



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

**HAROLD L. BALDWIN
GRAND OLE OPRY COLLECTION**

00-016

Creator:

Baldwin, Harold L.

Type of Material:

Black and white prints

Color prints

Negatives and contact sheets

Physical Description:

3.75 l.f. of photographic materials

Dates:

1969-1971

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):

This collection consists of photographic images taken by Harold L. Baldwin of the Grand Ole Opry stage, backstage, audience, street crowds, and environs between 1969 and 1971 at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee.

Access/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.*

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

All photographic images were taken and printed by Harold Baldwin. All materials were donated and transferred to the Center the first week of May, 2001.

Subject/Index Terms:

Country Music

Grand ole opry (Radio program)
Ryman Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Born February 1, 1927 in Denver, Colorado, Baldwin attended the University of Northern Colorado for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. He pursued doctorate coursework at George Peabody (in Nashville), University of Maryland, and Texas A&M. After nine years of teaching industrial technology in the Pueblo, Colorado public school system, Baldwin taught at MTSU from the Fall of 1959 until he retired the Spring of 1991. While he was teaching industrial technology at MTSU, he initiated the development of a photography program. It grew to such an extent that he eventually (by 1968) shifted over to teaching photography full time. Baldwin received the outstanding teacher award one year, and a photographic gallery on campus is named after him.

Baldwin’s general work, more than developing particular subject themes or motifs, explored various darkroom techniques and possibilities: multi-exposures, superimposures, and other artistic experimentation. His mentors include Jerry Uelsmann and Evon Streetman. This collection of Grand Ole Opry photos, according to Baldwin himself, represents his only major corpus of purely documentary images.

Scope and Content:

Mounted and unmounted photographic prints, contact sheets, and negatives for color and black and white images. Negatives consist of large format color negatives (5.5cm x 7cm), black and white negatives (2.25"x2.25"; 6cm x 7cm), and 35mm black and white negatives. About 130 prints consist of varying sizes from 1.5"x11" to 16"x20".

Images taken of the Grand Ole Opry stage, backstage, audience, street crowds, and environs between 1969 and 1971. Artists represented include Dolly Parton, Porter Wagoner, Roy Acuff & the Smoky Mountain Boys, David Akeman (“Stringbean”), Del Reeves, Ernest Tubb, and Jim & Jesse McReynolds. Other images of interest include various Music Row shots, shoe shiners and panhandlers, and telephone numbers on the wall by a pay phone backstage. (See box lists for further details.)

Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):

Box 1	Format	Description
Item #		
1	Mounted B/W Print	Vito Pelletieri
2	Mounted B/W Print	Willis Brothers (2 of 3) Vic, Guy
3	Mounted B/W Print	Jesse McReynolds, Jim McReynolds (Jim and Jesse)
4	Mounted B/W Print	(L to R) Charlie Collins (?), Howdy Forrester, unknown, Arthur “Guitar Boogie” Smith?, Crook Brothers (next three), Sam McGee (w/guitar), Ramona Jones (?), Beecher Ray “Pete” Kirby (Bashful Brother Oswald).

5	Mounted B/W Print	Del Reeves
6	Mounted B/W Print	Hank Locklin
7	Mounted B/W Print	Archie Campbell
8	Mounted B/W Print	Roy Acuff
9	Mounted B/W Print	Hal Rugg (steel), Spider Wilson (guitar)
10	Mounted B/W Print	Unknown (guitar far left), Lester Flatt's Nashville Grass including Curtis. McPeake (banjo), English P. "Jake" Tullock (bass), Paul Warren (fiddle)
11	Mounted B/W Print	Ernest Tubb (?), Hal Durham
12	Mounted B/W Print	Mac McGaha (?) (fiddle), Porter Wagoner (guitar), unknown (drums)
13	Mounted B/W Print	Del Reeves
14	Mounted B/W Print	Unknown harmonica player (Onie Wheeler?)
15	Mounted B/W Print	Unknown female singer in profile
16	Mounted B/W Print	Audience, Charles Wolfe (in background), Gary Scruggs (?) (bass), Randy Scruggs (?) (guitar).
17	Mounted B/W Print	Audience laughing
18	Mounted B/W Print	Dancers – Stoney Mountain Cloggers
19	Mounted B/W Print	One of Willis Brothers (Guy?)
20	Mounted B/W Print	Seated fiddler (Howdy Forrester?)
21	Mounted B/W Print	Performers on stage
22	Mounted B/W Print	Roy Acuff, Ernest Tubb
23	Mounted B/W Print	Gilbert "Speck" Rhodes (w/Porter Wagoner's band?)
24	Mounted B/W Print	Unknown(w/guitar), Joe Edwards (plaid sport coat, guitar) unknown (plaid shirt), unknown (w/guitar)
25	Mounted B/W Print	Joe Edwards

Box 2	Format	Description
Item #		
1	Mounted B/W Print	Back stage clock
2	Mounted B/W Print	Audience in line with shoeshine kids
3	Mounted B/W Print	Joe and Rose Lee Maphis
4	Mounted B/W Print	Drawing
5	Mounted B/W Print	Reading on steps
6	Mounted B/W Print	Foot on piano – Del Reeves
7	Mounted B/W Print	E.W. "Bud" Wendell (Opry manager), Roy Acuff, Hal Durham, Bashful Brother Oswald (Becher "Pete" Kirby)

8	Mounted B/W Print	Waiting in line outside
9	Mounted B/W Print	Audience
10	Mounted B/W Print	Musicians back stage – unknown, (possibly Jim McReynolds second from right with guitar)
11	Mounted B/W Print	Shoe shine kids
12	Mounted B/W Print	Through the window
13	Mounted B/W Print	Jesse McReynolds (Jim & Jesse)
14	Mounted B/W Print	Ernest Tubb
15	Mounted B/W Print	Beecher “Pete” Kirby (Bashful Brother Oswald)
16	Mounted B/W Print	Unknown male singer
17	Mounted B/W Print	Coming out
18	Mounted B/W Print	Roy Acuff & His Smoky Mountain Boys on stage: Bashful Brother Oswald, Charlie Collins (?) (w/guitar), Roy Acuff (singing), Howard “Howdy” Forrester (fiddle)
19	Mounted B/W Print	Audience outside
20	Mounted B/W Print	Ryman interior “Confederate Gallery”

Box 3	Format	Description
Item #		
1	Mounted B/W Print	Piano
2	Mounted B/W Print	Mens’ room
3	Mounted B/W Print	Backstage with broom
4	Mounted B/W Print	Ryman exterior (see #13)
5	Mounted B/W Print	Ladies’ room
6	Mounted B/W Print	Box office
7	Mounted B/W Print	Backstage, vending machine, water fountain
8	Mounted B/W Print	Backstage, air conditioner unit, “No Smoking”
9	Mounted B/W Print	Downstairs
10	Mounted B/W Print	Ropes
11	Mounted B/W Print	Sets
12	Mounted B/W Print	Ryman exterior, parking lot
13	Mounted B/W Print	Ryman exterior (same as #4, different crop)
14	Mounted B/W Print	Ryman exterior (similar to #4 and #13)
15	Mounted B/W Print	Ryman exterior, Renfro Valley Sign
16	Mounted B/W Print	Ryman from above
17	Mounted B/W Print	Pews, “No Visitors”
18	Mounted B/W Print	Ryman exterior, Gospel Tabernacle sign
19	Mounted B/W Print	Backstage, cables
20	Mounted B/W Print	Piano legs
21	Mounted B/W Print	Cars crossing on street (same as OS #4 & Box 5 #5 & #6)
22	Mounted B/W Print	Ryman interior – “Confederate Gallery” (see Box

		#2, #20 – same shot?)
23	Mounted B/W Print	In line, outside
24	Mounted B/W Print	In line, montage

Box 4	Format	Description
Item #		
1	Mounted B/W Print	Cheering audience
2	Mounted B/W Print	Lower Broad, Tootsie's (same as OS #1 & Box 5 #1 & #2)
3	Mounted B/W Print	Pawn Shop
4	Mounted B/W Print	Box office
5	Mounted B/W Print	Unknown performer onstage – Stonewall Jackson?
6	Mounted B/W Print	Dolly Parton
7	Mounted B/W Print	Looking downstairs
8	Mounted B/W Print	Leaning security guard
9	Mounted B/W Print	Radiator
10	Mounted B/W Print	“Johnny Cash is Here”
11	Mounted B/W Print	Cleaning up
12	Mounted B/W Print	Clearing out audience
13	Mounted B/W Print	Street (same as OS #3 & Box 5 #2)
14	Mounted B/W Print	Balcony, looking down steps
15	Mounted B/W Print	Full house, balcony
16	Mounted B/W Print	Street, night line
17	Mounted B/W Print	Photographers in audience
18	Mounted B/W Print	Mail boxes
19	Mounted B/W Print	Broad street with Renfro Valley sign
20	Mounted B/W Print	Grammar guitar close-up

Box 5	Format	Description
Item #		
1	Unmounted B/W Print	Tootsie's outside (same as OS #1 & Box 4 #2)
2	Unmounted B/W Print	In the street waiting (same as OS #3 & Box 4 #13)
3	Unmounted B/W Print	Tootsie's outside (same as Box 5 #1; OS #1; & Box 4 #2)
4	Unmounted B/W Print	A break outside
5	Unmounted B/W Print	Waiting (same as OS #4 & Box 3 #21)
6	Unmounted B/W Print	Waiting 2 (same as above)
7	Mounted B/W Print	Roy Acuff and His Smokey Mountain Boys on stage
8	Mounted B/W Print	Cables

9	Mounted B/W Print	Unknown performer on stage
10	Mounted Color Print	Ryman exterior
11	Mounted Color Print	Phone on wall
12	Mounted Color Print	Ryman exterior
13	Mounted Color Print	Kids' band
14	Mounted Color Print	Emmons guitars
15	Mounted Color Print	Broad street scene
16	Mounted Color Print	Ryman exterior, Renfro Valley sign
17	Mounted Color Print	Wax Museum
18	Mounted Color Print	Night scene
19	Mounted Color Print	Unknown performer on stage

Box 6	Format	Description
Item #		
1	(6) Color contact sheets	
2	(6) Unmounted black & white prints [rejected]	
3	(2) Color prints; (1) strip [rejected]	
4	[loose] (8) Black and white prints and (2) color prints	

Box 7	Format	Description
Item #		
1	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format color print	
2	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format black and white	
3	Negatives and contact sheets--35 mm black and white	
4	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format black and white	
5	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format black and white	
6	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format black and white	
7	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format black and white	
8	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format black and white	
9	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format black and white	
10	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format black and white	
11	Negatives and contact sheets--Large format black and white	
12	Negatives and contact sheets--35 mm black and white	

Oversize Manuscript Drawer List

(All oversize are mounted black and white prints.)

1. Street scene of lower Broad and Tootsie's (same as Box 4 #2 and Box 5 #1 & 3) Oversize cropped horizontally.
2. Waiting outside the Ryman with Tennessee Gift Shop sign.

3. Night scene outside Ryman with Rebel Trading Post (same as Box 4 #13 & 5 #2).
4. Waiting outside the Ryman with cars passing by (same as Box 3 #21).

Location:

All materials are located in the manuscripts collections by accession number. Four (4) mounted black and white prints are located in the manuscript oversize drawer.

Note: Correspondence with the Grand Ole Opry concerning the exhibition of these photos is held within the acquisition control file.

This inventory description was originally written by David Jellema in 1999, but the collection was not accessioned. Accessioned and revised by Lucinda Cockrell, Archivist November 2001.