

The Reel

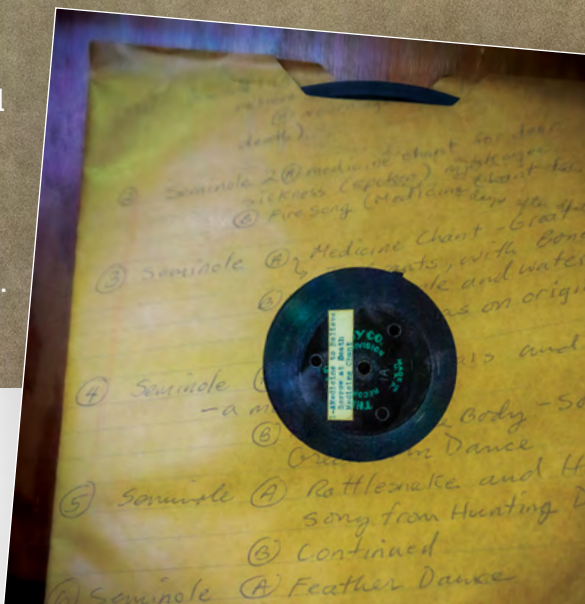
STUDIES

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As Florida entered the 1940s, growth from tourism and development encroached into formerly hidden Seminole settlements in the swamps and forests of the Everglades. J. Harold Matteson, a young naturalist, recorded the chants and songs of Seminole healers amidst the vastness of the Big Cypress Swamp as a means of preserving “vestiges of a much richer life which has vanished due to the coming of whites in ever increasing numbers to what was formerly a cloistered Indian world.”

These previously unidentified and unpublished Seminole recordings are now available in the University of Florida's Digital Collections as a result of Special and Area Studies Collections (SASC) ongoing audiovisual digitization project.



A cheer and a song down 'Gator way!
 A song and a cheer for Ol' Florida!
 That's why this album was created So you can enjoy, at
 any time, a cheer and a song for Ol' Florida, down 'Gator way
 So that, with the music you love, you can re-live those
 happy, never-to-be-forgotten campus days and
 No matter where you are or when,
 you can choose your song and capture
 anew the exhilaration of your own University's music.

Florida's victories, Florida's trials, campus frolics,
 campus thrills,— Florida has music for them all!

VICTORIES "Orange and Blue"
 TRIALS "March of the Fighting 'Gators"
 FROLICS "We Are the Boys from Old Florida"
 THRILLS "Alma Mater"

These and many other of the tunes of Ol' Florida are in
 this album for students alumni
 faculty staff for all friends of the University.
 Yes, the music that brings cheers and songs to
 the lips, the music of the University of Florida.

The day is not done. Dispel the gloom and live again,
 with a cheer for Ol' Florida, down 'Gator way.

Other significant recordings in SASC's audiovisual inventory include hours of interviews with Coretta Scott King from the Alden and Allene G. Hatch Papers, interviews of Rosa Parks in the James S. Haskins Papers, pioneering baseball announcer Red Barber's interviews with such baseball greats as Casey Stengel and Willie Mays, and interviews of Barber, who recounts the early years of sports broadcasting. In addition, among SASC's extensive political collections, there are years of recordings from Senator George A. Smathers' radio and TV broadcasts in which the senator interviewed prominent political figures of the late 1950s and early 1960s, including John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover, and Robert Kennedy, who talks about the Senate's investigation of Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa.

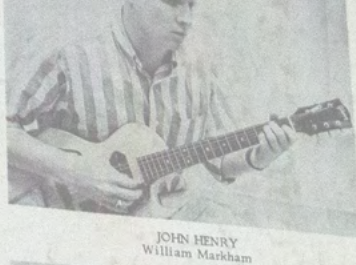
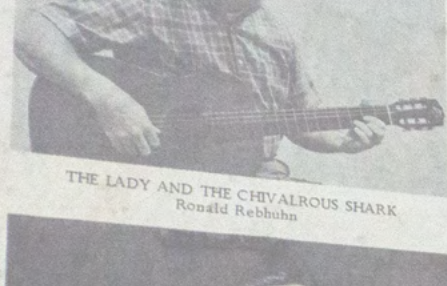


Edison grooved disc recording for Senator George A. Smathers weekly TV program.

The senator used his television and radio programs to inform Floridians about Congressional legislation and issues confronting Florida and the nation. He often interviewed politicians and government officials. In this recording from August 24, 1964, a few weeks after the passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which led to massive American military intervention in Vietnam, Smathers interviews Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield. Senator Mansfield voted for the passage of the resolution, but he later became an outspoken opponent of the war.



Digitized items from various formats (left to right): one of fourteen cassette tapes (two others are also displayed) of James Haskins' interviews of Rosa Parks; a Gould-Moody "Black Seal" recording blank containing a portion of J. Harold Matteson's recordings of Seminole medicine chants; a U-matic videocassette from the University of Florida Archives; an LP of a 1963 "Hootenanny" (folk singing gathering) at the Florida Union; a disc recording, "Florida Folk Songs in Review," played on the University's WRUF radio station in the 1950s; "Florida Favorites," a set of four 78 rpm records of Orange and Blue classics as well as old Florida songs; a proposed book cover from the James S. Haskins Papers for a Rosa Parks autobiography aimed at the young adult audience; an Edison grooved disc from the large collection of recordings from the Senator George A. Smathers TV and radio programs in the George A. Smathers Papers.



One of the central international challenges faced by the United States during Senator Smathers' time in office was the Cuban Revolution and its influence in Latin America and the Caribbean during the 1960s. The audiovisual project has contributed to the documentation of this history by digitizing interviews of Cuban revolutionary leaders, including Fidel Castro, and *Miami Herald* reporter Al Burt's interviews of anti-Castro Cuban exiles working to overthrow the Castro regime. Other digitized items from the region include film from the Panama Canal Zone from SASC's Panama Canal Museum Collection. These recordings range from a copy of a 1926 General Electric documentary on the building of the canal to home movies from "Zonians," residents of the Panama Canal Zone.

Closer to home, the audiovisual project has digitized a portion of the large holdings of recordings in the University Archives. Among these items are UF promotional videos, audiovisual documentation of the work of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, a Glee Club

record from 1941, a hootenanny LP of student folksingers from the early 1960s, and a series of Gator Growl sketches and events from the 1990s. Additional University Archives material currently being digitized includes legendary UF history Professor Michael Gannon's *Conversation* television program, which was broadcast on WUFT in the 1970s and 1980s in 133 episodes. Gannon interviewed UF faculty, administrators, and coaches as well as visiting speakers, including William F. Buckley, Tom Wolfe, and John Houseman.

The collections outlined in this article are a tiny segment of the almost 5,000 audiovisual assets in SASC collections. Although the largest portion of the AV items are videocassette—Betamax, U-Matic, and VHS—the collections contain a wide variety of analog media. Among these are transcription discs from radio stations, 2 inch quad videotape, audiocassettes, LPs, and 8 mm and 16 mm film. In addition, many collections contain substantial born digital items. SACS's audiovisual project is an ongoing effort to bring the Smathers' Libraries "reel stuff" to light.