

## **Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board**

Historical Records Grant 2016

Final Report

January 27, 2017

### **The Ted Lewis Museum - Ted Lewis Record Collection Preservation and Digitization**

Curator Joseph Rubin and volunteers completed the sorting, cataloging and rehousing of the museum's record collection in May 2016. The total cataloged number of records (including reel to reel tapes and record albums) was 389. This doesn't include 183 duplicate records that have been donated to the museum over the years which are being kept for access and display purposes. The collection comprises 11 cubic feet.

The records were cataloged in 5 series:

Ted Lewis Record Collection (TLR)

- Commercial and non-commercial recordings, all owned by Ted Lewis

Ted Lewis Records (MTL)

- The museum's collection of Ted's commercial recordings

Non-Ted Lewis Records (NTL)

- records owned by Ted, but not of himself

16" Transcription Discs (TLS)

- Ted's 1947 transcribed radio show

Reel to Reel Tapes (RTR)

- Interviews and airchecks owned by Ted

Each recording is cataloged indicating the recording company, matrix number, date (if known), title, performer, description, and condition. Labels with this information were printed and affixed to each record sleeve for easy identification and access. 660 staff and volunteer hours have been spent on the sorting, cataloging and organization process.

Then the non-commercial records were transported by Bryan Wright to his audio conservation studio in Pittsburgh where carefully cleaned and digitized each record by hand. Mr. Wright also took digital photos of each record label. A total of 296 record sides (or reel to reel tapes) were digitized. The WAV files and the photos were put on a hard drive and given to the museum to back up on several computers. The records and boxes were then transported back to Circleville and stored by the curator and volunteers in a climate controlled archive room.

The content on the newly digitized records is a veritable treasure trove of radio airchecks from the 1930s to the 1950s, interviews with Ted as well as his wife Adah, Ted's personal acetate copies of commercially released recordings from the 1940s and 1950s, and much more. The vast majority of this content has never been commercially released or heard by anyone except Ted. The museum is thrilled to finally be able to share these new discoveries with our visitors and researchers throughout the world. The files will be posted on the museum's website throughout the year of 2017 as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The files will also be shared at the museum on an interactive touch screen display. Mr. Wright is currently working on adjusting the EQ of the archival files to make them ready for posting.

The OHRAB was acknowledged in the museum's fall newsletter about this project and will be acknowledged on future social media and website posts of digitized recordings.

Project Expenses:

Record Transfers & Transport - \$5568

Archival Boxes & Sleeves - \$919.40

Archival Shelving - \$400.00

External 3TB hard drive - \$131.79

TOTAL - \$7019.19

Personnel:

Joseph Rubin, Curator - \$4680.00

Project Bookkeeper - \$240.00

TOTAL - \$4920.00

Income:

OHRAB Grant - \$2000

Cost Match:

Grants & Private Donations - \$9939.19

Volunteers (In-Kind) - \$3816.00

TOTAL - \$13,815.19

Joseph Rubin

Curator

Ted Lewis Museum