

## **MS-505: Sonny Flaharty Collection**

**Collection Number:** MS-505

**Title:** Sonny Flaharty Collection

**Dates:** 1952-1980

**Creator:** Flaharty, Sonny, 1942-

**Summary/Abstract:** This collection contains materials on the musical career of Sonny Flaharty. The collection contains newspaper clippings, photographs and other documents.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 0.25 Linear Feet

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092.

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

**Restrictions on Use:**

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-505, Sonny Flaharty Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

**Acquisition:** Sonny Flaharty donated these materials to the Wright State University Special Collections and Archives in November 2015 and January 2016.

**Accruals:** Further accruals are expected.

**Other Finding Aid:** The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at [http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection\\_guides/guide\\_files/ms505.pdf](http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms505.pdf). It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

**Processed by:** Finding aid written according to DACS standards by Nina Herzog, February 2016.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged into three file folders:

File 1: Photographs, 1952-1964, Undated

File 2: Newspaper Clippings, 1969, 1980, Undated  
File 3: Documents, 1957, 1963, Undated

### **Biographical/Historical Note:**

At the young age of eight, Sonny Flaharty already was singing in taverns for money. At age fourteen he put together his first group, Sonny Flaharty and his Young Americans Band. The group travelled throughout the Midwest, opening for top musical acts such as The Four Seasons, The Rolling Stones, Bobby Vinton, Johnny Tillotson, and The Crystals. It was during this time period when he recorded “My Baby’s Casual.”

After the Young Americans, Sonny Flaharty joined the Mark V. The Mark V (1963-1967) played numerous club dates and were a regular fixture at Dayton Ohio’s Diamond Club, where they opened for Little Richard, Neil Diamond, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bo Diddley, The Ohio Players, The Orlons, Bobby Rydell, et al. They were signed by and did eleven recordings for Phillips Records and later, Counterpart, and Warner Brothers Records. “Hey Conductor” would be their most well-known song with “You Bring These Tears to Me” on the “b-side” of the “Hey Conductor” 45 rpm record. “Hey Conductor” was eventually banned from the radio due to its controversial lyrics. <http://www.garagehangover.com/sonnyflaharty/>

Flaharty’s continued his musical career with bands like Soul Inc. (1968), Application, Outrage (aka Mark V), the Grey Imprint (1970-1977) and finally Outrageous (1977-1981). The Grey Imprint toured the United States extensively. Sonny still makes music today from his home in Northern California. His latest album titled *Old Stray Dogs Like Us*, was released in 2014.

### **Scope and Content**

The materials provide a glimpse into the musical career of Sonny Flaharty and the popular music scene of Dayton, OH, and the Midwest in the early-to-late 1960s.

Materials have been organized into three informal groupings. The first, photographs, contains images of Flaharty and his bands. The majority of the band pictures are with the Young Americans group, another with the Mark V, and a portrait.

The second portion of the collection is newspaper clippings and contains performance announcements and articles. Of special note is the *Dayton Daily News* article, “Sonny Flaharty ‘I knew I couldn’t rock and roll forever’” in which he discusses his musical career.

And finally, the documents section contains a certificate, contract, a retraction request to the *Grand Haven Daily Tribune* and a fan club membership card.

### **Subject Terms:**

#### **Persons/Families**

Flaharty, Sonny, 1942-

**Organizations/Corporate Names**

Mark V. (Musical group)  
 Young Americans (Musical group)  
 Soul Inc. (Musical group)  
 Grey Imprint (Musical group)

**Places**

Dayton (Ohio)

**Subjects (General)**

Music--20th century--Performance  
 Musicians--1960--1970.  
 Musicians--Ohio  
 Musicians--United States--Photographs

**Material Types**

Photographs  
 Newspapers

**Occupations**

Musicians

**Collection Inventory**

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Photographs</b>	<b>1952-1964, Undated</b>
1	1	Portrait - age 10	1952
1	1	Castle Farm	1956
1	1	Portrait - Dayton WHIO TV	1957
1	1	Sonny with unknown gentleman singing "My Baby's Casual"	1958
1	1	Portrait (2 copies)	1958, 1960
1	1	Sonny with guitar	1960
1	1	Promotion portrait for Epic Records "Heartbreak Station" photo by Bob Tamaska <i>Dayton Daily News</i>	1960
1	1	Sonny with unknown man	Undated
1	1	Portrait	Undated
1	1	Sonny Flaharty and his Young Americans Group (10 photographs)	1956-1964
1	1	Marc V	Undated

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Newspaper Clippings</b>	<b>1969, 1980, Undated</b>
1	2	“Sonny Set for Outrageous Frisco Opening,” <i>Dayton Daily News</i>	1969 January 3
1	2	“Record Crowds Hail Sonny Flaherty Group,” <i>Dayton Daily News</i>	1969 January 18
1	2	“Sonny Flaherty: I Always Knew I Couldn’t Rock and Roll Forever,” <i>Dayton Journal Herald</i> (2 copies)	1980 July 10
1	2	Performance Announcements	Undated
1	2	Breakout Singles	Undated
<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Documents</b>	<b>1957, Undated</b>
1	3	The Rising General WHIO-TV Certificate	1957 Nov. 16
1	3	Union High School French Club Contract	1963 March 5
1	3	Fan Club Membership Card	Undated
1	3	<i>Grand Haven Daily Tribune</i> Retraction Request	Undated