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

GAYLE DEAN WARDLOW COLLECTION **94-048**

Creator:
Wardlow, Gayle Dean (August 31, 1940-)

Type of Material:
Manuscript audio recordings

Physical Description:
47 audio tapes (TTA 0182A/UU)

Dates:
1967-1970.

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 are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.* This material is copyrighted by Gayle Dean Wardlow, 2015.

Preferred Citation: (name of interview, tape number), Gayle Dean Wardlow Collection 94-048, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:
Original tape-recorded interviews by Wardlow were lent to the Center for copying. The tape copies were made by Center audio specialist Bruce Nemerov.

Subject/Index Terms:
Blues (music)
Oral history
Oral History, American Music

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:
Gayle Dean Wardlow (August 31, 1940-) conducted some of the earliest interviews and gathered much of the evidence that exists about early blues musicians and their music.

He is a record collector and has published numerous articles on the blues. Warlow co-authored the book King of the Delta Blues: The Life and Music of Charlie Patton with Stephen Calt and later published Chasin' That Devil Music: Searching for the Blues, which contained expanded versions of his earlier articles.

Scope and Content:
The interviews were recorded in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and North Carolina between 1967 and 1970. One of the primary informants is blues musician Hayes McMullan, whose tapes include music as well as questions and answers. Most of the music occurs on the first seven tapes, primarily by McMullan, with a few by Willie Young, and Willie Moore, and includes the pieces: "Delta Walk,""New Way of Spelling Memphis, Tennessee,""Gonna Get a Woman" (aka "Sunday Woman"), "Goin' Where Chilly Winds Don't Blow,""Spoonful Blues,""Kansas City Blues,""Born in the Delta,""Roll and Tumble,""Leave Here Walkin',""Hurry Sundown,""Back Water Blues,""Fast Old Train,""Pony Blues,""Spanish Fandango,""Every Day Seems Like Murder Here,""Spider,""Who Gonna Be Your Baby,""Going to Move to Kansas City,""Bo Weavil Blues,""Ain't Gonna Rain No Mo,""Frankie and Albert,""No Trifling Kid,""Pearl Lee,""TB is Killing Me,""Baby's Gone,""Banty Rooster Blues,""Tallahatchie Bound,""Mean Old Blues,""Stack-A-Lee,""One More Drink,""Dirt Road Blues,""If I Could Hear My Mother Pray,""On the Battlefield,""I Heard of a City Called Heaven,""Gone Home,""Let Him Come In,""What a Time,""What You Gonna Do When Death Comes Creeping,""If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again." [NOTE: These first eight tapes are only accessible in the Center for Popular Music Reading Room and are not online.]

Other blues musicians or family of musicians interviewed include Willie Moore, his wife Elizabeth Moore, Willie Young, Reverend Rice, Lilly Hester and Roberta Jameson (sisters of Son Sims), Tommy Lee, Henry Austin, Roberta Hagan (wife of Joe Holmes), Sammy Watkins, Fred Gordon, Ishmon Bracey, Booker T. Miller, Nathan "Dick" Banks, Jack Cooper, Chester House, John Willis, Kin Abram, Ben Curry, Ledell Johnson, various acquaintances of Tommy Johnson (not all identified), Jessie Hills, Sam Williams, Marie Fields, Joe Reynolds, Rosalie Harris (friend of Blind Joe Reynolds), Reynolds Sheppard (uncle of Blind Joe Reynolds), Gress Barnett.

Wardlow also interviewed some early record company talent scouts, including H.C. Speir, Polk Brockman, and Harry Charles. There is one interview with co-author Steven Calt.

Audio tape logs made by audio specialist Bruce Nemerov for each tape.

Arrangement:
No original is known to have existed. Tapes were assigned an item number (TTA-) by CPM audio curator at the time of copying and transfer.

Location:
Audiovisual materials are filed first by format, then by tape number, in the audiovisual archives. Audio logs are located with Audio Curator

Notes: Mr. Warlow asked for all audio except for Hayes McMullan audio be made available online. The audio and their audio logs can be found by searching CPM archive catalog for 94-048.

Related Materials:
Wardlow also lent for copying an interview with Dave Jasen (94-040) and some instantaneous acetate discs of the Mid-Carolina Male Chorus (94-047).

LAP August 26, 2019
Updated by Olivia Beaudry, November 17, 2026