

Tape: 2-A

CC 153

Side I Julio Cortazar; Paul Blackburn reading poetry; miscellaneous music.

1-162 Sara talking
162-176 Latin music
176-220 Julio Cortazar in Spanish
220-238 Paul Blackburn reading: Definition
238-261 7th Game
261-274 Ritual
274-295 Wings
295-306 Salutation
306-315 A-l Hallows
315-338 Ritual
338-372 Watch
372-385 Satchel Paige
385-397 The Virtue
397-491 Conversation, Sara interviewing Jeanne, etc.
491-583 Mariachi music
583-776 Misc. talking
776-end Missa Cantata

Side II Poetry of Nicolas Guillen, read in Spanish & English; music.

1-41 Ebano Real
41-82 Sense Maya
82-135 Una Cancien la Colombia
135-201 Mi Patria es dulce par Guera
201-262 Little Rock
262-317 Little Rock (Paul Blackburn)
317-347 Guadeloupe W.I. (Spanish)
347-367 Guadeloupe (Blackburn)
367-441 Balada de los dos avuelos
441-520 Balada de los dos avuelos (Blackburn)

3 3/4

520-590 Piano: Leroy Carr & Scrappy Blackwood
520-607 Hurry Down Sunshine
607-795 Josh White: Big Four Blues
795-969 Courtroom Blues

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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