

WTON Papers



**National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/mbrsrs.contact>

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsrs/eadmbrs.rs019004>

Author: David Jackson

Finding aid encoded by David Jackson, 2019
Revised 2023-03

Collection Summary

Title: WTON papers

Inclusive Dates: 1938-1972

Bulk Dates: 1946-1972

Creator: WTON

Textual materials: 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes, approximately 1,193 items)

Language: Collection materials are in English

Location: Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019620350>

Summary: The WTON papers consist of correspondence, financial statements, and a catalog of recordings from the records of WTON radio station (Staunton, Virginia) and its founding owner-operator, Charles P. Blackley.

Location: RPA 02973-02976 (boxes 1-4)

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Blackley, Charles Phillips, Sr., 1909-1999--Records and correspondence.

Organizations

WSVA (Radio station : Harrisonburg, Va.)

WTON (Radio station : Staunton, Va.), creator.

WTON (Radio station : Staunton, Va.)--Archives.

WTON (Radio station : Staunton, Va.)--Discography.

WTON (Radio station : Staunton, Va.)--Records and correspondence.

Subjects

Radio stations--Virginia--Archives.

Radio stations--Virginia--Records and correspondence.

Sound recording libraries--Virginia--Catalogs.

Sound recordings--Virginia--Catalogs.

Form/Genre

Correspondence.

Financial statements.

Profit and loss statements.

Receipts (financial records)

Tax records.

Collection Acquisition

The collection was acquired by the Library of Congress in 2016.

Additions

No further additions to the collection are expected.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by David Jackson in 2019.

Use Restrictions

Restrictions may exist on copying, quoting, or publishing materials included in the collection. For additional information, contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Access Restrictions

The WTON papers are open for research. Select documents in Series 2 may need to be held back or redacted due to the presence of employees' personally identifiable information. Advance notice is required; contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [Container number, eg., Box 3], WTON Papers, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress.

Organizational History

Radio station WTON was founded in 1944 under the call sign WSTN, changing to its present name in 1946. The first radio station licensed to Staunton, Virginia, it began life as ABC Radio Network affiliate; at present (May 2019) it is an ESPN Radio affiliate.

Charles P. Blackley was the first owner and operator of WTON. Blackley was born February 22, 1909 in Staunton, Virginia. He was co-founder and general manager of radio station WSVA, the first commercial broadcaster in the Shenandoah Valley, beginning in 1935. After a stint in the United States Army Signal Corps during World War II, Blackley founded WTON. He passed away December 10, 1999. Further information about the life of Charles P. Blackley can be found in the finding aid for the Blackley Family Papers at James Madison University (see related material).

Scope and Content Note

The WTON papers consist of correspondence, financial statements, and a catalog of recordings from the records of radio station WTON (Staunton, Virginia) and its founding owner-operator, Charles P. Blackley.

Series 1 consists of correspondence and other assorted material pertaining to the founding and early operation of radio station WTON. The earliest material, including holiday greeting cards, concern owner-operator Charles P. Blackley's earlier broadcasting operation, WSVA of Harrisonburg, Virginia, as well as Blackley's service in World War II.

Series 2 consists of advertising work orders, tax records, profit and loss statements, and other financial records pertaining to the operation of WTON radio station from its founding in 1946 through 1972.

Series 3 is a catalog of sound recordings that comprised the music library of radio station WTON. Included is a list of dance bands used on *One Night Stand*, presumably a radio program on WTON, in the fall and early winter of 1960-1961. The catalog lists records alphabetically by performer name. Each recording is listed with a record file number, the code for which is as follows:

- Numbers 1 thru 4999: single 10-inch records
- Numbers 5000 and up : single 12-inch records

- Numbers preceded by "X": albums
- Numbers 1 thru 100, preceded by "\$": albums of Christmas/religious music
- Numbers 100 and up, preceded by "\$": single records of Christmas/religious music

Collection Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 3 series:

- Series 1: Correspondence and pamphlets, 1938-1964
- Series 2: WTON financial records, 1946-1972
- Series 3: WTON record library, circa 1960

Description of Series

Container

Series

Series 1. Correspondence and pamphlets, 1938-1964

Series 1 consists of correspondence and other assorted material pertaining to the founding and early operation of radio station WTON. The earliest material, including holiday greeting cards, concern owner-operator Charles P. Blackley's earlier broadcasting operation, WSVB of Harrisonburg, Virginia, as well as Blackley's service in World War II.

Arranged chronologically.

Series 2. WTON financial records, 1946-1972

Series 2 consists of advertising work orders, tax records, profit and loss statements, and other financial records pertaining to the operation of WTON radio station from its founding in 1946 through 1972. Select documents may need to be held back or redacted due to the presence of employees' personally identifiable information.

Arranged by record group, and then chronologically.

Series 3. WTON record library, circa 1960

Series 3 is a catalog of sound recordings that comprised the music library of radio station WTON. Included is a list of dance bands used on *One Night Stand*, presumably a radio program on WTON, in the fall and early winter of 1960-1961.

Arranged alphabetically by performer name.

Container List

Container	Contents
	Series 1. Correspondence and pamphlets, 1938-1964
	0.1 linear feet RPA 02973 (box 1) Series 1 consists of correspondence and other assorted material pertaining to the founding and early operation of radio station WTON. The earliest material, including holiday greeting cards, concern owner-operator Charles P. Blackley's earlier broadcasting operation, WSVa of Harrisonburg, Virginia, as well as Blackley's service in World War II. Arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Charles P. Blackley correspondence, 1944, 1946-1952 Correspondence, clippings, and brochures related principally to the establishment and operation of radio station WTON.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Station greeting cards, undated Christmas greeting cards issued by radio station WSVa and Charles Blackley.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Pamphlets, 1938-1964
	Series 2. WTON financial records, 1946-1972
	0.3 linear feet RPA 02973 (box 1) Series 2 consists of advertising work orders, tax records, profit and loss statements, and other financial records pertaining to the operation of WTON radio station from its founding in 1946 through 1972. Select documents may need to be held back or redacted due to the presence of employees' personally identifiable information. Arranged by record group, and then chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Work sheets, 1970-1972 Work orders for station advertising.
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Financial statements, 1952-1953
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Financial statements, 1957-1958
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Financial statements, 1960
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Financial statements, 1961
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Financial statements, 1962
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	Financial statements, 1963
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	Financial statements, 1964
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Financial records, 1971
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	Quarterly tax returns, 1964-1972
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Profit and Loss statements, 1946
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	Profit and Loss statements, 1947
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Profit and Loss statements, 1948
BOX-FOLDER 1/17	Profit and Loss statements, 1949
BOX-FOLDER 1/18	Profit and Loss statements, 1950
BOX-FOLDER 1/19	Profit and Loss statements, 1951
BOX-FOLDER 1/20	Profit and Loss statements, 1952

Series 2. WTON financial records, 1946-1972

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 1/21	Profit and Loss statements, 1953 Includes employee tax documents
BOX-FOLDER 1/22	Profit and Loss statements, 1954
BOX-FOLDER 1/23	Profit and Loss statements, 1955
BOX-FOLDER 1/24	Profit and Loss statements, 1956

Series 3. WTON record library, circa 1960

1.1 linear feet

RPA 02974-02976 (boxes 2-4)

Series 3 is a catalog of sound recordings that comprised the music library of radio station WTON. Included is a list of dance bands used on *One Night Stand*, presumably a radio program on WTON, in the fall and early winter of 1960-1961.

Arranged alphabetically by performer name.

BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Lists of dance bands to be used on One Night Stand, 1960-09-06--1961-01-17
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	WTON record library--A
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	WTON record library--B
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	WTON record library--C
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	WTON record library--D
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	WTON record library--E
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	WTON record library--F
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	WTON record library--G
BOX-FOLDER 3/5	WTON record library--H
BOX-FOLDER 3/6	WTON record library--I
BOX-FOLDER 3/7	WTON record library--J
BOX-FOLDER 3/8	WTON record library--K
BOX-FOLDER 3/9	WTON record library--L
BOX-FOLDER 3/10	WTON record library--Mc
BOX-FOLDER 3/11	WTON record library--M
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	WTON record library--N
BOX-FOLDER 4/2	WTON record library--O
BOX-FOLDER 4/3	WTON record library--P
BOX-FOLDER 4/4	WTON record library--Q
BOX-FOLDER 4/5	WTON record library--R
BOX-FOLDER 4/6-7	WTON record library--S
BOX-FOLDER 4/8	WTON record library--T
BOX-FOLDER 4/9	WTON record library--U
BOX-FOLDER 4/10	WTON record library--V
BOX-FOLDER 4/11	WTON record library--W
BOX-FOLDER 4/12	WTON record library--Y
BOX-FOLDER 4/13	WTON record library--Z

Related Archival Collections Beyond the Library of Congress

[Blackley Family Papers, 1830-2016,
at Special Collections, James
Madison University](#)

The Special Collections branch of the Carrier Library, James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, maintains the archival papers of the Blackley family, including those of WTON founder Charles P. Blackley.

Materials Cataloged Separately

Sound recordings from the WTON Collection have been incorporated into the general commercial disc collections of the Library of Congress Recorded Sound Section. For additional information, contact a reference librarian in the Recorded Sound Research Center, National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, 20540-4690; (202) 707-7833.

Separated Materials

A three volume edition of the *ASCAP index of performed compositions* (New York: American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, 1963) that came with the collection has been incorporated into the reference collection of the Recorded Sound Section's processing unit.