4: Periodical: Haight Ashbury Maverick (Vol. 2, #2, 1968)

Folder 5: Periodical: The Metro

15 issues, some incomplete, from 1986 – 1990, involving Bell as contributor, Associate Director and Associate Editor.

Folder 6: Clippings: 16 Magazine

Incomplete issues: Vol. 6 #6 (Nov. 1964), Vol. 6 #8 (Jan. 1965), Vol. 7, #7 (Dec. 1965); 16 Scoop: Beatles Complete Story from Birth to Now (1965).

Folder 7: Clippings: Flip Magazine

Incomplete issues: June 1965, Nov. 1965, March 1966, May 1966

Folder 8: Clippings: Hit Parader (May 1966)

Folder 9: Clippings: Meet the Rolling Stones (Vol. 1 #1, 1964)

Folder 10: Clippings: Song Hits Magazine

2 incomplete issues: Vol. 29 #2 (April 1965), Vol. 31 #16 (May 1967)

Folder 11: Clippings: Teen Pin-Up (June 1966), Teen Life (Oct. 1965), Teen Scoop (Jan 1967)

Folder 12: Clippings: TeenSet (Feb. 1967), Teen Talk (March 1965)

Folder 13: Clippings: Teen Stars Yearbook No. 12 (1966)

Folder 14: Clippings: Tiger Beat

Incomplete issues: Vol.1 #2 (Oct 1965), Vol.1 #3 (Nov. 1965), Vol.1 #4 (Dec. 1965), Vol.1 #5 (Jan. 1966), Vol.1 #7 (March 1966), Vol.1 #9 (May 1966).

Folder 15: Clippings: Miscellaneous

Rolling Stone: Byrds article (1973), and misc. Beatles and Stones clippings.

Box 4: Photographs

Folder 1: Photos & Clippings of the Gram Parsons and Clarence White Tribute Shows

These contents were organized by Argyle Bell and stored together by him in a box for photographic prints. These tribute shows ran from 1986-1990 and included performers such as Marty Stuart, Roland White (Clarence White's brother), and former members of the Flying Burrito Brothers Al Perkins and Rob Strandlund. Jimmy Ibbotson, Jody Maphis, Peter Rowan, Rodney Crowell, J.D. Foster, John Nuese (International Submarine Band) are also identified. According to the cover of Cosmic American Music News (Box 3, Folder 2), many, if not all, of these photos are by Chip Smith.

Folder 2: "Plastic Paddy"

This set was organized and titled by Argyle Bell and includes photos of his Irish music group Plastic Paddy performing live at Seanachie Irish Pub. Most of these are dated to 1999.

Folder 3: "Argyle Pub. Photos"

This set was organized and labelled by Argyle Bell. Photos include him with Buck Owens, publicity photos with musical partner Steve Haggard, live performances, travel, a signed picture with Al Franken, several prints from the Gram Parsons Tribute Shows, and an early glossy of him in Lee Rogers' Stampede Pass, a late 70's Seattle country group.

Folder 4: Photos: Performances, Studios, and Travels

Early b/w from 1979 of Bell performing, photos of Elygra (Bell's label) artist Kimera, and other artists he recorded, as well as live performances of Bell in Finland in 1999.

Folder 5: Photos: "Dec '90 – January '91 London/Dublin Vacation"

This set was organized and labelled by Argyle Bell.

Folder 6: Photos: Travel and performances, 1989-1992.

Prints and slide primarily of visits to Ireland and England.

Box 5: Oversize

Folder 1: (2) oversized clippings from the Saturday Evening Post, 1963

Folder 2: original artwork by Argyle Bell: including a self-portrait, pencil on lined paper from 1967, the pencil drawing from *The Metro* cover (Vol. 2 #14, March 7, 1986) of Roger McGuinn, and a letter, dated 1968, from Museum Art School of Portland, Oregon

Flyers:

Argyle Bell's Trailer Trash, Sherlock Holmes Pub, Saturday January 13th [1996?]

Tennessee Firewater, Central Saloon [Seattle, 1972]

A Nashville Tribute to Gram Parsons, 12th & Porter, Wed. Sept. 24 [1986]

[back side of flyer has handbills for the next 4 tribute shows]

(2) Handbills for The Byrds with Bill Withers, Thursday Nov 11 [1971], Springers [Portland, Oregon].

[The venue "Springers" is printed on a blacked out area over the words "Paramount Theatre." Some modern replicas of this image incorrectly retain Paramount Theatre as the location of the show.]

A Rick Nelson iron-on patch by Picture Patches [possibly 1958]

Box 6: VHS Tapes

(9) tapes of music-related documentaries, videos, and live shows.

Those related to Argyle Bell are:

1. Ronnie Prophet "Live"
2. Argyle Bell in Finland '99
3. Argyle Irish Bayou #2

See archivist for a full list.

Box 7: Cassette Tapes

This box includes many sets of tapes related to Argyle Bell and his interests.

The "Irish Tape Series" includes 10 cassettes numbered by Bell, from 1998 and 1999, that includes taped rehearsals and masters.

There are 8 Plastic Paddy rehearsal and work tapes from his Irish music group. There are 6 labelled Demo or Master of his own music, including recorded and live tapes.

For the Gram Parsons and Clarence White Tribute shows, organized by Bell himself, there are 5 tapes in all: one from the first show in 1986, and then four from the 4th show in 1989. Argyle Bell's collection of Gram Parsons related music includes 16 tapes, several of which are live recordings, some still unreleased commercially.

See archivist for a full list.

Box 8: Cassette Tapes

This box includes cassette tapes of other groups, including some commercial recordings, as well as a significant amount of tapes related to Bell's roommate, Susie Monick, with some of those tapes possibly being recorded by Bell himself.

The tapes related to Monick include live tapes, demos, and released material, from 1975-2001.

See archivist for a full list.

Materials Cataloged Separately:

Items cataloged separately include songbooks and periodicals.

Songbooks:

"Bugs" Bower's EZIER than EZY Hit Songbook Vol. 4, 1965.

The Beatles Hohner Harmonica songbook w/ "Little Child" and "Please, Please Me" (1967?).

Periodicals:

Aquarian Weekly, Vol.15 #274, Aug. 8, 1979.

Cosmic American Music News, Vols. 3-8, 1984 – 1991.

Argyle Bell's set forms the basis of the CPM holdings for this publication.

Country Music and More, Vol. 17 #5, March 2001.

The Metro. Vol. 2, #s 20-22, July-Aug 1986.

Argyle Bell was Associate Editor in 1986, and a frequent contributor until its end.

nFocus, Vol.VII #1, Nov. 1999.

New England Scene, #15, Nov. 1968

New Musical Express, May 29, 1976.

Record Collector, #78, Feb. 1986.

Rolling Stone, Oct 15, 1970.

Southeast Performer, Vol.2 #7, July 2000.

Location:

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

Related Materials:

The Center holds the Susie Monick Collection (17-034) who was Bell's roommate. Many of the cassette tapes in the Argyle Bell Collection reference musical output by Susie Monick and her related groups and she also regularly performed with Argyle Bell.

Relating to extensive international touring see George Hamilton IV Collection (17-027) and George Hamilton V Collection (20-023).

The Center also holds many items relating to Irish music, Gram Parsons and other topics of this collection that can be searched in the archival catalog.

Processed and finding aid written by Jon Sewell, Oct/Nov. 2024