

Tape: 144

CC 308

Side I Bob Nichols and David Henderson at
 St. Marks, May 10, 1967

 Nichols

1-73 untitled poem about Vietnam
74-94 This is How the Dykes are Kept Up
95-115 Rain
116-127 Drought Year
128-209 Farmer's Holiday
210-223 untitled
224-321 Three Brothers section
322-345 Amoy Love Song
346-355 Three Brothers
356-363 March 23rd Poem
364-390 Three Brothers section

 Henderson

400-484 So We Went to Harlem
485-547 History of Equatorial Africa
548-570 The Song to the Acuapulcaneo Naval Fleet
571-770 Boston Road Blues
771-end other poems.

Side II Pop 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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