

Tape: 2

CC 152

Side I Paul Blackburn reading his poetry, interspersed with miscellaneous music.

1-23 music & fog horn sounds.

Blackburn

21-23 Tending the Corn

24-28 Free Fall

29-78 Visitation I

79-84 Wings

85-91 Suspension

108-133 Hot Afternoons in West 15th Street

134-143 City Sunset

144-194 The Purse Seine

208-239 Meditation on the BMT

240-255 Ritual I

256-265 Ritual II

331-365 El Camino Verde

367-381 Death Watch

382-404 The Misunderstanding

405-417 The Bus Ride

418-438 Instructions to a New Tenant

441-472 Ramas Divendres Diumenga

473-521 La Vielle Belle

522-541 Puesta Del Dia

542-556 The Signals

557-567 Rue De Taur

568-582 Nerve

Side II Paul Blackburn reading Cortazar translations, translations of Apollinaire, Provençal poets; music.

1-206 Cortazr Cronopios

207-310 other Cortazar.

311-356 Apollinaire

357-782 Provençal translations

783-end music.

AN INDEX TO THE PAUL BLACKBURN TAPE COLLECTION

The Paul Blackburn Tape Collection represents one of the great resources to modern literary history. The poet, Paul Blackburn (1926-1971) was, in addition to his talents as poet, translator and editor, a great supporter of an ongoing oral tradition in poetry. He organized and attended poetry readings in New York City during the fifties and sixties at St. Marks, Le Metro, Deux Megots, Max's Kansas City and other bars and clubs. He organized his own poetry radio show, "Contemporary Poetry" on WBAI in New York. And he collected tapes from his friends and from these readings throughout his life, maintaining what is now recognized as one of the largest oral history collections in the country.

At his death in 1971, UCSD purchased Paul Blackburn's entire Archive, including poetry manuscripts, notebooks, letters and his tape collection. Paul Dressman and I have spent the past year listening to all of his tapes, annotating which poets read and which poems are read. We found that there are a wide variety of tapes which fit, more or less, into six categories: 1) whole tapes of Paul Blackburn reading in public and in private; 2) tapes of group readings or lectures in public; 3) recordings of conversations among Blackburn and his friends; 4) recordings made from the radio and television (such significant events as the first Sputnik orbit, the first Moon landing, presidential inaugural speeches, etc.); 5) taped "letters" from friends living in various parts of the world; 6) miscellaneous music and sounds. This latter category is interesting if only for locating the particular city ambiance in which Blackburn lived (and wrote poems) day-to-day.

Michael Davidson
June 23, 1975

Paul Blackburn Audio Collection

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