



Mona Darlene Jones Collection (R1343)

Collection Number: R1343

Collection Title: Mona Darlene Jones Collection

Dates: 1969-2011

Creator: Jones, Mona Darlene

Abstract: This collection contains awards, plaques and certificates; playbills, fliers, programs, magazine and newspaper articles; photographs including pictures of featured performers, bands on stage, of the crowd, and of impromptu jam sessions; 17 photo albums; audio recordings on reel-to-reel, vinyl, and a 90 minute DVD, "Dixon Bluegrass Festival; Bluegrass Picking' Time: Through All These Years," 2012, by Mona Jones.

Collection Size: 3 cubic feet
(33 folders, 1 DVD, 14 audio tapes, 8 vinyl records)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research, but is stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center - Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Mona Darlene Jones Collection* (R1343); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Mona Darlene Jones on March 21, 2016 (Accession No. RA1624).

Separated Materials: Folders 34-35 are separated from the collection due to their size and are stored onsite at the Rolla Research Center's oversized storage. The audio media, a.t. 1-14 and a.d. 1-8 are also separated from the collection and stored onsite at the Rolla Research Center.

Other Finding Aid: An name index of the photo albums in folders 15-32 is available at the Rolla Research Center. Please contact staff for further information.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Mona Darlene Jones Collection can be found in the following collections:

Bluegrass Pickin' Time Program (R1211)
James L. Orchard Papers (R1351)
Christopher J. Lewandowski Papers (R1358)

Processed by: Processed by Carole Goggin, September 2016. Revised by Kathleen Seale November 30, 2017.

Historical Note:

Mona Darlene Jones was born on April 23, 1937, in Miller County, Missouri, to Edith Barton Barnhart and Orville Floyd Copeland. Her husband, William Leslie "Bill" Jones was born July 19, 1926, in Lawrence County, Missouri, to Milton and Lucille Jones, the eldest of 5 children. Prior to marriage the two had already started playing bluegrass music together and played at a number of local venues. After they married, the couple played in their own band, Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers.

The Jones' created the first venue in Southwest Missouri for bluegrass festivals in 1969 near their home in Dixon, Missouri. These events became well-established and well-attended. The first three-day celebration was Labor Day weekend 1969, and featured popular bluegrass bands, workshops, an old-time fiddlers contest, gospel singing, and informal jam sessions. The success of the fall event encouraged the Jones' to add a spring festival, the first of which was held May 1982. Bill Jones organized the events and played bass fiddle. Mona Jones and daughter, Carol Jones, played guitar. The band was rounded out by various mandolin and banjo players throughout their career.

Festivals began at the Fairview Community Center near Dixon, Pulaski County, Missouri, in 1969 and continued until 1980 when the venue was moved to a larger location on the Jones family farm. From 1981 to about 2001, the festival was moved to the Jones' farm and Memorial Day weekend with limited camping facilities for visitors, was added. After the death of their daughter, Donna "Carol" Jones-Pitts, (1951-2001) the venue was renamed Carol Jones-Pitts Memorial Bluegrass Park. Mona took time off after the death of Bill Jones in 2008, but has continued to play guitar and sing with various bluegrass players at smaller venues close to home as "Mona Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers."

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following series:

Awards
Certificates
Handbills and Fliers
Programs
Magazine Articles
Newspaper Articles

Photographs
Photograph Albums
Oversize
Audio Tapes
Vinyl records

Scope and Content Note:

Awards

This series contains materials awards received by Bill Jones, Mona Jones, and Bill Jones the Bluegrass Travelers for their bluegrass and gospel music.

Certificates

This series contains certificates presented to Bill and Carol Jones for their bluegrass music playing and vocals.

Handbills and Fliers

This series contains materials related to various festivals and venues that Mona Jones, Bill Jones, and Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers performed at during their careers.

Programs

This series consists of souvenir booklets from 4th through 12th Annual Dixon Bluegrass Festival and the Bluegrass Music Jamboree in Haysville, Kansas in 1972.

Magazine articles

This series contains magazine articles related to the Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers and the Bluegrass Pickin' Time festival in Dixon, Missouri. The magazines include *Bluegrass Central*, *Bluegrass Music News*, and various other publications.

Newspaper articles

This series consists of articles written about the Mona Jones and Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers in various local newspapers.

Photographs

The photograph series contains professional group shots of Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers. Also included are photographs of Bill and Mona Jones' family.

Photograph Albums

This series consists of photograph albums compiled by Mona Jones. The albums contain photographs from performances of Bill and Mona Jones and of them as a group in Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers. Also present are family photographs, promotional materials from events

the Jones' performed at, and various other bluegrass musicians. A name index for each album is available in each corresponding folder.

Oversize

This series consists of materials that are oversize and are stored separately from the rest of the collection. Folder 34 includes awards and recognition earned by Mona Jones individually and as a part of the Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers. Accolades include recognition of her and the bands contributions to bluegrass music by Senator Dan Brown; Governors Jay Nixon, John Ashcroft, and Christopher Bond; and the 83rd, 84th, and 95th General Assembly of the Missouri House of Representatives. Folder 35 includes more information on albums produced by Mona Jones and an aerial photograph of Jones' farm.

Audio Tapes

This series contains audio reels of recordings Bill and Mona Jones playing at various venues. The a.t. 1-10 are 7 1/2 IPS ¼ inch master track, a.t. 11-14 are 1 inch master track. A.t. 10-14 are studio recordings of Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers. Most of the recordings have a song list.

Vinyl Records

This series contains albums records by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers. A.d 1-5 are vinyl records recorded in the 1970s. Song titles and band information can be found on the album covers. a.d. 6-8 are 45s.

Container List:

f. 1-2	Awards
Box 1	f. 1 Music awards
	f. 2 Bill Jones
f. 3	Certificates, 1977-1998
f. 4	Handbills and fliers, 1969-2007
f. 5-7	Programs
	f. 5 Dixon Bluegrass Festival, 1972-1980
	f. 6 Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America – Festival guides, 1976-2009
	f. 7 Miscellaneous festivals, 1971, 1972, 1976, 1986
f. 8-10	Magazine Articles
	f. 8 <i>Bluegrass Central</i> , 1972-1974
	f. 9 <i>Bluegrass Music News</i> , 197-1981
	f. 10 Miscellaneous, 1976-2011
f. 11	Newspaper Articles, 1969-2008
f. 12-14	Photographs
	f. 12 Professional band photographs, no date
	f. 13 Family photographs, dates
	f. 14 Miscellaneous photographs, 1976, no date
f. 15-32	Photograph Album
	f. 15 Photograph album, 1969-1980
	f. 16 Photograph album – Memorial Day, 1984

- f. 17 Photograph album – Labor Day, 1984
- f. 18 Photograph album, 1971
- Box 2 f. 19 Photograph album, 1970-1985
- f. 20 Photograph album, 1985
- f. 21 Photograph album, 1988
- f. 22 Photograph album, 1995-1998
- f. 23 Photograph album, 1996
- f. 24 Photograph album, 1981, 1986, 2006
- f. 25 Photograph album, October 1986
- f. 26 Photograph album, 1995-2001
- f. 27 Photograph album, 1971, 1976-1978, 1998, no date
- f. 28 Photograph album, 1981, 1989, 1996-1998, 2006
- f. 29 Photograph album, 1984, 1989, 1990, 1998
- f. 30 Photograph album, 1987, 1998
- f. 31-32 Photograph album, 1976, 1981-2000, no date
- f. 33 DVD – Bluegrass Pickin’ Time: Through All These Years, 2012
- f. 34-35 Oversize
- Box 3 f. 34 Awards and recognition, 1985-2010
- f. 35 Miscellaneous, 1985-2010
- a.t. 1-14 Audio Tapes
- Box 4 a.t. 1 Fairview Pie Supper, no date
- a.t. 2 Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, circa 1974
- a.t. 3 Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, circa 1974-1975
- a.t. 4 Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers Friday evening show, 1974
- a.t. 5 At Eminence, Missouri, 1974
- a.t. 6 At Eminence, Missouri, 1974 dub
- a.t. 7 Rocky Top sung by Loretta Lynn
- a.t. 8 Gospel hymns, no date
- a.t. 9 “They’re Holding up the Ladder” by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers
- a.t. 10 “Tails Out” by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers
- a.t. 11 Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers Master Album #1, 1979
- a.t. 12 Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers Master Album #2-12, 1979
- a.t. 13 Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers
- a.t. 14 Bill and Mona Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, 1990
- a.d. 1-8 Vinyl Records
- a.d. 1 “Hymns We Love to Sing...Bluegrass Style” by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers,
- a.d. 2 “A Beautiful Life” by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers
- a.d. 3 “Get in Line Brother” by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, 1976
- a.d. 4 “They’re Holding up the Ladder” by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers
- a.d. 5 “Bluegrass Favorites” by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, 1977
- a.d. 6 “The Glory Road” and “Get in Line Brothers” by Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers, no date

- a.d. 7 Bill, Mona, and Carol Jones, Burl Copeland, Loretta Sherrer, no date
- a.d. 8 Bill & Oscar and the Bluegrass Trio featuring Shorty Miller, no date

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image	Mediums
Ashcroft, John (1942-)	1		
Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers	5-32	Yes	a.t. 1-14
Bill Jones and the Bluegrass Travelers	1-35		a.t. 1-14
Bluegrass festivals	4-33	Yes	
Bluegrass music	1-35		a.t. 1-14, a.d. 1-8
Bluegrass Pickin' Time (Dixon, Mo.)	5, 9	Yes	
Bond, Christopher "Kit" (1939-)	1, 34		
Dixon (Mo.)	5-33		
Jones, Donna Carol, 1951-2001	5-33		a.t. 1-14
Jones, Mona Darlene, 1937	1-35		a.t. 1-14, a.d. 1-8
Jones, William Leslie, 1926-2008	1-35		a.t. 1-14, a.d. 1-8
Lands Record Studio (Columbia, Mo.)			a.t. 9-14
Nixon, Jeremiah W. "Jay" (1956-)	1		
Orchard, James W.	4-11		
Pulaski County (Mo.)	4-33		
Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music Association	6, 11		