

# Clyde Hahn Collection

Clyde Hahn and Harvey Rettberg were co-founders of the Coon-Sanders Original Nighthawks Club. This collection contains Mr. Hahn's scrapbook collection and related material that contain information on the Coon-Sanders musical group, other musicians of the same era, and the fan club.

## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Clyde "Pappy" Hahn  
**Title:** Clyde Hahn Collection  
**Dates:** Circa 1920s-1980s, bulk 1950s-1960s  
**Size:** 3 boxes, 7 scrapbooks  
**Location:** SC1-4

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Related collections in other repositories:** The Marr Sound Archives located at the University of Missouri at Kansas City contains musical recordings and additional information relating to the Coon-Sanders musical group.

**Acquisition information:** Purchase, 2006, Kenn Vitek, Accession #2006-41.

**Citation note:** Clyde Hahn Collection (SC1-4), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

## Collection Description

### **Historical/Biographical note**

According to his personal stationary as found in the collection, Clyde Hahn was an advertising executive/consultant, commercial artist and "Dr. Jazz" on WGBG Radio. He lived in the area of Pleasant Garden, North Carolina, for many years, referring to his home as "The Old Hahnstead." He was born on October 17, 1905 and died in July, 1984 in Liberty, North Carolina. His wife was Juanita Smith Hahn and she died a couple of years before Clyde, making him a widow at the time of his death. From a letter in the collection, it is known that the Hahns had a son named Hoke. This information was surmised from looking on online genealogy sites and from a newspaper column found in Box 2, Folder 3, and a letter in Folder 5.

Clyde Hahn was an enthusiastic jazz music fan and historian who was very much interested in the big band music and musicians of the 1920s-1940s. He personally knew and maintained contact with many of the musicians of that era. He was especially fond of the Coon-Sanders Nighthawks and he along with Harvey Rettberg decided to form a fan club in their honor. The Coon-Sanders Original Nighthawks Club was started on September 26, 1959, at the home of Harvey Rettberg in Sunset, South Carolina. It was dedicated to the enjoyment of Coon-Sanders music, to the recollections of their era and to fellowship among the club's members. Apparently, in efforts to promote the club, Clyde Hahn wrote out hundreds of free membership cards and mailed them to fans and musicians all over the country. In 1961, Harvey Rettberg and his wife traveled and looked up many members of the Coon-Sanders group who were still living. In October

of that year the club met at the Blackhawk Restaurant in Chicago with Joe Sanders in attendance.

Fan club reunions have been held in various locations for many years since the club's beginning in 1959. Primary places include Charleston, West Virginia and Huntington, West Virginia. It is believed that there is still a yearly gathering of the group held in the spring in West Virginia. The last reunion covered in this collection was the one held in 1968 in Charleston, West Virginia, in which Trudy Sanders, Joe's wife, and Johnny Long were honored and in attendance.

### **Scope and content note**

This collection consists of material assembled by Clyde Hahn from circa 1960 - 1968 and relating to the Coon-Sanders musical group of the 1920s-early 1930s. There are seven scrapbooks, two folders with loose items and other larger loose items as inventoried in Box 1. It is believed that Kenn Vitek purchased these materials as well as 78 rpm records at some point probably after Hahn's death in 1984. The library became aware of this collection in 2006 after receiving notice from Fred Edmiston. The collection was acquired through purchase, but there were no recordings associated with it.

The collection's contents include a variety of types of material. The bulk of the contents are photographs of varying sizes, both black and white and color. Many of the photographs are autographed and identified either with handwriting on the back or typed notations on the front of the image. The subjects of the photographs include Joe Sanders and Carleton Coon as well as the Nighthawks, various musicians and recording artists, movie stars, big bands, Coon-Sanders fan club reunions, and photographs of Hahn himself. There are a total of 315 photographs.

The collection also contains a number of newspaper clippings which were photocopied during processing. Most of these are identified by newspaper and year. The subject matter either pertains to the Coon-Sanders Nighthawks or to other musical groups as well as the fan club itself. Obituaries for Carleton Coon and Joe Sanders are included as well as those for other musicians. There are also a number of magazine articles included which are identified.

Another component of the collection is the correspondence, primarily either to Clyde Hahn or from him and found scattered throughout the scrapbooks. Within this correspondence are details concerning the Coon-Sanders group. This includes the reminiscences of former members. Most of these letters were written in the 1950s-1970s. Included are letters from Joe Sanders, Trudy Sanders, Eula Coon Stookey (Carleton Coon's wife) and others.

During processing, each scrapbook was photocopied before the scrapbooks were disassembled and the contents removed from the original deteriorating plastic covers and placed in acid free folders. Each photograph was bar-coded to be digitized later. All framed photographs were removed from their frames.

Other items of interest found in the collection include: a Coon-Sanders Fan Club bumper sticker and membership cards, lists, publicity pieces, radio script for WWL-Radio broadcast of March 6, 1960, Christmas cards, telegrams, a cartoon and other miscellaneous items. The cartoon is an actual Steve Canyon four frame strip drawn by Milton Caniff. The strength of the collection rests with the documentation of the beginning of the fan club and its early years as well as the information provided by Joe Sanders and other members of his group. Some of the photographs and material in this collection are duplicated in the other

collections concerning the Coon-Sanders Nighthawks that are in this library including SC1, SC1-2, SC1-3.

### Collection Inventory

#### **Box 1 - Photographs, mattes and cartoon strip**

- **Folder 1** - Cartoon strip, four frames. Steve Canyon comic strip which mentions Coon-Sanders Band, signed by originator Milton Caniff, March, 1962. 12 1/2" x 16 1/2".
- **Folder 2** - Photograph #1 and matte - Labeled "Coon-Sanders Original Night-Hawks Orchestra (circa 1929)", each member identified, 9" x 12", black & white, Photographer - Maurice Seymour, barcode 10020517.
- **Folder 3** - Photograph #2 and matte - Labeled "The Four Horsemen of Festivaldom - Harry Souchon, Chris Barber, Doc. Souchon, Pete Miller - New Orleans Jazz Festival, Oct. 26, 1959", 5" x 7", black & white, barcode 10020518.
- **Folder 4** - Photograph #3 and matte - Labeled "Carleton Coon (circa..1929)", 8" x 10", black & white, Photographer - Maurice Seymour, barcode 10020519.
- **Folder 5** - Photograph #4 and matte - Labeled "Jules C. Stein (circa 1960), founder MCA, Chairman of the Board", autographed, 8"x10", black & white, barcode 10020520.
- **Folder 6** - Photograph #5 and matte - Labeled "Joe & Coonie as 'Mr. Gallagher & Mr. Shean', Neuman Theatre, Kansas City (circa 1922)", 8" x 10", Photographer - Bert, K.C., barcode 10020521.
- **Folder 7** - Photograph #6 and matte - Labeled "Joe Sanders (circa 1933)", 8" x 10", black & white, MCA markings, barcode 10020522.
- **Folder 8** - Photograph #7 and matte - Labeled "Joe Sanders (circa 1928)", 8" x 10", black & white, reprint, autographed by Sanders, barcode 10020523.
- **Folder 9** - Photograph #8 and matte - Labeled "Red Nichols, circa 1959", 8" x 10", black & white, autographed, barcode 10020524.
- **Folder 10** - Photograph #9 and matte - Labeled "Coon-Sanders' First Road Trip, 1924", individuals identified, 8" x 10", black & white, barcode 10020525.
- **Folder 11** - Photograph #10 and matte - Labeled "Johnny Long, circa 1936", 8" x 10", black & white, barcode 10020526.
- **Folder 12** - Photograph #11 and matte - Labeled "Farewell Serenade to Coon-Sanders (by K.C. Musicians, Union station, Kansas City, 1930, seated: Bob Pope, Floyd Estep, Joe & Coonie", 8" x 10", black & white, photographer - "Pat" Murphy, chief of staff, Journal-Post, barcode 10020527.
- **Folder 13** - Photograph #12 and matte - Labeled "Carleton Coon, Chicago, circa 1928", 8"x10", black & white, barcode 10020528.
- **Folder 14** - Photograph #13 and matte - Labeled "Red Nichols, circa 1959"(different pose than #8), 8" x 10", black & white, barcode 10020529.

#### **Box 2 - Contents of loose file folder 1 - Labeled "All of this material pertains to the Coon-Sanders Orchestra"**

- **Folder 1** - Photographs #14-19 - Includes b&w photos of Coon-Sanders Orchestra, Carleton Coon, Joe Sanders, and unidentified orchestra.
- **Folder 2** - Photographs #20-23 - Includes Christmas card sent by Clyde Hahn and wife with Coon-Sanders Nighthawks on cover, 3 b&w and 1 color photo. Photos include Joe Sanders with Jane Kaye, Clyde Hahn and Rex Downing, and other musicians.
- **Folder 3** - Newspaper clippings, photocopied. Concerning Joe Sanders, the Nighthawks, and "A tribute to Clyde Hahn" by Otis B. Zirkle.

- **Folder 4** - Paper - "The First Radio Hot-Band in the World, the Kansas City Nighthawks", n.d., no author, 2p., typewritten; article "Adventures with Records", Paul F. Karberg story on Nighthawks.
- **Folder 5** - Correspondence - To Hilda Downing from Howard Smith, 1937; To Paul F. Karberg from Elmer J. Krebs, 1941; and to Hoke Hahn from Trudy Sanders, 1984
- **Folder 6** - Miscellaneous items - Bumper sticker that reads "Coon-Sanders Original Night Hawks Club"; tape listing that reads "Taped for Hoke--by Dad...Oct. 6, 1979; and copy of a United States District Court Proof of Claim form signed by Clyde Hahn.

#### **Box 2 - Contents of loose file folder 2**

- **Folder 7** - Photographs - #24-28 - Celebrity poses, b&w, 8" x 10", includes June Allyson, Helene Gray, Andre Kostelonez, George Anthony, and Susan Hayworth.
- **Folder 8** - Photographs - #29-34 - Celebrity poses and groups, b&w, varying sizes, includes Helen Grayco, Marie McDonald, Coon-Sanders Nighthawks, Guy Lombardo and Ben Bernie, Happy Jazz Band, and Jack Morgan.
- **Folder 9** - Photographs - #35-42 - Celebrity poses and groups, b&w, mostly 8x10, includes ?Regan, Walbridge-Cusack Chicago Footwarmers Dance Orchestra, Royal French Quarter Three, Original Salty Dogs Jazz Band (2c.), Franklin McCormick, and Al Donahue.
- **Folder 10** - Photographs - #43-49 - Celebrity poses and groups, b&w, 8x10 and 7x7, includes Bob Hunnington, Russ Morgan, Bob Hamer, Bill Rank, Bill Rader, Ike Daughtey, Paul "Cuz" Carney, Charlie "Bigfoot" Keaton, Fred Woodaman. Many taken at Coon-Sanders reunion gathering.
- **Folder 11** - Photographs - #50-56 - Celebrity poses and groups, b&w, primarily 8x10, includes Russ Morgan, Mike Waldrige, Moe Kuffert, and mainly unidentified. Some taken at Coon-Sanders reunion gathering.
- **Folder 12** - Photographs - #57-63 - Coon-Sanders reunion gathering related, b&w, 8x10.
- **Folder 13** - Photographs, #64-67 - Clyde Hahn, Coon-Sanders reunion related; postcard of Blackhawk Restaurant; clipping.
- **Folder 14** - Newspaper clippings (photocopied), 1960s-1980s - Primarily obituaries including Lou Breese, Henry Busse, Eddie Condon, Zez Confrey, Shep Fields, Glen Gray, Eddy Howard, Walter Hunt, Art Kassel, Vaughn Monroe, Red Nichols, Anderson O'Hare, George Olsen, Alcide Pavageau, Leo Reisman, Gil Rodin, Kenny Sargent, Eddie South, Irene Spivak, and Ted Weems.
- **Folder 15** - Newspaper clippings (photocopied), 1960s-1970s - Featuring Dean Hudson, the Reinhardts, Helen O'Connell, Franklyn MacCormack, Mel Torme, Harry Reser, Ted Lewis, Enoch Light, Cliff Edwards, Thamon Hayes Band, Tex Beneke, and Bettye Miller and Milt Abel.
- **Folder 16** - Miscellaneous items - Listing of Art Landry's orchestra members for 1924, 1925, and 1927; Louis Breese promotional piece, and advertisement page from unknown publication.
- **Folder 17** - Magazine articles from *The Musicana Collector*, April, 1982 featuring Coon-Sanders Nighthawks; *Record Research*, April 1961; *The Mississippi Rag*, Sept., 1979 featuring Bill Rank; *Vanity Fair*, July 1931 with picture of Helen Morgan.
- **Folder 18** - Correspondence, 1970s.

#### **Box 2 - Scrapbook #1 - "Coon-Sanders Club Scrapbook", Vol. I**

- **Folder 19** - p.1-8 - Photograph #68 -Photograph of Joe Sanders, Carleton Coon and band members in Kansas City, 1928; typed script of Coon-

Sanders Broadcast, WWL-Radio, March 6, 1960 (SC1-3, Box 5, contains a partial recording of show on cassette tape); correspondence, 1960.

- **Folder 20** - p. 9-14 - Photographs #69-73 -Correspondence, circa 1960, concerning radio broadcast on WWL-Radio; photographs of Harvey and Hilda Rettberg and of their home in Sunset, S.C., Clyde Hahn and wife, and Coon-Sanders Orchestra.
- **Folder 21** - p.15-18 - Photographs #74-83 - Photographs of Clyde Hahn and wife, Annie Coburn, Bill and Laura Fend, Ken Fosberg family, Irene and Cecil Raynaham, Joe Sanders, Paul M. Carney, and Punk and Thelma Burford.
- **Folder 22** - p. 19-22 - Photographs #84- 91 - Photographs of Joe Sanders, Paul Karberg, Rex Downing, Paul Jones, Hod Williams, Bill Garten and his band, Harvey and Hilda Rettberg; newspaper clippings, 1961.
- **Folder 23** - p. 23-28 - Newspaper clippings including obituary for Carleton Coon; correspondence to Hahn from Jules C. Stein (1960) and Joe Sanders (1960); and a receipt from the New Orleans Jazz Museum.

### **Box 2 - Scrapbook #2 - "Coon-Sanders Nighthawks Club ", Vol. II**

- **Folder 24** - Photocopies of Scrapbook #2 pages in order
- **Folder 25** - p. 1-8 - Photograph #92 of Joe Sanders; newspaper clippings including articles on Joe Sanders and death notices for Carleton Coon, Elmer Krebs, and Leroy Shield; magazine page from the *Kansas Citian* for January, 1946, featuring the Nighthawks; and a small advertising card for Coon-Sanders Nighthawks.
- **Folder 26** - p. 9-12 - Photographs #93-102 - Photographs of Coon-Sanders group taken in 1961, including Joe Sanders, Harold Thiell, Russ Stout, Rex Downing, Floyd Estep, Joe Richolson, Carleton Coon's widow, etc.; Christmas card from Eula Coon Stookey; and newspaper clipping from 1962 concerning CS club.
- **Folder 27** - p. 13-18 - Photographs #103-106 - Photographs of Hitch's Happy Harmonists, Preyer family, Al Fisher and wife, and Carleton Coon; correspondence (1960); newspaper clippings (1961).
- **Folder 28** - p. 19-24 - Photograph #107 of "Meister Brau, Showcase WGN"; correspondence, 1960-61 from Rex Downing and Charles E. Mason; autographed picture of Sol Yaged.

### **Box 2 - Scrapbook #3 - "Coon-Sanders Nighthawks Club", Vol. III**

- **Folder 29** - Photocopies of Scrapbook #3 pages in order.
- **Folder 30** - p. 1-6 - Photographs #108-111 - Photographs of Hugh McPherson, Louis Cottrell, Milton Caniff, and Jack ?; newspaper clipping (1962) concerning CS Club; correspondence (1962) between Hahn and Milton Caniff; and CS Club mailer.
- **Folder 31** - p. 7-12 - Photographs #112-119 - Photographs of "Duck" Trice, Bob Crosby and others, Joe Sanders with others at CS Club party, Oct. 15, 1961 in Chicago; newspapers clipping, n.d.; correspondence (1962) between Hahn and Vera Allen, Harry Godwin and Gene Austin, and Hahn and Rex Downing.
- **Folder 32** - p. 13-16 - Photographs #120-124 - Photographs of Bill Garten's Orchestra, Coon-Sanders Orchestra, Jan Garber and Harry Godwin at 1962 Spring Hill prom.
- **Folder 33** - p. 17-22 - Photographs #125-138 - Photographs of Knocky Parker, Doc and Marie Souchen, Rettbergs, and others taken at CS Club party at Columbia, South Carolina, July 3-4, 1962; newspaper clippings on Coon-Sanders and other groups; and two Western Union telegrams to Clyde Hahn from Harry Godwin (1962).



**Box 2 - Scrapbook #4 - "Coon-Sanders Nighthawks Club", Vol. IV**

- **Folder 34** - Photocopies of Scrapbook #4 pages in order
- **Folder 35** - p. 1-7 - Photographs #139-142 - Photographs of Joe Sanders, Coon-Sanders band (1926), Ted Weems Orchestra, CS reunion (n.d.); correspondence to Clyde Hahn from Joe Sanders (1961).
- **Folder 36** - p. 8-14 - Photographs #143-146 - Photographs of L. Wolfe Gilbert, Nick LaRocca, Hilda Rettberg, Esther Hoppe, and Harvey Hoppe; correspondence between Harvey Hoppe and E.C. Forman (1941), Clyde Hahn and L. Wolfe Gilbert (n.d.), and Clyde Hahn and Karl Kramer (1961); copy from Congressional Record concerning L. Wolfe Gilbert; and list of Coon-Sanders records.
- **Folder 37** - p. 15-18 - Photographs #147-149 - Photographs of Walter Given and Bill Garten orchestra; correspondence (1960); and advertising piece for Indian Hill Country Club party featuring Coon-Sanders group, 1960.
- **Folder 38** - p. 19-22 - Photographs #150-165 - Photographs of Walt Given and wife, Bill Garten, Punk Burford, Clyde Hahn, etc. at St. Albans, West Virginia, August, 1962.
- **Folder 39** - p. 23-28 - Photographs #166-171 - Photographs of Coon/Sanders Club members including Clyde Hahn, Harvey Rettberg, Hugh McPherson as well as of Carleton Coon; Blackhawk Restaurant menu; correspondence from Mrs. Douglas Wright and Edmond Souchon (1961-62).

**Box 3 - Scrapbook #5 - "Coon-Sanders Club Scrapbook", Vol. V**

- **Folder 1** - Photocopies of Scrapbook #5 pages in order.
- **Folder 2** - p. 1-6 - Photographs #172-180 - Photographs of Jackson Barnhart, Jerry Stockton, Sammy Lee and others, Coon-Sanders Club reunion with Joe Sanders, and the England Stubbins Orchestra; club membership card dated 1969; and newspaper article with reference to club, January 24, 1965, San Antonio, Texas *Sunday Light*.
- **Folder 3** - p. 7-12 - Photographs #181-186 - Photographs of Boyd Sinter, Phil Baxter, Clyde Hahn, Punk Burford, and the Happy Jazz Band.
- **Folder 4** - p. 13-20 - Photographs #187-194 - Photographs of Joe and Trudy Sanders, Duke Morris and group, "Jackson" B, Al Barritz, Jan Garber, and Harry Godmiss; magazine article from *College Radio*; correspondence to J. Barnhart from Jack Webb (1951).

**Box 3 - Scrapbook #6 - "Coon-Sanders Nighthawks Club", Vol. VI**

- **Folder 5** - Photocopies of Scrapbook #6 pages in order
- **Folder 6** - p. 1-6 - Photographs #195-197 - Photographs of Joe Sanders and Nighthawks exhibit at the Kansas City Public Library; newspaper articles from *Smith Falls Record-News* and *Topeka Daily Capital* (1965); and Joe Sanders award certificate from President Lyndon Johnson.
- **Folder 7** - p. 7-12 - Photographs #198-203 - Photographs of Joe Sanders and Nighthawks exhibit at the Kansas City Public Library and in window display.
- **Folder 8** - p. 13-18 - Photographs #204-208 - Photographs of Joe Sanders and Nighthawks exhibit in window display with Trudy Sanders in one view, Joe Sanders and small group (1935), Coon-Sanders Fan Club reunion view with both Clyde Hahn and wife as well as Harvey Rettberg and wife; magazine article from "High Fidelity Magazine", March 1965.
- **Folder 9** - p. 19-24 - Photographs #209-212 - Photographs of Coon-Sanders reunion, Joe Sanders and his orchestra (1951); magazine article (1966).

**Box 3 - Scrapbook #7 - "Coon-Sanders Club Spring Reunion, Charleston, W. Va....4/25-28, 1968," Vol. VII**

- **Folder 10** - Photocopies of Scrapbook #7 pages in order
- **Folder 11** - p. 1-4 - Photographs #213-216 - Photographs of Coon-Sanders Reunion in 1968; newspaper article from *Greensboro News* of March 11, 1968.
- **Folder 12** - p. 5-9 - Photographs #217-229 - Photographs of Coon-Sanders Reunion in 1968 including view with Guy Lombardo; newspaper article concerning reunion, n.d.
- **Folder 13** - p. 10-13 - Photographs #230-242 - Photographs of 1968 Coon-Sanders Club reunion.
- **Folder 14** - p. 14-17 - Photographs #243-255 - Photographs of 1968 Coon-Sanders Club reunion.
- **Folder 15** - p. 18-20 - Photographs #256-270 - Photographs of 1968 Coon-Sanders Club reunion.
- **Folder 16** - p. 21-24 - Photographs #271-287 - Photographs of 1968 Coon Sanders Club reunion.
- **Folder 17** - p. 25-28 - Photographs #288-303 - Photographs of 1968 Coon Sanders Club reunion.
- **Folder 18** - p. 29-30 - Photographs #304-315 - Photographs of 1968 Coon Sanders Club reunion.

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, Winter 2006-2007.