

Report from the Woody Guthrie Archives

Kate L. Blalack, MLIS, CA, Archivist

This year the archival collection at the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa has grown substantially in terms of historically valuable primary resources, as it has since our inception in 2013.

In the spring we received a major gift donation (along with the purchase of Woody Guthrie's banjo) from Patricia Dempsey. Ms. Dempsey is the only child of Maxine "Lefty Lou" Crissman and has held most of the known primary resources from Woody's time in Los Angeles, following his migration there from the Dust Bowl region. Woody performed with Lefty Lou on the KFVD radio station from "1:15pm-2:00pm, Daily Except Sundays" for a little over a year before going solo.

We are extremely grateful to receive (among other things) in this wonderful collection an original piece of fan mail sent to Woody. This letter, from an anonymous sender in 1937, addresses a racist song that Woody performed over the radio. The writer was horrified by the use of language and said so, exclaiming that no person with "intelligence" would perform it. Woody apologized publicly for the offense, and after this time we see a definite paradigm shift as Woody starts working specifically towards civil rights issues, along with broader issues of social justice and injustice. The entire collection is currently being processed and includes personal papers, photographs, original songs and songbooks, manuscripts, and clippings. We are most grateful for Ms. Dempsey for her donation.

Tulsa is growing more and more as a music/arts community. We are excited to be a part of this upward swing as we all work towards something larger than ourselves, advancing ideas of community, arts, and social justice.



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<http://woodyguthriecenter.org/archives/>



April 9 '38

TUNE IN

KFVD

The Station of the People

Operating
6 A. M. to 6:30 P. M. — 11 P. M. to 4 A. M.

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DON'T MISS

THE EDITOR OF THE AIR

12 News Daily Except Saturday—Sunday 1 P. M.

5 NEWS PERIODS DAILY
9:15 A. M. - 11 A. M. - 1 P. M. - 3 P. M. - 5 P. M.
Thru Direct United Press Wire to Our Studios

The American Progressive Forum
Mon thru Friday 4 P. M. Sundays 5:15 P. M.

Stuart Hamblen's Covered Wagon Jubilee
Monday thru Saturday 7:15 A. M. to 9 A. M.

Just Plain Ole - Woody and Lefty Lou
1:15 P. M. to 2 P. M. Daily Except Sundays

KFVD

1000 Kilocycles—The Center of Your Dial

Patricia Dempsey Collection - Courtesy of the Woody Guthrie Center Archives