Guide to the Dick Latvala papers MS.333

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2014
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Note
Finding aid revised in 2018
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: University of California, Santa Cruz
Title: Dick Latvala Papers
creator: Latvala, Dick, 1943-1999
Identifier/Call Number: MS.333
Physical Description: 47 Linear Feet 67 boxes
Date (inclusive): 1966-1999
Date (bulk): 1990-1999
Abstract: This collection documents the tape collecting and archival release work of Dick Latvala. Collection stored, in part, off-site at NRLF: Advance notice is required for access.
Access
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Biography
Dick Latvala (1943 – 1999) was the first Vault Archivist for the Grateful Dead. He graduated from San Francisco State University and attended shows at the Fillmore Auditorium, the Avalon Ballroom, and other San Francisco venues in the 1960s, including famous events such as the Trips Festival in January 1966 and the Great Human Be-In in January 1967. He began taping shows in 1971 from radio broadcasts and began collecting and trading concert tapes in 1974, amassing an impressive collection that he thoroughly documented in notebooks and correspondence. He became a friend of the band and the crew, and was hired by the band in 1985 to organize their tape collection. As the first Vault Archivist, he was instrumental in the archival recordings released by the band; the series Dick’s Picks is named in his honor, and was continued by his successor David Lemieux for a total of 36 releases.
Scope and Contents
This collection documents the tape collecting and archival release work of Dick Latvala, the Grateful Dead’s first Vault Archivist. The papers comprise his notebook entries, documenting his impressions of live performance tapes, and his later research on what shows would be good candidates for commercial release. His personal collection of reel-to-reel tapes, a series in the collection, is an indication of the range of recordings that the first generation of Deadhead tape collectors could amass.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Latvala, Dick, 1943-1999
Grateful Dead (Musical group)

Notebooks

1968-1969 Entries
1970 Entries
1971 Entries
1972 Entries

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box 1, folder 5  1973 Entries
box 1, folder 6  1974 Entries
box 1, folder 7  1975 Entries
box 1, folder 8  1976 Entries
box 1, folder 9  1977, February - June Entries
box 1, folder 10  1977, September - December Entries
box 1, folder 11  1978, January - May Entries
box 1, folder 12  1978, June - December Entries
box 1, folder 13  1979, April - September Entries
box 1, folder 14  1979, October - December Entries
box 1, folder 15  1980, January - June Entries
box 1, folder 16  1980, August - December Entries
box 1, folder 17  1981, February - May Entries
box 1, folder 18  1981, July - December Entries
box 1, folder 19  1982, February - July
box 1, folder 20  1982, August - December
box 1, folder 21  1983 Entries

Papers

box 2-14  Dead.Net, Dead.Net Central
box 16  Dick's Picks binders
box 17  Vox Pop
box 18-21  Dead Net Central & other topics binders
box 65  Miscellaneous files

Recordings

box 22-59  7-inch reels
         10.5-inch reels
box 60  Winterland, 10/22/1967 (2); Unknown, 1968 (2); Carousel Ballroom, 2/14/1968;
        Avalon Ballroom, 10/12/1968, 1/26/1969 (2)

Realia

box 66-67  Reel-to-reel tape recorder and accessories