

Union Station Oral History Project 1976-1977

Collection Summary

Creator: Junior League of Nashville

Title: Union Station Oral History Project

Inclusive Dates: 1976-1977

Summary/Abstract: Over 100 audio-recorded interviews of individuals recalling their experiences at Union Station as travelers, railroad or station employees, relatives of employees, or in other capacities. Recollections span the time frame from the construction and dedication of the station in the late 1890s to the time of the interviews in the mid-1970s. The interviews were used in 1977 in the writing of a book: *Speaking of Union Station*.

Physical Description/Extent: 112 interviews

Linking Entry Complexity Note:

Accession Number: Acc. RT-391

Language: English

Stack Location: Closed stacks SCC oral histories

Closed stacks workroom range 1 section 2 : documents and indexes (temporary location)

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

Chronology

- 1898 Ground breaking to build Union Station (Aug. 1)
- 1900 Union Station dedication (Oct. 9)
- 1952 Mercury statue atop the station plummets to the ground and is destroyed. (Mar. 22)
- 1969 Union Station placed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 1975 Union Station is closed; conditions violate Metro codes. Two news articles in the *Tennessean Magazine* by Louise Davis (Feb. 9 and Mar. 16) bring attention to the condition of Union Station and inspire efforts to save and restore the building.
- 1975 Union Station and train shed declared a National Historic Landmark.
- 1976-77 The Junior League of Nashville organizes an oral history project about Union Station. The project is led by Fletch Coke. Volunteers interviewed 112 individuals from travelers and local residents to railroad and station employees, reflecting a wide range of associations with the station.
- 1977 *Speaking of Union Station* book is released as a joint effort of Historic Nashville, Inc. and the Junior League with proceeds going to the Union Station Trust Fund. The book is based upon oral histories conducted over the previous two years by the Junior League.
- 1979 Last passenger train leaves Union Station.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Union Station opened on October 9, 1900 to serve as Nashville's main passenger and freight terminal for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad (L&N) and the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis (N.C. & St. L.). It served Nashville's transportation needs until the 1950s, when rail travel began to be superseded by the automobile and aviation, but portions of it remained in service as a passenger terminal until 1979. By the time passenger service ceased, the station had already fallen into grave disrepair, and was shut down for code violations in 1975. The building had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969, and received National Historic Landmark status in 1975, but this status was revoked in 2003 due to the demolition of the historic Train Shed in 2001. In 1986, intensive restoration and renovation work began, and on December 31, Union Station reopened as a hotel. In 1997 the Mercury statue was replaced on top of the building, after the original had plummeted to the ground in 1952.

The efforts of Historic Nashville, Inc. (HNI), beginning in 1975, were instrumental in the salvation and restoration of this important structure. As part of this effort, the Junior League undertook a major oral history project in 1976-1977, resulting in the publication of *Speaking of Union Station*. The book was based on the oral histories, and proceeds from its sale went to the Union Station Trust Fund.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

This collection includes 112 audio-recorded interviews done by Junior League of Nashville volunteers. Although the interviews were conducted in 1976 and 1977, the time period of the recollections are from the 1890s until the early-1970s. Each interview has an index and in a few cases, a transcript. A few written reminiscences are also included in the collection. About twenty newspaper abstracts created by Fletch Coke, spanning the period from 1898 to 1952, and probably created as a background resource for interviewers on important events at Union Station, are also included, filed at the back of the collection.

Interviews concern such varied topics as the construction and dedication of Union Station; the old railroad station in use prior to Union Station (located in the vicinity of Church Street and 10th Avenue); the physical and architectural details of Union Station, including the alligator pools and the Mercury statue, among other features; various details about travelling by rail; and the overall hustle and bustle of a busy urban railway station.

Other topics include troop trains, parades, and bond drives during World War I and World War II; baggage and luggage; dining facilities at the station and on railroad cars; Pullman cars and Pullman porters (also known as "Red Caps"); freight and mail operations; train wrecks, including the notorious 1918 disaster at Dutchman's Curve, the worst train accident in American history; dramatic weather events, especially the blizzard of 1951; circus trains; holidays, especially Christmas; vacations and trips to locations elsewhere in Tennessee as well as New York, Florida, and elsewhere; weddings and

honeymoons; university students arriving in Nashville via train; operations of canteens, Red Cross and USO activities during wartime; famous visitors or travelers, such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), Teddy Roosevelt, Mae West, Speaker of the House Joseph P. Byrns's funeral, and Al Capone. A few interviewees are relatives of Maj. Eugene C. Lewis, the building's designer or Major John Thomas, president of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad. Both men had also been the ranking officials of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897.

Employees and their roles range from individuals who worked in the station selling tickets, handling baggage or mail, telegraph operators, or other activities, to those who "rode the rails" as engineers, firemen, porters, conductors, brakemen, and others; and individuals who worked in the shops and yards, such as laborers, dispatchers, roundhouse workers and so forth. Also mentioned occasionally is the New Shops (in West Nashville) as well as Radnor Yards.

Union Station served the Nashville Chattanooga and St. Louis (NC & St. L) line, as well as the Louisville and Nashville (L&N), so interviews often discuss a particular railroad line for which an individual worked. Specific individuals may briefly mention labor unions and strikes, although these are not prominent topics in this collection. Likewise, segregation in facilities and jobs is mentioned in a few interviews, but is not a prominent topic in the overall collection. A few specific passenger trains are occasionally mentioned, especially the "Dixie Flyer" and the "Pan American".

Some interviews mention briefly: the Tennessee Centennial Exposition; presidential visits; Ward Seminary and the women who participated in the station's dedication ceremonies; Vanderbilt University; railroad employee picnics; deaths and injuries; German prisoners-of-war during World War II; the Great Depression; the 1918 influenza epidemic; and the Old Hickory Powder Plant.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Organization: Housed by format.

Arrangement: Digital files and CDs are identified by the project abbreviation: "HNIOHP" which serves as a prefix. Arranged 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: No restrictions have been identified.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Byrns, Joseph Wellington, 1869-1936

Capone, Al, 1899-1947 -- Anecdotes

Carell, Monroe J., 1902-1990 -- Biography

Geddes, James, 1828-1914

Lewis, Eugene Castner, 1845-1917

McKinley, William, 1843-1901 -- Anecdotes
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945 -- Anecdotes
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919 -- Anecdotes
Russell, Fred, 1906-2003 -- Biography
Stahlman, James Geddes, 1893-1976 -- Biography
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930 -- Anecdotes
Thomas, John W., 1830-1906
West, Mae -- Anecdotes

Corporate Names/Organizations:

American Red Cross. Nashville Area Chapter.
E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company (Old Hickory, Tenn.)
Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company
Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway
Nashville Terminal Company
Union Station (Nashville, Tenn.)
United Service Organizations (U.S.)
Ward Seminary (Nashville, Tenn.)
Western Union Telegraph Company

Conference Names:

Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition (1897 : Nashville, Tenn.)

Subjects:

African American railroad employees -- Tennessee
African Americans – Travel
Alligators – Tennessee – Nashville – Anecdotes
Blizzards – Tennessee – Nashville
Buildings – Tennessee – Nashville
Business enterprises – Tennessee – Nashville
Capitalists and financiers – Tennessee -- Nashville
Celebrities – United States -- Anecdotes
Central business districts — Tennessee -- Nashville
Circus trains – Tennessee -- Nashville
College students – Travel
Dining cars – United States
Dixie Flyer (Train)
Executives – Biography
Food habits – United States – Anecdotes
Holidays -- Anecdotes
Honeymoons – United States -- Anecdotes
Influenza Epidemic, 1918-1919 – Tennessee
Locomotive engineers – Tennessee
Locomotives – United States
Mercury (Roman deity) – Statues
Military parades – Tennessee -- Nashville

Pan American (Train)
 Pullman porters – United States -- Biography
 Race discrimination – Tennessee
 Railroad accidents -- Tennessee
 Railroad engineers – Tennessee -- Biography
 Railroad passenger cars – United States
 Railroad repair shops – Tennessee -- Nashville
 Railroad stations – Design and construction
 Railroad stations – Tennessee – Nashville
 Railroad travel -- Tennessee
 Railroad yards – Tennessee -- Nashville
 Railroads -- Baggage handling
 Railroads – Buildings and structures – Design and construction
 Railroads – Buildings and structures – Tennessee
 Railroads – Employees – Oral histories
 Railroads - Freight
 Railroads – Tennessee
 Railroads – United States – Passenger traffic
 Railway mail service – Tennessee -- Nashville
 Romanesque revival (Architecture) – Tennessee -- Nashville
 Segregation – Tennessee – Nashville
 Segregation in transportation – Tennessee
 Sleeping cars (Railroads) – United States
 Soldiers – United States – Services for
 Telegraphers – United States – Oral histories
 Transportation – United States – History – 20th century
 Transportation, Military – United States
 Travelers – Southern States
 Travelers – Tennessee – Nashville
 Travellers' aid societies -- Tennessee
 Visits of state—Tennessee—Nashville
 Volunteers – Tennessee -- Nashville
 Weddings – Tennessee -- Nashville
 Women -- Social life and customs – Tennessee -- Nashville
 Women -- United States -- History -- 20th century – Sources
 Women employees – Tennessee -- Nashville
 World War, 1914-1918 – Tennessee – Nashville
 World War, 1939-1945 – Tennessee – Nashville

Places:

Nashville (Tenn.) – Biography
 Nashville (Tenn.) – Blizzard, 1951
 Nashville (Tenn.) - Buildings, structures, etc.
 Nashville (Tenn.) - Commerce
 Nashville (Tenn.) – Description and travel
 Nashville (Tenn.) - Economic conditions-20th century

Nashville (Tenn.) - History-20th century
Nashville (Tenn.) – Race relations
Nashville (Tenn.) - Social conditions-20th century
Old Hickory (Tenn.) – History – 20th century
Southern States – Description and travel
Tennessee – Description and travel
Tennessee – History -- 20th century -- Sources

Genre/Document Types:

Interviews
Memoirs
Oral histories (literary works)

Occupations:

Brakemen
Businessmen
Civil Engineers
Conductors
Engineers
Pullman porters
Stationmasters
Train dispatchers
Trainmasters

Added Author (Personal Name):

Carell, Monroe J., 1902-1990
Coke, Fletch
Russell, Fred, 1906-2003
Stahlman, James Geddes, 1893-1976

Added Author (Corporate Heading):

Historic Nashville, Inc.

Associated and Related Material:

A brief account of the alligator pools at Union Station in the early twentieth Century can be found in the manuscript collection: “Some Tidbits of Nashville History,” by Paul H. Beasley, held by the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library.

Historic Nashville, Inc. Records on Union Station document HNT's efforts to preserve and restore the historic station, and are held by the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library.

Separated Material

Administrative Information

Additional Physical Form Available: Original audiocassette recordings have been retired from public use and are restricted to staff use only. Public use copies are in the form of .mp3 files are on compact discs.

Location of Originals/Duplicates:

Copyright: Interviewees who signed release forms waived publication rights, however, no explicit provision was made regarding copyright or intellectual property rights. A number of interviewees have no release forms on file. Therefore, portions of this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Preferred Citation: [Name of interviewee], Union Station Oral History Project, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated by the Junior League of Nashville, Inc., to the Nashville Public Library, Special Collections Division, in July 1977.

Ownership and Custodial History: Materials in possession of the Junior League of Nashville Inc. until donated to the library in 1977.

Processing Information: Original analog audiocassette recordings cataloged in 1997 and assigned Dewey Decimal call number: 976.855 U582. Audiocassettes were sent to an outside vendor, Safe Sound Archive, in 2007 to be converted to .mp3 digital files, overseen by NPL staff member Jim Havron. Funding was provided by the Nashville Public Library Foundation. Detailed administrative inventory and initial draft of finding aid completed by volunteer Rose Mary Reed, 2018. Finding aid completed and new catalog record, treating the entire collection as a whole, unique archival collection, and eliminating use of Dewey call number, performed by staff member Linda Barnickel, May 2019.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Other Finding Aids:

Electronic Location and Access

References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic:

Cooney, Deborah, ed. *Speaking of Union Station: An Oral History* (Nashville: Williams Printing Co., 1977)

Sherman, Joe. *Nashville's Union Station* (Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1987).

Sherman, Joe. *A Thousand Voices: The Story of Nashville's Union Station* (Nashville: Rutledge Hill Press, 1987).

Detailed Description of the Collection:

Arrangement: Recordings use the prefix UNSTAT for the project identifier. Filed thereunder alphabetically by the last name of the interviewee. Cross references have been provided in the table below when multiple interviewees participated in a single interview. Individuals who did not participate in an interview, but submitted written reminiscences, are also included in the table below. All documents are filed alphabetically by last name of participant.

Person Interviewed	Date of Interview	Release?	Role	Time Period	Notes
Adams, Alfred	5/5/1976	N	passenger	ca 1890 - ca 1918	Station and saloon district. Train trip to Beersheba Springs. WWI. Story about hobbing on the train.
Anonymous	n.d.	N/A	unidentified, possibly employee	1917-1918	<i>Written recollection only.</i> Compilation of information regarding train accidents 1917-1918; engineer James Fleming; description of sleeping cars and method of passengers signalling engineer to stop. List of daily departures of NC&St.L. trains.
Armistead, Dorothy Rutledge Mayo	3/11/1977	N	passenger	ca 1905 – ca 1920	Alligator pools at the station. Traveling on the train. Partial transcript.
Avery, Catherine Berry (Mrs. Roy Avery)	1/29/1976	Y	passenger	1915 – ca 1930	1915 Nashville-San Francisco train trip. Belmont neighborhood. WWII, soldiers on leave at Downtown Presbyterian Church. Alligator pools.
Baltz, William F.	4/29/1976	N/A	passenger	1942	<i>Written reminiscence only.</i> Fell asleep waiting for train.
Barnes, Melville, Mrs.	5/11/1976	N	passenger	ca 1920 – ca 1940	Train trips as a child. Station during holidays. Dining cars. Personal trips to N. C. Special football trains.
Beasley, Paul	1/25/1976; 4/21/1976	Y	Passenger and visitor	1907 – ca 1930	Teddy Roosevelt, F.D.R. at station. T. R. speech at Ryman. Byrns funeral. Area around station. Nashville to Pulaski trip. Dixie Flyer. Pan American. Alligator pools. Clock tower. Types of trains. Mercury statue.
Berry, Sarah H.	5/14/1976	Y	passenger	1897-ca 1930	Centennial. President McKinley. WWI. Ward Seminary. Train trips.
Bervoets, Louis	3/3/1976	Y	employee	1917-1967	Worked in Union Station disbursements and accounting. Armistice Day. Powder Plant in Old Hickory. Flu deaths. Dining car operations. WWII. Union Station restaurants. Radnor Yards. Radnor Lake.
Blake, Mary Sperry (Mrs. J. Vaughn Blake)	4/20/1976	Y	passenger	1907 – ca 1920	Opening of Union Station. Effect of Station on neighborhood. Fatherland St.. Colemere. Florence Crittendon Home. Summers in Ridgeway, TN. Winters Florida.
Brearley, Margaret (Mrs. H. C.)	2/20/1976	N	passenger	ca 1930 – ca 1940	Air filled with soot. Ward-Belmont girls coming into Union Station. WWII soldiers'. USO at station. Supplemented by poem relating to WWII & Mercury statue.
Brown, Neill S.	2/2/1976	Y	Passenger and relative of employee	ca 1920 – ca 1940	Maj. Lewis was his grandfather. Train trip details. Interior building details. WWII. Building cooling system.
Buntin, Jane Berry (Mrs. Charles Buntin)	3/3/1976	Y	passenger	ca 1900 – ca 1930	Train ride to Nashville. Dining car. Club car. Sleeping car. Porters. Staterooms. Train in winter and summer. Wrecks. Centennial Exposition.
Burton, Corinne Ware (Mrs. William F. Burton, Sr.)	5/11/1976	Y	employee	ca 1940	Worked at station with USO to help soldiers and visitors. Activities at station WWII. Supplemented by written memoir, filed with indexes.

Person Interviewed	Date of Interview	Release?	Role	Time Period	Notes
Byrns, Cornelia Park	5/11/1976	Y	passenger	ca 1917 – ca 1940	Funeral for Speaker Byrns. WWII. Train trips to AL. Baggage station. Christmas at the station.
Caldwell, Mary French	4/27/1976	N	passenger	1902 – ca 1940	Historian/reporter. Suffrage fight in 1920. Al Smith campaign train. William Strickland. Major Lewis. WWII. Troop trains. Supplemented by written memoir, filed with indexes.
Carell, Monroe, Sr.	3/3/1976	N	employee	1900 – ca 1930	Worked NC & St. L. Union Station heyday. Station Dedication. Steam trains. Dining cars. Short trips. Food. WWI.
Carson, Joseph Edward	4/5/1977	Y	employee	ca 1900 – ca 1940	Worked for the railroad.
Cauvin, Saidee J.	5/3/1976	Y	passenger	ca 1900	Chosen one of the Ward Seminary girls to take part in the opening ceremonies for Union Station.
Civils, Earl G., Jr.	3/19/1976	Y	employee	ca 1920 – ca 1940	With L & N for 50 years as a trainmaster. Activities at station. WWII at station. Pan American. Dixie Flyer. Union Station Neighborhood. Shooting at station. Robbery at station.
Cook, Evelyn B.	5/16/1976	Y	volunteer	ca 1940s	Worked as a Red Cross volunteer at Union Station during World War II
Crabb, Alfred Leland	5/11/1976	Y	passenger	1907-ca1940s	First trip 1907. Dixie Flyer. Union Station bustle. Going to the station to watch trains come in.
Creighton, Wilbur F., Jr.	5/26/1976	Y	passenger	ca1890s-ca1930s	His grandfather involved in building Union Station. Tells about the design of the building. Trips to Florida, Smyrna. The station dining room was the only place open all night. Parades during WWI.
Creswell, Pearl (Mrs. I. T. Creswell)	4/7/1976	Y	passenger	ca 1930s-1950s	Member of Fisk Choir that sang for Pres. Roosevelt and the First Lady. Segregation on trains and at the station.
Cunningham, Carl E.	2/25/1976	Y	passenger	ca1930s	Childhood memories of station. His grandfather was connected with the station. Story of Mercury statue.
Dewitt, John H.	5/18/1976	Y	passenger	ca1920-ca1940	Took trip to Washington, D.C. at age 14. WSM FM station used the L&N telegraph wires. Pan American whistle was broadcasted by WSM. WWII Union Station activity. Famous people coming in through Union Station.
Doak, Sam G. & Alice	3/14/1976	Y	Employee and passenger	1917-ca1940s	Mr. Doak was civil engineer for L&N. Mrs Doak took train rides. Design of Union Station dining room. Pan American and Dixie Flyer. Union Station during WWII. Worked at Powder Plant during WWI.
Dobson, Sophia	12/1977	Y			
Douglas, Mary Stahlman	3/30/1976	Y	passenger	ca1917	Train rides to Pegram, Bowling Green. Picnic on the train. Sleeping on the train. Soldiers coming home (WWI). Being put off the train. White Bluff trips for railroad officers only.
Drumright, T. J.	2/20/1976	Y	employee	1913-1964	Working for railroad 51 years as a job dispatcher. Started at age 18 in 1913. Remembers work on the foundation in 1900 when he was 6. Union Station during WWI, at Christmas. Horses and hacks at station. F.D.R. at station, Pigeon shoot at Christmas. Heavy traffic: 14-15 trains daily.
Dye, Lucy F.	2/7/1976	Y	Passenger and daughter of employee	ca1930-1940	Father was Conductor for over 50 years. Life as daughter of railroad man. Food on the train. Dining on the train and in the station. Alligator pool stories. Menus from train.

Person Interviewed	Date of Interview	Release?	Role	Time Period	Notes
Evers, Bernard, Sr.	5/12/1976	Y	passenger	1917-1920	WWI training. Troops coming into Union Station. Parades during war. He was part of the Tennessee Volunteer regiment. Describes parades at the end of WWI
Evins, Anna Ruth	5/5/1976	Y	Passenger and relative of employee	1930-ca1940	Her father was a conductor. WWII troop trains. Students coming into school in the fall. Wedding parties. Traveling with her grandparents to Virginia. Her father was conductor on F.D.R.'s train from Washington to Warm Springs, GA.
Ewing, Andrew	5/5/1976	Y	passenger	1907-ca1920	Area around Union Station. Alligator pools. Teddy Roosevelt-1907. Dining room at station, sleeping cars, train caller, different jobs at Union Station
Folk, Pauline Brown	2/23/1976	Y	Passenger and relative of employee	ca1900-ca1920	Her grandfather was Major E. C. Lewis. Major Lewis's home in Nashville. Trip to Florida with family. Transcript.
Frank, Fedora Small (Mrs. Isadore Frank)	4/27/1976	Y	passenger	ca1940	Trips on the Pan American. Honeymoon...leaving the station. Union Station during WWII.
Frazer, Lewis	5/14/1976	Y	Passenger and relative of employee	ca1920-ca1940	Grandson of Major E.C. Lewis. Details of the design and construction of Union Station. Lytle Brown and Panama Canal. Trips to Florida with his grandfather and other grandchildren.
Fulghum, Jimmie	4/9/1976	N	employee & passenger	ca1940	She, her father, and grandfather all worked for the railroad. Grandfather was a brakeman; she worked in the ticket office. Sadness of wartime. A humorous story. Train schedule and description. Station during wartime.
Gentry, Charles Cecil	5/24/1976	Y	employee	1943-1951	The work of a Pullman porter. Details of responsibilities during a trip. Trips: Nashville to Memphis, Nashville to New Orleans to New York, Memphis to California. Soldiers and travel during WWII.
Gibson, Zan	5/24/1976	Y	employee	1943-ca1970	Worked as a baggage man at Union Station. Worked for L & N for 30 years. Details of freight handling, station and trains during WWII. Many details of day-to-day work.
Gossett, Betty	4/15/1976	N	passenger	?	Grandfather and father worked for the railroad. Memories of station interior, alligator pools, train wrecks. The boarding house where crews would live during the week.
Graham, Hazel Carter	4/29/1976	Y	employee	1917-ca1940	Worked for Western Union. Daily work in the station, ladies waiting room, lunch counter, cost of telegrams, Mrs. Roosevelt's visit, WWI activity, Armistice Day, parades, Sundays at the station.
Gwin, W. H.	3/8/1976	Y	employee	1906-1957	Worked at Union Station freight yard. Details of how freight was handled, trains during WWI and WWII, the stations during the blizzard of 1951. Early traffic outside Union Station: horses, mules, wagons, carriages.
Hailey, Marguerite Langston	5/16/1976	Y	passenger	ca1917-ca1940	Seeing Al Capone on the train at Union Station, the dining room at the station, troop parades down Broadway during WWII, the ladies waiting room, the main waiting room, taxicab service at the station.
Harwell, Coleman A.	5/4/1976	Y	passenger	ca1920-ca1950	Train trips to Ridgetop, Hopkinsville, KY, and New Orleans. The lobby, train callers, food. Memories of seeing people coming and going at the station.

Person Interviewed	Date of Interview	Release?	Role	Time Period	Notes
Hawkins, Minerva	3/3/1976	Y	passenger	ca1920-ca1940	African-American experience on train. Rode train to college (Fisk). Trips with her grandmother. Her husband was Fisk coach: rode trips with team, not allowed in the dining car, details of WWII soldiers on train.
Henry, Douglas, Sen.	4/5/1976	N	passenger	1920s-1940s	History of train travel in Nashville, development of transportation, work trains and pay trains, train trips: New Orleans, Birmingham, Atlantic City.
Hester, Thomas	5/7/1976	Y	passenger and employee	ca1930-ca1950	Circus unloading trains of animals and tents. Worked for Tennessee Central as secretary to the president, Mr. Stanley. Trips to New York City, Chattanooga, Louisville. Blizzard of 1951,
Hodge, Ed	4/28/1976	N	employee	ca1940-ca1950	Was fireman with the railroad. Troop trains during WWII. Prisoners of war during WWII. The transition from steam trains to diesel trains. 1942 wreck.
Houston, John	4/27/1976	Y	employee	1913-1953	Worked as upholsterer for train cars. Explains the different materials used in various cars. Trips to California. Returning soldiers from WWI in 1919. Working during the Depression.
Jacobs, Elizabeth L.	3/15/1976	Y	employee	ca1940	Worked for Travelers Aid at the station. Anecdotes of helping people coming to Nashville. Soldiers on leave in Nashville during WWII.
Johnson, Mae B.	4/23/1976	Y	passenger and employee	ca1900-ca1930	Her father worked at the Round House repairing equipment. Her brothers worked as porters. Her father worked the wreck at Dutchman's gap. Picnic for workers and their families.
Johnstone, Alethea Ward and Ted Johnstone	5/10/1976	N/A	employee	1917	<i>Written reminiscence only.</i> Telegraph operator at Western Union; husband electrician with L&N; they met and married working at Union Station.
Jones, Ernest, Sr.	3/8/1976	N	employee	ca1920-ca1940	Worked as a trainmaster Stories about engineers, the circus, President Taft's visit. Anecdotes about engineers, building trains, special trains.
Kennon, Elizabeth Thompson (Mrs. William Kennon)	4/28/1976	Y	passenger	ca1910-ca1930	Train trip from her home to school in Nashville, Ward Seminary. The Franklin Interurban. Riding horse and buggy to Nashville to buy groceries. Train wrecks, first automobiles in Nashville.
Latta, W. M.	4/19/1977	Y	employee	ca1919-1972	Worked as a time inspector for all the railroads in the area. Saw Alvin York at the station in 1919. Duties of a General Time Inspector. What Union Station was like when he left in 1972.
Leake, Mary	4/17/1976	Y	employee	ca1944-ca1950	Worked as a ticket agent for chartered trips. Loss of business when trains no longer carried the mail. The General from Chattanooga. The Pan American whistle.
LeSueur, James, Mrs.	5/3/1976	Y	passenger	ca1890-ca1950	State Centennial. Trips to Jamestown Exposition, Columbia, New York City. Dining Room at the station. Elevator girls at the station. Waiting at the iron railing for someone to arrive. Work: managed the children's dept. at Cain-Sloan.

Person Interviewed	Date of Interview	Release?	Role	Time Period	Notes
Lindsey, Martha	4/20/1976	Y	passenger	ca1900-ca1940	Her father was president of the Chamber of Commerce and Tennessee National Bank. He greeted FDR in 1934. Growing up in Nashville, attended Ward's Seminary. First cars in Nashville. Clothing on the train. Going to college during WWI. Worked for Banner during WWII. Supplemented by written memoir, filed with indexes.
Little, Evalien Campbell (Mrs. Louis Little)	5/10/1976	Y	employee	ca1914-ca1950	Her father, John Clifton Campbell, worked for the railroads fifty years beginning in 1914. Her father painted Mercury. Railroad passes and trips to California, New York City. Blizzard of 1951. War parades. Railroad annual picnic for employees and families.
Looney, Woodrow M.	5/6/1976	Y	employee	ca1930-ca1970	His father worked for railroad. His uncle was killed while working for the railroad. He worked for railroad for 35 years beginning as a clerk up to train master on the Chattanooga division. Train trips as a boy. Dining room at the station, Red Caps, train caller. Visits by V.P. Wallace, FDR, Huey Long. Al Capone on train on his way to prison in Atlanta. Union Station during WWII.
Lusky, Frances Blum	2/24/1976	Y	passenger	ca1900-1950	The building of Union Station. Building of the viaduct. Statue of Mercury going up. Train trips to Columbia, Paducah, Chicago, her grandson's birthday party train. Worked for USO and Red Cross at Union Station. Had three sons in WWII.
Mallison, Mary Tom	2/16/1976	Y	passenger	1910-ca1940	Trips to Seattle Exposition, Mexico City in private railroad car. Cousin was John W. Thomas, President of ND & St. L railroad. Visiting the Hermitage and playing with Andrew Jackson Baker. USO during WWII.
Mashburn, Morris W.	2/18/1976	Y	employee	1916-1962	Worked for NC & L in 1916. Went to school at Hume Fogg and Vanderbilt. "Ladies Special" train. Rapid growth of freight during WWI. Train to Old Hickory Powder Plant. Busy station during WWI and II.
May, Dan	5/7/1976	Y	passenger	ca1940	Union Station during WWII. The station interior, Dixie Flyer and other trains to resort areas in Florida. Mercury. Cleaning station inside and out. Dining room, meeting trains Alligators. Train service from Nashville to New York City.
McCanless, James G.	3/7/1976	Y	employee	ca1919-ca1950	Worked 52 years for the L & N finally as communications supervisor. Epidemic during WWI. Train Wreck at Bosley Springs Road, 1919. Station clocks. Alligator pools. Broadcast of the Pan American whistle. Dining room. FDR visit. Circus trains. German POW's and Soviet sailors during WWII.
McGlothlein, Lillian	4/5/1976	Y	passenger	ca1919-ca1950	Train from Antioch to Union Station.
McKissack, Robert	3/2/1976	Y	employee	1911-1960	Worked as baggage handler, Chief Station Baggage Agent. Station during WWII. Flu epidemic during WWI. President FDR. Summer resort travelers. Holiday baggage and salesmen baggage. Animals as baggage. How trains were cooled before air conditioning. Busy times when students were coming or going.

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McLester, Frances C.	2/20/1976	Y	passenger	ca1900-ca1940	Story about Mercury. Taking part in the opening celebration of Union Station-1900. Collected money at Union Station for the Children of France during WWI. Sold war bonds during WWII.
McNish, Ruth Deal	4/5/1976	Y	passenger	ca1919-ca1940	Boy sold souvenirs on the train. Dining car dinners. Troops returning from WWI. Wreck at Dutchman's Grade.
Moody, W. A., Mrs.	3/16/1976	N	passenger		On one occasion, Mrs. Moody did a radio bit for Union Station.
Moore, Lera Bush	4/5/1976	Y	passenger	ca1900-ca1940	Taking the train to the old station before Union Station. Saw FDR in 1934. Took the train to Winchester the day after the station opened; "the smoke would choke us all."
Myers, John Baxter	5/2/1976	Y	employee	1917-1967	Worked 49 years for railroad in transportation dept. Wreck at Dutchman's Grade. Described the trains needed for the Powder Plant. Strikes at railroad. Circus coming to town. Different kinds of cars on passenger trains. Steam and diesel engines.
Nelms, V. T.	4/29/1976	Y	employee	1944-ca1969	Worked as baggage clerk. Fifteen to twenty cars with corpses of soldiers-WWII. FDR visits-one in secret. POWs on their way to Tullahoma. Soldiers being seen off at station. Odd baggage: 300 lb. turtle. Death of a man in the coupling. Mercury statue falling.
Nielsen, La Una Gay Parkes	5/12/1976	Y	passenger	ca1910-ca1950	Descriptions of drawing room and Pullman cars. Train rides for Christmas. Dining room at Union Station. Segregated parts of Union Station. Railroad hotels. French soldiers coming in at Union Station. Lunches at the station. Box lunches on the train. Circus coming to town.
Noel, Jeannette Acklen	2/12/1976	Y	employee	ca1940	Worked at the canteen at the station. During WWII, Troops headed to North Africa came through Union Station. 25,000 released from war games came to the station. Mrs. Noel helped feed them. Centennial Park Refuge Center.
Norman, Dorothy Adcock (Mrs. Alvin Norman)	5/13/1976	Y	Passenger and relative of employee	ca1890-ca1940	Father was a brakeman for the railroad. Bon Aqua resort visitors. Train ride to Nashville from Dickson. War bond rally in Colesburg. Husband returning from WWII.
O'Brien, Edwin E.	2/13/1976	Y	employee	ca1940	Worked as L&N Inspector and Special Services. Safety of passengers his concern. Early police work at the station. Train robbers. Prison cars coming through Union Station. Drunken people on trains. Remembers only one robbery at Union Station. Detector equipment in his office.
Petty, Thelma Jean	5/12/1976	Y	Passenger and relative of employee	ca1800-ca1940	Grandfather was an engineer for L&N. Worked for the railroad for 51 years beginning when he was 15. Trips to Chicago, St. Louis. Dining cars.
Pinkleton, W. W.	5/6/1976	Y	employee	ca1930-ca1950	Started as a Western Union messenger at Union Station. Became a yard engineer. Unloading circus trains. FDR's visit in 1933. Saw Al Capone. German POW train during WWII.
Proctor, Jennella	4/5/1976	Y	passenger	ca1920-ca1930	Taking the train from Union Station to Centennial Park near the new shops. Saw FDR at the parade in 1934.

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Pullen, Wallace	6/1/1976	Y	employee	1904-1952	Worked as mail handler for 49 years. Explained how the mail was handled. Postal cars on the train. Separating mail by states and put on the correct trains. Got railroad passes for travel.
Russell, Fred	5/7/1976	N	passenger	ca1915-ca1950	Taking the train from Wartrace, TN. Accommodation trains for students coming to Duncan School. As a sports reporter, trips to the Rose Bowl with teams and coaches. Gags played on trains. Soldiers during WWI. Flu epidemic in Wartrace. Train callers. Dixie Flyer.
Sawyer, Olivia Carson	4/5/1977	Y	employee	ca1940	Mrs. Sawyer was interviewed with her father, Joseph Edward Carson. Both worked for the railroad.
Shadoin, Anita Lewis Frazer (Mrs. Robert Shadoin)	4/28/1976	Y	Passenger and relative of employee	ca1890-ca1940	Grandfather was Major Lewis. Stories told by her mother, Anita Lewis, about the family living in town while the Centennial Exposition was being built. Mrs. Shadoin worked at the Union Station canteen during WWII.
Shaffer, E. K., Jr.	4/22/1976	Y	employee	ca1930-ca1950	Family worked for the railroad. Worked at Radnor Yard. Riding streetcars. Servicing locomotives. The Depression. Personal train trips. President Roosevelt. Circus trains.
Sims, Cecil, Mrs.	5/10/1976	Y	passenger	1915-ca1950	Took train from Obion, TN to attend Vanderbilt 1915. Trips on trains by her family members. Her husband, Cecil Sims worked in the legal dept. of L&N as an investigator of wrecks. They took grandchildren on train trips. Met Cordell Hull. Details of Vanderbilt students going to WWI and returning. Worked at Canteen at the station during WWII.
Sinclair, Lacy, P.	4/25/1976	Y	employee	1917-ca1940	Worked for railroad 1917. Descriptions: Ladies Waiting Room, Dining Room, the neighborhood around Union Station. Train callers, circus trains. Red Cross volunteers at Union Station during WWII
Sloan, Chloe Cook (Mrs. Marvin M. Sloan)	n.d.	N/A	volunteer	ca. 1941-1945 [?]	<i>Written reminiscence only.</i> Provides several specific anecdotes, with details. Volunteer at Red Cross canteen "during the war" (presumably World War II though never stated). Greeting soldiers, serving food, troop trains, hospital trains full of wounded, German POWs.
Sloan, Margaret Howe (Mrs. John Sloan)	6/1/1976	N	passenger	ca1897-ca1940	Information is read onto the recording from materials in Mrs. Sloan's possession. John Thomas connection with the railroads mid to late 1800. He managed the NC & SL. FDR message to railroad workers about the increased demands in wartime.
Smith, E. Gray	4/28/1976	Y	passenger	ca1930-ca1940	Eating on the train, alligator pools, riding the train to Detroit, honeymooners leaving on the train, train wrecks, children going to camp by train, train trip to Ashville. Visit by FDR.
Smith, Larkin	3/17/1976	Y	employee	ca1940-ca1950	Worked as a mail handler. Played on the Union Station baseball and football teams. Train callers, special trains, Christmas, Red Cross volunteers, train names, sleeping in the baggage car, free passes, animals thru the mail, segregation, man getting killed at the station.

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Stahlman, James G.	3/10/1976	Y	passenger	ca1890-ca1920	Grandson of Major James Geddes. Descriptions of alligator pools at the station, family train trips to KY, Major Lewis, Major Wilbur Foster, sitting on the President's lap at the 1897 Exposition, the Blue Grotto at the Exposition.
Stamp, Curtis	5/10/1976	Y	employee	1941-ca1950	Hired in 1941, worked as steno clerk, time keeper. Descriptions of: superintendent's office, Mae West at the station, private cars, WWII activities.
Stockard, Laura Kinzer	2/26/1976	Y	passenger and wife of employee	1906-ca1940	Husband worked for N&C. Descriptions of private cars, dining cars, cooks, porters. Trips to Chicago, Florida. Visit of FDR and Mrs. Roosevelt and Al Smith. Union Station during WWII.
Stokes, Walter, Jr.	1/28/1976	N	employee	1895-ca1950	First train ride at age 3. Description of horse and buggy trips in Nashville, shopping, the building of the Viaduct, the old train station on 10 th Ave. He was at the Centennial and saw Pres. McKinley. Worked for the NC & St. L from c1935-1957.
Sullivan, Eleanor Allen	3/10/76	Y	passenger	ca1918-ca1940	Lived in Gallatin and took train to and from Nashville. To boarding school by train 1918. During WWII worked for Red Cross and used trains. Saw Admiral Byrd at Union Station. Descriptions of station during WWII, jobs of conductors and porters, crowds at Union Station to see famous people, flood of Dec, 1926-Jan. 1927.
Tate, W. K.	3/1/1976	Y	employee	1917-1959	Was vice-pres. in charge of Traffic and sales dept. for NC & St. L office on second floor of the station. Began work in 1917. Description of "City of Memphis" train, seeing FDR, seeing Mae West. Description of station during WWII. Talks about the Huntsville and Redstone arsenals and poison gas. NC & St L handled the poison gas by train. Describes trains: "The Georgian" and "The Dixie Flyer." Trains to Florida began in the 1940s.
Tavel, Ezelle L.	5/20/1976	N/A	Nashville resident	ca. 1913	<i>Written recollection only.</i> Employee of Gray-Dudley Hardware Company; two of the Dudley daughters killed, their bodies returned via Union Station.
Teachout, Libby (Mrs. Stanley Teachout)	4/26/1976	Y	passenger and friend of Lewis daughters	ca1900-ca1920	Went to Mrs. Brown's School with the Lewis girls. Description of Major Lewis's work on the Centennial, Sycamore (home of the Lewis family), visit from Teddy Roosevelt. Talks about the old station on Church St.
Thompson, John	4/19/1976	Y	passenger	ca1920-ca1940s	Descriptions of man trying to climb Union Station, mail clerks sorting mail in the mail car, train trip coming home from college, how Major Lewis's daughter was used as the model for the statue in the station. Mention of beating a dishpan at the end of WWI, left for war on a troop train for WWII (Navy), train trip from Washington D.C. to Nashville at Christmas, visit from Huey Long, Joseph Byrns's funeral train, FDR visit.
Trabue, Julia Malone (Mrs. Charles C. Trabue)	1/26/1976	N	passenger	ca1900-ca1930	Descriptions of traveling to Beersheba Springs from Nashville...partway by train part by surrey. Description of a wedding at Beersheba Springs.

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Wallace, Ellen	4/29/1976	Y	passenger	ca1920-ca1940	Descriptions of train trips to Spring Hill, TN, the area around Union Station, cinders, trip to Canada, meeting people at the station, station canteens. The story of the Pullman and description of Pullman cars.
Wallace, William Joseph, Jr.	5/13/1976	Y	passenger	1916-ca1940	Recollections of the 1916 East Nashville Fire, train ("The Mountain Goat") trip to Sewanee from Nashville for school, traveling to Mississippi seeing cotton fields, "Dixie Flyer", The Pan American, baggage room at Union Station, dining car, golf trips in a private car.
Waller, William	5/6/1976	Y	son of an employee	ca1890-ca1920	Mr. Waller's father was General Councilor for the railroad in the 1890's. Descriptions of area around Union Station, trip to Monteagle in a private car, Union Station lobby and dining room, train sleeping cars and dining cars, traveling with trunks rather than suitcases. Recollections of Teddy Roosevelt coming in at Union Station, the 1918 flu, the train caller.
Ward, Mrs. J. M.	n.d.	N/A	daughter of employee	1939	<i>Documents only.</i> Biographical article about train caller R. E. Watkins.
Warden, Margaret Lindsley	2/18/1976	Y	passenger	ca1890-ca1930	Recollections of her Nashville ancestors, restoration of The Hermitage, Ladies Hermitage Association in 1889. Traveling by train to the Hermitage, to New York on the Pan American, the Red Caps, Pullman seats, going to the Jackson Ball.
Wemyss, Ellen Stokes (Mrs. William Wemyss)	5/22/1976	Y	passenger	ca1900-1920	At age 5, she went to the dedication of Union Station. Descriptions of the events, her first ride in a Pullman, seeing her brothers off to school at the station, went by train to Chapel Hill, NC. Recollections during WWI: working in the canteen, welcoming troops home after the war, parades and bond rallies during the war, huge lunch at the Hippodrome served to returning soldiers.
Whitaker, Alma	5/26/1976	Y	employee	ca1920-c1950	Recollections of her family coming to Nashville when she was 6. From 1930, she took tour groups by train to Chicago World's Fair, Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and the New York World's Fair. Descriptions of the trips and the cost. In 1940, became information and ticket clerk at Union Station. Descriptions of the station during WWII. During The Depression station dining room closed, people out of gas and money came to the station for help. Description of Ross Bass and Estes Kefauver at the station.
White, Esther Fleming	2/17/1976	Y	passenger	ca1917-ca1940	Her family moved to Nashville in 1917, traveling by train. Describes Union Station when they arrived. Recollections of the flu epidemic 1917. During WWII she trained for work in the canteen, working there on Sundays. Descriptions of troop trains, prisoner of war trains, the Free French coming through Nashville. Recollections of train trips in the 1920s and 1930s to New York City and to Florida (The Southwind).

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Wilson, Talitha	5/24/1976	Y	passenger	1917-ca1920	Descriptions of attending Draughon's Business College but leaving to work at the Powder Plant in Old Hickory. Riding the train every day to work; girls were office workers; pay was much better, \$100 a month. Recollections of her honeymoon train trip to Chattanooga. Descriptions of the wreck at Dutchman's Curve in 1918 and the flu epidemic that struck many workers at the Powder Plant. After WWI, she and her husband moved to Akron, Ohio.
Womack, Mark	6/2/1976	Y	employee	ca1930-ca1960	In 1941 began as telegraph operator. In 1949, began work with the NC & St L working at Glen Cliff on the main line. Soldier from 1943-1946. Resumed employment as Assistant Train Master in 1953. Description of last steam engine into Union Station, the Centennial Special 1959 to celebrate 100 years of railroad service from Louisville to Nashville, now in Centennial Park. Saw Cordell Hull, Al Smith, Billy Graham Crusade train.
Wood, Melba A. (Mrs. Leslie Wood)	5/6/1976	Y	daughter of employee	ca1890-1950	Her father began working for L & N at age 18 in 1898 and retired in 1950. Descriptions of a traveling engineer's job, reheating food on a shovel over the engine fire, job of a fireman. Her father would blow the whistle near Columbia and they would run out and wave to him. Recollections of the 1946 strike, the station during WWII.
Wright, Margaret Fall (Mrs. Douglass Wright)	4/19/1976	N/A	passenger	ca1900-1904	<i>Written recollection only.</i> Magnificence of building after opening; murals images of Maj. Lewis and Milton Smith's daughters; overnight trip to St. Louis for World's Fair 1904.
Youngblood, D. C.	4/30/1976	Y	employee	1910-1961	Began his apprenticeship in 1910 at 7 ½ cents an hour. Descriptions of the N & C employees picnic, being briefly fired in 1917 because he belonged to a union. His work was with pipes, steam engines, boilers; working both at Union Station and at the New Shops. He became a foreman. By 1921, salary 85 cents per hour. Descriptions of crowded trains and station, the station kitchen, alligator pools, how conductors received their orders. Retired in 1961. Supplemented by written memoir, filed with indexes.
Zerfoss, Kate, Dr.	2/1/1976	N	passenger	ca1910-ca1940	Dr. Zerfoss lived next door to both Major John Thomas and Major Lewis, describing the men, their personalities, and families. Describes trains to New York City for those continuing to Europe by boat, steamer trunks and luggage handling at the station, mail handling on and off the train, removal of cinders in the eye. Recollections of a Monteagle train ride; L & C supplied Monteagle with water for the summer. Descriptions of dining cars and food assortment, acoustics and announcements in the station, the freight buildings and the "hacks" before the days of taxis.

About twenty newspaper abstracts created by Fletch Coke, spanning the period from 1898 to 1952, and probably created as a background resource for interviewers on important events at Union Station, are filed at the back of the collection.