

Century III Records, 1977-1980

Collection Summary

Creator: Century III Commission (Nashville, Tenn.)

Title: Century III Records

Inclusive Dates: 1977-1980

Summary/Abstract: Incomplete records of the Century III Commission and several of its subcommittees, documenting various facets of commemorative activities and planning for the celebration of Nashville's first 200 years and the beginning of its third century.

Physical Description: 1 cu. ft.

Accession Number: RT-153; RT-154.

Language: In English.

Stack Location: Closed stacks workroom, range 5, section 7. Oversize drawer K-4, folders 6 and 7.

Repository: Nashville Room, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Chronology

Oct. 31, 1977	Century III Steering Committee established by executive order of Mayor Richard H. Fulton
Feb. 15, 1978	Century III Commission established by Metropolitan Council to serve as advisory body to Steering Committee
Dec. 23, 1979	Century III Celebration begins on Founder's Day with symbolic crossing of the Cumberland River
Apr. 24, 1980	Settlement Day
Apr. 24-28, 1980	Birthday Week
June 1980	Celebration of the Arts at Centennial Park
Dec. 21, 1980	Prayers for the Future concludes Century III commemorative activities

Biographical/Historical Sketch

On October 31, 1977, the Century III Steering Committee was established by Mayor Richard H. Fulton's Executive Order No. 19. The Century III Commission was established by the Metropolitan Council by Ordinance No. 77-775 on February 15, 1978, to serve as an advisory body to the Steering Committee. At least 200 individuals were to serve a three-year term on the Commission, with each member of the Metropolitan Council submitting three names for membership on the Commission. A number of subcommittees were established, including: All-Faith; Birthday; Calendar; Century III Center; Communications; Festivals; Finance; Historical Records; Parade; Project Screening; Souvenirs; Special Projects; Union Station; and Salutes.

The Century III Celebration began on Founders Day, December 23, 1979, with a symbolic river crossing to commemorate the journey of James Robertson and his band of settlers who walked across the frozen Cumberland River in 1779. During 1980, numerous events commemorated the founding of Nashville, including a parade on Settlement Day, April 24; a variety of Birthday Week activities in late April, including an All-Faith Service, Graduation to Century III, the

Century III Steam Special, and other events; Celebration of the Arts in June at Centennial Park; and commemorative events for the year concluded with Prayers for the Future on December 21, 1980. A detailed account of the entire range of Century III activities can be found in the Commission's published Final Report.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

Records include reports; newsletters; minutes of the Historical Records committee and the Festivals, Pageants, Events and Parades committee; background on the formation and development of the Nashville Heritage Project, an oral history project to interview over 100 Nashvillians selected for inclusion because of their age, position, or knowledge of Nashville, under the direction of Paul Clements; contracts, correspondence, and related papers concerning a history to be written by Vanderbilt professor Dr. Don Doyle; programs and souvenirs from festivals and special events, including Founders Day, Birthday Week, Celebration of the Arts, Market Street Festival, and others; commemorative advertisements and other items from organizations, businesses or individuals not directly a part of Century III, but who supported commemorative efforts in unofficial partnerships termed "salutes"; communications and publicity efforts for Century III events; plans for a Century III Center (a multi-use convention center and sports arena facility); development of Riverfront Park and the erection of a marker in honor of the Cumberland Compact; and a variety of other materials

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Loosely arranged by committee, function, or event.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: Copyright status is undetermined.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Clements, Paul, 1947-
Doyle, Don Harrison, 1946-

Corporate Names/Organizations:

Century III Commission (Nashville, Tenn.)
Century III Nashville

Places:

Nashville (Tenn.) – Centennial celebrations, etc.

Genre/Document Types:

Newsletters
Minutes
Correspondence
Contracts
Reports
Programs
Advertisements

Associated and Related Material

Associated Material:

Some records of the Century III Commission may also be in the holdings of Metro Archives.

Related Material:

Century III Nashville: Nashville Heritage Project, the oral history project under the direction of Paul Clements, is held by the Nashville Room of the Nashville Public Library.

Addresses at Nashville Functions, including several speeches given during Century III events, recorded on audio cassettes, are held by the Nashville Room of the Nashville Public Library.

Century III Clippings is held by the Nashville Room of the Nashville Public Library.

Administrative Information

Additional Physical Form Available: The Final Report of the Commission, as well as several programs produced by Century III, are available separately.

Location of Originals/Duplicates:

Century III Nashville. Final Report. - Call # 976.855 C39795c Tenn.

Century III Nashville Programs. - Call #976.855 C39795p Tenn.

Century III Nashville Art Collection. - Call # 709.73 C397 Tenn.

All in the Nashville Room, Nashville Public Library.

Copyright: Copyright status is undetermined

Preferred Citation: Century III Records, Nashville Room, Nashville Public Library

Immediate Source of Acquisition:

Most of this collection was donated by an unidentified woman who indicated she had served on the Century III staff. She left the collection at the Southeast Branch library and indicated her desire that the materials be sent to the Nashville Room to become part of their collection. Some of the materials in this collection were compiled or gathered by Nashville Room manager, Mary Glenn Hearne during the Century III Celebration.

Processing Information: Processed by staff members Wanda Meadows and Linda Barnickel, Jan. 2005

Accruals: None expected.

References to Works by or about Century III:

Egerton, John. *Nashville: The Faces of Two Centuries 1780-1980*. Nashville: PlusMedia Inc., 1979. Produced as a joint project between the Century III Commission and the publishers of *Nashville!* Magazine. Call #: 976.855 E293n Tenn.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box 1

Folder #

1. Final Report and list of official events
2. Century III Commission
3. Proposal Forms
4. Donations and Contributions
5. Newsletter "About Nashville" 1978-1980
6. Minutes, Historical Records Committee
7. Historical Records Committee, reference file
8. Nashville Heritage Project, oral history
9. Don Doyle History – Correspondence 1978 – 1980
10. Don Doyle History – Correspondence 1979 – 1981
11. Don Doyle History – Draft – Chapter I
12. Founders Day – December 23, 1979
13. Programs From Birthday Week
14. Birthday Week

Box 2

Folder #

1. Minutes - Festivals, Pageants, Events, Parades Committee
2. Celebration of the Arts
3. Celebration of the Arts
4. Market Street Festival
5. Communications Committee
6. Century III Book Exhibit
7. Nashville Magazine, bicentennial issue
8. Century III Center
9. Prayers for the Future
10. Riverfront Park – Cumberland Compact Marker
11. Salutes
12. Commemorative Calendar 1980
13. Nashville "Century III" song 45 rpm record
14. Founders Day Buttons
15. Settlement Day and L & N Steam Special Buttons

Oversize

Drawer K-4

Folder 6: Posters for Journey II and Celebration of the Arts events.

Folder 7: Poster: "Pictorial impressions from the early settlers through the city's entry into its third century" by Paul Harmon