

Tape: 52-A

CC 212

Side I Paul Blackburn reading his poetry in N.Y.C.; Vancouver Festival of the Arts tape of Allen Ginsberg, Robert Duncan and Robert Creeley in a discussion on poetry.

1-628 Blackburn reading at Le Metro, August 12, 1964. Blackburn reads poems that were later collected in his book, The Cities. Of interest here is a variant reading in the poem, "She Holds His Hand (276-288)." From printed version.

628-end Vancouver discussion.

Side II Continuation of Vancouver discussion; Ron Loewinsohn reading; Allen and Louis Ginsberg in a discussion; Blackburn reading.

1-345 Vancouver discussion continues.

345-393 Loewinsohn reading his poems on WBAI, including "The Thing Made Real," "The Stillness of the Poem," "The Dark Clown."

393-429 A discussion of Loewinsohn's work.

429-783 Allen and Louis Ginsberg talking on WBAI.

782-end Blackburn reading from The Cities.

## 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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