

Tape: 190

CC 353

- Side I Ted Enslin reading at Max's Kansas City,
February 15, 1970. Blackburn and son
speaking.
- 1-17 The View of Johnny-Cake Hill
18-24 The View from Olson's
25-33 The View from Old City
34-93 other poems of Views.
95-99 A Little Past Five in the Evening
100-107 All Day and Part of the Night
108-112 The Shepherd
113-120 I Wouldn't
121-130 I Am Tempted
131-140 It Was a System of Vagueness
141-433 Synthesis: A selection
434-450 I Have Built
451-456 To Put...
457-467 Strange Business
468-915 other poems.
916-end Blackburn and son speaking.
- Side II Ray Freed and Jim McMann at Dr. Generosity's,
February 28, 1970; folksinger David Cohen.
- 1-22 Freed introduction.
22-29 My Father Kept a Goldfish
30-34 In A Field
35-62 other poems.
- McMann
63-76 To Whom It May Concern
77-84 A Place Outside Aesthetics
85-91 The Man Under the Afghan
92-101 A Daydream
- 102-439 Freed and McMann alternately read.
440-end folksinger David Cohen.

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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