

Nashville Business Leaders Oral History Project, 2006-2009

Collection Summary

Creator: Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County

Title: Nashville Business Leaders Oral History Project

Inclusive Dates: 2006-2009

Summary/Abstract: The collection consists of audio interviews with Nashville business and civic leaders and local restaurateurs.

Physical Description/Extent: 26 sound discs : digital ; 4¾ in.

Series: Three series:

- I. The Turner Interviews
- II. Library Interviews
- III. Southern Foodways "Nashville Eats" Interviews

Linking Entry Complexity Note:

Language: In English

Stack Location: Closed stacks SCC oral histories

Closed stacks workroom : Transcripts and indexes located in filing cabinet.

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Chronology

Date	Event
June 2006	Nashville Business Leaders Oral History Project began at the Nashville Public Library
21 June 2006	James Stephen (Steve) Turner became the first person interviewed for the project.
17 July 2006	Southern Foodways "Nashville Eats" interviews conducted.
4 April 2007	Library Interviews series starts.
October 2007	The library's new Special Collections Center opened.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

The Nashville Business Leaders Oral History Project (NBL) began at the Nashville Public Library in June 2006 in conjunction with the planning for and opening of the library's new Special Collections Center. Made possible through the generosity of Charlie Martin and Judy and Steve Turner, the Special Collections Center highlights and provides access to the library's oral history collections and other non-book special collections material.

The Nashville Business Leaders Oral History Project was conceived of by Steve Turner, and his interview was the first conducted by the project. With input from Mr. Turner and

others, Cabot P. Pyle, Executive Director of the James Stephen Turner Family Foundation, selected individuals to interview. Pyle conducted the interviews as part of The Turner Interviews series.

With the desire to continue the themes developed through the interviews in series I and III, Library administration and staff selected individuals to interview as part of the Library Interviews series. The two interviews which compose series III "Nashville Eats" were conducted by John Egerton in partnership with Southern Foodways Alliance in 2006.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The collection consists of audio interviews with Nashville business and civic leaders and local restaurateurs. The interviews detail projects conducted by business and civic leaders that positively impacted the Nashville community and the stories of Southerners that eat, serve and consume food and drink locally. Some interviews include an index and/or transcript.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Organization: Three series:

- I. The Turner Interviews
- II. Library Interviews
- III. Southern Foodways Nashville Eats Interviews

Arrangement: Prefixed by the project identifier "NBL", recordings are arranged thereunder alphabetically by the last name of the interviewee. Transcripts and indexes, which do not use a project identifier prefix, are physically arranged first by series, thereunder alphabetically by the last name of the interviewee.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: Copyright deeded to Nashville Public Library at time of creation.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Andrews, Nelson, d. 2009
Cate, George H., b. 1929
Jones, Eddie (Edward F.), 1924-2009
Robinson, Margaret Ann
Simpkins, Irby C. b. ca. 1944
Townes, Hap (James B.), 1923-2012
Turner family
Turner, James Stephen
Wendell, Bud (E.W.), b. 1927

Corporate Names:

Center for Nonprofit Management (Nashville, Tenn.)

Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum (Nashville, Tenn.)
James Stephen Turner Family Foundation
Madison-Rivergate Area Chamber of Commerce (Tenn.)
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Life and Accident Insurance Company, Inc. (Nashville, Tenn.)
Southern Foodways Alliance
Vanderbilt University—Alumni and alumnae
WSM (Radio station: Nashville, Tenn.)

Uniform Title:

Grand ole opry (Radio program)

Subjects:

Associations, institutions, etc --Tennessee--Nashville
Banks and banking--Tennessee—Nashville
Boards of trade--Tennessee—Nashville
Business enterprises – Tennessee -- Madison
Business enterprises—Tennessee--Nashville
Businesspeople--Tennessee—Nashville
Businesswomen--Tennessee—Nashville
Capital--Tennessee—Nashville
Central business districts--Tennessee—Nashville
Chain stores – United States
Charities – Tennessee – Nashville
Cities and towns--Growth
City council members--Tennessee—Nashville
Civic leaders--Tennessee--Nashville
Common good – Economic aspects
Cooking, American – Southern style
Discount houses (Retail trade)
Economic development--Tennessee--Nashville
Education, Higher--Tennessee--Nashville
Entrepreneurship – Tennessee – Nashville
Family-owned business enterprises--Tennessee—Nashville
Food – Social aspects – Southern States
Food – Southern States
Food – Tennessee – Nashville
Food industry and trade – Tennessee – Nashville
Food service – Tennessee – Nashville
Immigrant business enterprises – Tennessee – Nashville
Industrial management -- United States – Case studies
Insurance companies--Tennessee—Nashville
Journalists--Tennessee--Nashville
Lawyers--Tennessee--Nashville
Leadership—Case studies
Management – United States – Case studies
Mentoring in business—United States – Case studies

Minority business enterprises--Tennessee--Nashville
Municipal officials and employees--Tennessee--Nashville
Music trade--Tennessee—Nashville
Nonprofit organizations--Tennessee--Nashville
Philanthropists--Tennessee—Nashville
Radio industry--Tennessee--Nashville
Radio stations--Tennessee--Nashville
Reporters and reporting--Tennessee--Nashville
Real estate agents--Tennessee--Nashville
Real estate business--Tennessee--Nashville
Restaurant management--Tennessee--Nashville
Restaurants--Tennessee—Nashville
Restaurateurs--Tennessee—Nashville
Schools--Tennessee—Nashville
Service industries--Tennessee--Nashville
Small business – Tennessee – Nashville
Stores, Retail – Tennessee – Nashville
Success in business – United States – Case studies
Urbanization--Tennessee--Nashville
Wealth--Tennessee--Nashville
Women-owned business enterprises--Tennessee--Nashville

Places:

Madison (Tenn.) – Commerce
Madison (Tenn.) – Economic conditions
Nashville (Tenn.)—Commerce
Nashville (Tenn.)--Economic conditions
Nashville (Tenn.)—History -- 20th century -- Sources
Nashville (Tenn.)—History – 21st century -- Sources
Nashville (Tenn.)--Officials and employees
Nashville (Tenn.)--Politics and government
Nashville (Tenn.)--Social life and customs
Nashville (Tenn.)--Societies, etc.
Tennessee --Economic conditions
Tennessee —History -- 20th century -- Sources
Tennessee --Politics and government

Genre/Document Types:

Interviews
Oral histories (document genres)
Transcripts

Occupations:

Businesspeople
City council members
Civic leaders

Journalists
Lawyers
Municipal officials and employees
Real estate agents
Restaurateurs

Added Author – Personal Names:

Egerton, John--Interviewer
Pyle, Cabot Pollard--Interviewer

Added Author – Corporate Names:

James Stephen Turner Family Foundation
Southern Foodways Alliance

Administrative Information

Additional Physical Form Available: The Nashville Business Leaders Oral History Project is the first of the library's oral history projects to be originally recorded entirely in a digital format. Interviews exist in both .wav and .mp3 file formats-- .wav format for the preservation masters and .mp3 format for copy masters and use copies. Patron use copies of the digital files are available on compact disc (CD).

Copyright: Copyright deeded to Nashville Public Library at time of creation.

Preferred Citation: [Individual interview], [Series number and title], Nashville Business Leaders Oral History Project, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Interviews recorded by Cabot Pyle, James Havron, John Egerton, and others, as noted in the inventory below. Interviews were recorded in digital format using a Marantz PMD671 solid state recorder. Interviews were recorded in .wav format at 48 khz and 16 bit and were converted to .mp3 files for access.

Processing Information: Interviews were processed by library staff and/or volunteers as they occurred. Preliminary inventory created by intern Chantel Clark, summer 2013; finding aid created by staff member Amber Williams, spring 2015.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Electronic Location and Access

Excerpts from selected interviews may be accessed via the Nashville Public Library's Digital Collections Portal .

Transcripts of the Southern Foodways Nashville Eats Interviews may be accessed via the Southern Foodways website: <http://www.southernfoodways.com>.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. The Turner Interviews, 2006-2009, 10 interviews

Series Abstract/Description: The Turner Interviews were envisioned by Special Collections Center donor and Dollar General founder Steve Turner, with support and input from Keel Hunt, president of The Strategy Group, and Cabot Pyle, Director of the James Stephen Turner Family Foundation, who also serves as the Turner Interviews series interviewer. Individuals selected for inclusion are business leaders that have leveraged their success in Nashville's business community into projects that served to better their community.

Person Interviewed	Interviewer	Date	Transcript?	Index?	Significance
Andrews, Nelson	Pyle, Cabot P.	08/25/2006	No	Yes	President of Andrews Properties. Chairman of Brookside Management Group. Former chair Tennessee State Board of Education
Cate, George H., Jr.	Pyle, Cabot P.	03/07/2007	Yes	Yes	Nashville Vice Mayor, 1963-1966. Leading authority on the process and politics which led to the formation of Metro.
Gordon, Joel	Pyle, Cabot P.	07/14/2009	No	No	Local leader in the health care industry.
Jones, Edward F. "Eddie"	Pyle, Cabot P.	11/03/2006	No	Yes	Executive Vice President, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce for 16 years, starting in 1967. Editor of <i>Nashville Banner</i> , 1987-1998.
Nicely, Gerald	Pyle, Cabot	11/05/2009	No	No	Cofounder of General Career Corporation and Surgical Care Affiliates.
Roberts, Kenneth L.	Pyle, Cabot P.	07/27/2006	No	Yes	Leadership positions with several banks, including Commerce Union, Central National Bank, and First American National Bank. President of the HCA Foundation and the Center for Nonprofit Management.
Simpkins, Irby C. Jr	Pyle, Cabot P.	03/27/2009	No	No	Owner and publisher of <i>Nashville Banner</i> newspaper, 1979 until its closure in 1998. Has served on numerous boards, and founder of the Bootstrap Award (later, Bootstrap Foundation).
Turner, James Stephen ("Steve")	Blackman, Andrea	06/21/2006	No	Yes	Son of Dollar General founder. Founder of Marketstreet Equities Co. First interview in the project.
Wendell, E.W. ("Bud")	Pyle, Cabot P.	06/22/2007	No	Yes	National Life salesman. Manager of Grand Ole Opry. President and CEO of Gaylord Entertainment. Inducted into Country Music Hall of Fame in 1998.
Wilson, David Kirkpatrick ("Pat")	Pyle, Cabot and Roberts, Kenneth L.	09/13/2006	No	Yes	Founder of Cherokee Insurance Co. and Cherokee Equity Corporation. Director on a number of boards. President of Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Died May 20, 2007.

Series II. Library Interviews, 2007-2009, 14 interviews

Series Abstract/Description: The Library Interviews series consists of interviews conducted by library staff and volunteers with Nashville business and civic leaders, and restaurateurs. Most interviewees were selected for inclusion based upon previous associations with the Library; through personal knowledge and networking by Library staff member, Jim Havron, who supervised the collection of this series of interviews; or upon recommendation by the Library Director, Special Collections Division Manager, or other community members.

Person Interviewed	Interviewer	Date	Transcript?	Index?	Significance
Arriola, John H., Jr.	Havron, James T.	06/05/2007	Yes	Yes	Vice President of Nashville Memorial Hospital. Executive Assistant to US Rep. Bob Clement. Elected to TN House of Rep. in 1990. Member, TN Commission on Aging. Davidson County Clerk. Son of founders and current owner of Norman Couser's Country Cooking and President of Country Restaurant, Inc.
Bloodworth, Kathy	Havron, James T.	08/21/2007	Yes	Yes	Owner of the Peanut Shop, a business in the Nashville Arcade.
Boyd, Clint Jr.	Havron, James T.	02/03/2009	No	No	President and co-owner of Higher Ground Training, Inc
Havron, Douglas B.	Havron, James T.	04/04/2007	Yes	Yes	Owner of Sam & Zoe's coffeeshop in Berry Hill.
Jones, Thomas C.	Havron, James T.	04/10/2007	No	Yes	Nashville realtor. Former General Shoe Corporation employee. Died April 11, 2008
Kim, Seong Sun ("George") and Kim, Soo	Patterson, Larry R.P.	09/21/2007	No	Yes	Owners of the Southern Café, a meat and three restaurant downtown. Natives of South Korea.
Massey, William Nathan	Havron, James T.	01/13/2009	Yes	No	Owner of Wm. Massey Electric in Madison, Tenn.
Mehlman, Joan and Mendelsohn, Eva	Havron, James T.	11/27/2007	No	No	
Myint, Patti and Myint, Win	Patterson, Larry R.P.	11/20/2007	No	Yes	Owners of International Market since 1975 and PM. Patti native of Thailand, Win native of Burma.
Nixon, Betty Chiles	Havron, James T.	06/19/2007	Yes	Yes	Daughter of John Chiles, who founded Cross Keys Restaurant. Former member of Metro Council, 2-time mayoral candidate, has served in several elected positions on state and city levels.
Odom, Douglas G. ("Doug"), Jr.	Havron, James T.	06/05/2007	No	Yes	Past Chairman of the Board and son of the founders of Odom's Tennessee Pride Sausage.
Pace, Deborah	Havron, James	12/17/2008	No	No	Executive Director of the Madison Rivergate Area Chamber of Commerce. Lifelong resident of Madison, Tenn. Her family associated with Odom's Tennessee Pride Country Sausage.
Robinson, Margaret Ann	James, Aimee B.	04/08/2008	No	Yes	Granddaughter of founder of National Life and Accident Insurance Co., daughter of founder of WSM and Grand Ole Opry; Library Board member and former chair; Nashville Scene's 2001 Nashvillian of the Year.
Walters, Mildred Townsend	Havron, James T.	03/18/2009	No	No	Executive Director of the Nashville Business Incubation Center since 2002

Series III. Southern Foodways "Nashville Eats" Interviews, 17 July 2006, 2 interviews

Series Abstract/Description: The Southern Foodways "Nashville Eats" Interviews were conducted at the Nashville Public Library on 17 July 2006 as a collaboration between the Southern Foodways Alliance and the library. The "Nashville Eats" Interviews are part of the Alliance's Oral History Initiative, which seeks to capture stories of Southerners who grow, create, serve, and consume food and drink. Interviewees were selected by the Alliance, and were two of the 2006 recipients of the Alliance's "Tabasco Guardians of the Tradition" award, given to those who "keep alive Southern foodways." The interviews were conducted at the Nashville Public Library by John Egerton, a founder of the Southern Foodways Alliance. Transcripts of the Southern Foodways Nashville Eats Interviews may be accessed via the Southern Foodways website:

<http://www.southernfoodways.com> .

Person Interviewed	Interviewer	Date	Transcript?	Index?	Significance
Swett, David, Jr.	Egerton, John	07/17/2006	Yes	No	Grandson of Swett's Restaurant founder.
Townes, James B. ("Hap")	Egerton, John	07/17/2006	Yes	No	Owner of Hap Townes' Restaurant.