



**THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY,  
MURFREESBORO, TN**

**UNCLE DAVE MACON DAYS PHOTOGRAPHS & AUDIO MATERIALS**

**88-062; 89-095; 90-031**

**Creator:**

Staff of the Center for Popular Music

**Type of Material:**

Photographic, manuscript audio recordings

**Physical Description:**

0.2 linear feet including

91 color photographic slides

491 frames of black and white contact print and negatives

6 audio tapes

**Languages:**

English

**Dates:**

11 July 1986

11 July 1987

14 July 1990

**Abstract (Descriptive Summary):**

This collection consists of Center generated photographs and audio recordings of the Uncle Dave Macon Days festival in Murfreesboro, TN in July 1986, 1987, and 1990.

**Repository:**

Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132,  
(615) 898-2449.

**Access/Restrictions:**

The collection is open for research use. All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

**Preferred Citation:**

(Box Number, Folder Number/Name), Uncle Dave Macon Days Photographs & Audio Materials, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**Provenance and Acquisition Information:**

This collection was created by the staff of the Center for Popular Music. All photographs were taken by Center Director, Paul Wells. Field recordings of the festival music were recorded by Center Audio Curator, Bruce Nemerov and Steve Wick.

**Subject/Index Terms:**

Uncle Dave Macon Days  
Murfreesboro, TN  
Banjo Festival  
Bluegrass Roots Music  
Old-time music  
Community Event

**Agency History/Biographical Sketch:**

Uncle Dave Macon Days was established in 1978, and it started out as a banjo-picking contest. Originally, it was held on the lawn of the Courthouse in Murfreesboro, TN, but by 1989 it moved to Cannonsburgh Village as the large crowds had outgrown the town square. It was named after Dave Macon, one of the early Grand Ole Opry stars, and resident of Rutherford County. The founder of the festival was Jesse Messick. The annual event has banjo contests, clogging, buck dancing, and other dance contests, as well as performances and award ceremonies. As of 2022, the festival continues annually in Murfreesboro.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains over 580 photographic frames documenting the Uncle Dave Macon Days festival in 1986, 1987 and 1990. 6 digital audio cassette tapes (TCD 0044A/G) of bluegrass and old time banjo, dulcimer, guitar and mandolin contests and blue grass and old time band contests held as part of the Uncle Dave Macon Days Celebration, Murfreesboro, Tennessee 11 July 1987.

**Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):**

Box # Folder # Description

**Box 1**

Folder 1	1986 - 22 color slides
Folder 2	1987 - 324 black and white contact prints, 52 color slides
Folder 3	1990 - 95 black and white contact prints and negatives, 17 color slides

**Arrangement:**

These three years documents were originally created in three separate collection until reprocessing in 2023 when they were combined. This was done because both collections are artificially created by the Center for Popular Music at the time of the

events. Due to the same topic and types of materials they were combined into one collection for ease. The collection is now arranged chronologically and by type of material. Audio tapes (TCD 0044A/G) are filed by tape number in the audio-visual archives.

**Materials Cataloged Separately:**

No items of this collection are cataloged separately.

**Location:**

These materials are located in the manuscripts section of the archival stacks, filed chronologically by accession number.

**Related Materials:**

The Center for Popular Music holds various other materials relating to Uncle Dave Macon Days including Uncle Dave Macon Days Collection (21-016) and Uncle Dave Macon Collection (21-016). The Center also holds other programs, posters and news clippings items relating to the festival and Uncle Dave Macon that can be found by searching the archival database.

EBG 1987; 1990.

Reprocessed Updated by Olivia M. Beaudry, CA, October 2023