Pierre A. Boyer Collection
C4349

Collection Number: C4349

Collection Title: Pierre A. Boyer Collection


Abstract: Collected papers of Pierre “Pete” Boyer, a French Missouri storyteller and musician of French extraction. Includes publicity, performance information, biographical materials, historical research files, newspaper clippings, flyers, announcements, photographs, and an interview with Boyer on three audiocassettes.

Collection Size: 2.6 cubic feet
(125 folders, 3 audiocassette tapes)

Language: Collection materials are in English with some materials in French.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at research@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor’s works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Pierre A. Boyer Collection (C4349); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Pierre A. Boyer on July 22, 1993 (Accession No. CA5333).

Historical Note:

Pierre “Pete” Boyer was born on May 19, 1910, in Racola, Missouri, in Washington County’s Old Mines area to John Lucien Boyer and Mary Elizabeth Lizzie Declue. He developed an early interest in preserving the French culture. As a young man he served as guide and assistant to the French-Canadian scholar Joseph Medard Carriere, who had come to Missouri to identify and record the Missouri French Folktales still remembered in the area. Throughout the rest of his long life as a father of 10 children, member of the St. James Catholic Church of Potosi, and a watch repairman and owner of a jewelry shop in downtown Potosi, Pete continued his interest in the music and lore of his community. After retirement, he devoted his time to sharing his music, his stories, and his knowledge of the culture of his community with audiences throughout the state and the nation. Pierre Boyer died on June 23, 2000 at the age of 90.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following eight series:

Correspondence
Events and Performances
Historical
Photographs
Pierre Boyer Biography
Publications
Stories
Audio

Scope and Content Note:

Correspondence

This series contains correspondence related to Pierre Boyers’ music and storytelling performances. Includes discussions of specific events, reference to French folktale and music activities. Also includes fan mail from children at schools and places where Boyer performed. 1978-1989.

Events and Performances

This series is the bulk of the collection and consists of materials pertaining to Boyer’s music and storytelling. Materials consist of brochures, newspaper clippings, articles, newsletters and flyers. 1978-1993.

Historical

This series contains printed material discussing the history of the “Old Mines” area, settled by French immigrants in the 1700s, and the French influence and development in Missouri. Also included are Pierre Boyer’s notes on the French history in the area. 1973, 1978, no date.
Photographs

This series contains photographs taken mainly of Pierre Boyer playing his fiddle, but there are some group shots taken at various events in the 1980s. Photographs can also be found in other parts of the collection.

Pierre Boyer Biography

This series focuses primarily on Pierre Boyer’s life as a musician and storyteller, no date.

Publications


Stories

This series consists of stories told by Pierre Boyer as handed down from his parents and relatives. Some have numerous versions. Themes include animals, monsters, princesses and princes, knights, no date.

Audio

This series, on three audiocassette tapes, contains an interview with Pierre Boyer conducted on January 15, 1998.

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f. 15  Events and Performances, Jonesborough, Tennessee, Festival, 1981, 1982
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f. 19  Events and Performances, National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling (N.A.P.P.S.) Featured, 1980
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f. 85  Publications, La Gazette de Louisiane  Newsletter-French, 1992

Publications, *Tradition, Univ. of MO. Cultural Heritage Ctr.*, 1992


Stories, *Fiddle and Pumpkin, Road Runner and Hiss the Rattler*

Stories, *How Mr. Rabbit Lost His Tail and Mr. Possum Got his Grin, Egg Cracking and Easter, The Accident Along Highway 8, etc.*


Stories, *Golden Blackbird, Carambot, Chasse Galettie (The Great Hunter), Jean Bete, (Stupid John), Little John and His Animals, Dummy and His Golden Goose*

Stories, French Stories in Old Mines or French Belt

Stories, *Barbe Blue (Blue Beard)*

Stories, *Beausoleil*

Stories, *Belle Jour, Belle Nuit*

Stories, *Boy Prince and Large Worm*

Stories, *Carambot*

Stories, *Chasse Galettie (The Great Hunter)*

Stories, *De Book*

Stories, *De’ Old Mine or La Vielle Mine*

Stories, *Fair Margaret*

Stories, *French Folklore, Text and Notes: The Skunk in Tante Odette’s Oven*

Stories, *Girl With Golden Hair*

Stories, *Golden Blackbird, John Bete (Stupid John)*

Stories, *The Grinding Machine*

Stories, *How The Rooster Lost His Horns, Eat Worms For Breakfast*

Stories, *The Hunter and His Wife With No Children*

Stories, *Jean L’ Ours*

Stories, *Lapin-Pi Bouki*

Stories, *Little Bull With The Golden Horns*

Stories, *Little John and His Animals*

Stories, *Monsters*

Stories, *Old Mines and History Notes*

Stories, *An Old Mines Tall Tale*

Stories, *An Ozark Story*

Stories, *The Poor Knight Sir Charles*

Stories, *Prince Cochon Blanc-Prince White Hog*

Stories, *Prince Rover, The King and His Three Sons*

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