

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

NEIL BLAND COLLECTION

98-050

Creator:

Bland, Neil

Type of Material:

Sound Recordings, Photographs, Manuscript Items

Physical Description:

.5 linear feet of manuscript materials, including sound recordings and photographs
 3 audio cassette tapes (TCA-0228 A-C)
 2 audio reel tapes (TTA-0228 A-B)
 84 iconographic items (photographic prints and halftone images)
 1 contact sheet and set of negatives (14 frames)
 .1 linear feet of papers and holographic items

Dates:

1934-1966

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

This collection was compiled and donated by Neil Bland. Bland also donated other materials that he had acquired and used in his music career, as well as some sheet music and hymnbooks that his mother and aunts collected.

Subject/Index Terms:

Bland, Neil

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Neil "Steve" Wilson Bland was born November 11, 1918 in Logansport, West Virginia. His father and uncle were both old-time fiddlers, and his mother and aunts played piano. His older brother, Martin ("Slim"), played guitar, and the two formed a duet and began a performing career in 1935 in the West Virginia and Pennsylvania region. They performed in music parks, radio stations, and did at least one recording session (New York, Rainbow Records, 1948); they eventually split up in 1951. Neil continued performing "until rock & roll hit."

Scope and Content:

Eighty-four (84) iconographic images, including halftone, lithographic, and photographic prints documenting radio stations, shows, musicians, and musical groups performing early forms of country, western, and old time music in regions of Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania,

Tennessee, and West Virginia during the mid 1930s through the early 1950s. Highlights include autographed publicity photos and an early original photo of Bill Haley before his rock & roll days.

One contact sheet and respective negatives (fourteen (14) images) documenting Bland's interview with Wells and Wolfe, taken the day he donated the materials (June 1999).

Three (3) cassette tapes documenting Neil Bland's career in early country music, including Bland's own oral summary of his life in music and verbal descriptions of the photographs he donated, and two tapes of an interview conducted by Charles Wolfe and Center director Paul Wells. (Two audio reel tapes are preservation copies of this material.)

.1 linear feet of holographic or typed song lyrics (copyrighted and uncopyrighted); sheet music (unpublished); hymnbook excerpts; and tune list.

Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):

- 1 Miscellaneous, 1945-1958
- 2 Publicity and Candid Photo Prints, 1936-1948 (11 items)
- 3 Publicity Halftone and Lithograph Prints, 1934-1943 (19 items)
- 4 Publicity Halftone Prints, 1936-1948 (10 items)
- 5 Publicity Photo Prints, large 1 1936-1943 (18 items)
- 6 Publicity Photo Prints, large 2 1944-1954 (19 items)
- 7 Publicity Photo Postcards, 1939-1941 (4 items)
- 8 Publicity Real Photo Postcards, 1939-1947 (3 items)
- 9 Sacred Songs, Hymns, 1905-1965 (7 items)
- 10 Song Lists [no date] (9 items)
- 11 Song Lyrics, Handwritten and Hand-typed [no date] (43 items)

Materials Cataloged Separately:

Also donated by Neal Bland are 1058 pieces of sheet music and one song broadside; 34 magazines and serials; 103 songbooks, hymnbooks, and songsters; 2 performance programs; 1 Myrex trade catalog (all the above are searchable by accession number in the CPM InMagic database). 19 books, songbooks, and albums (searchable on university system). 4 vertical file items (WSM in oversize, WLW, WLS). A complete inventory of the serials can be found in the accession file. Also in the accession file is a list of deaccessioned duplicates.

Arrangement:

Unless otherwise noted, the arrangement scheme for the collection was imposed during processing in the absence of a usable original order

Location:

Photographs and manuscripts are filed by accession number in the manuscripts section. Audio tapes are filed by tape number with other archival audio visual materials. Contact sheet and negatives filed in the Iconographic Collection and can be searched through InMagic (MAN-PR-00002).

Revised by Rachel K. Morris, June 2011